

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA**  
**FACULTY OF THEOLOGY**  
**FINAL EXAMINATIONS – JUNE 2009**  
**B.A. THEOLOGY AND HUMAN STUDIES COURSE**

PAPER I

Monday 15 June 2009

9.15a.m. – 12.15p.m.

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**Answer THREE questions. Answer ONE question from each section and ANY OTHER question.**

Use a **SEPARATE** script for each question.

**Section A**

- 1a) Either: The stories in Gen 1–3 provide profound theological insights that have had a great influence on the Jewish and the Christian faiths. They provide the basis for a biblical theology of creation, of the human person, of the relation between the sexes. Discuss.
- 1b) Or: The prophets announced God's judgment if the people persisted in their evil ways and promised his salvation if they repented. But the wise men acknowledged that very often good people suffer and wicked people prosper. They tried hard to find a solution to the problem of God's justice in a world marked by suffering. Discuss.
- 2) What do we understand when we assert that the books of the Bible are canonical and inspired?
- 3) How would Paul's emphasis on the centrality of the Resurrection of Christ Jesus for Christian faith be justified within the apostle's theology of the cross?
- 4) Show how the Christology of the Gospel of John is an amalgamation of images or metaphors of Christ through which the author expresses Christ's identity and significance.

## Section B

- 5) Many people claim to have knowledge of God and Christians have an articulated corpus of doctrine on God. But Catholic theology differs from Reformation theology as to the 'ways' to such knowledge. Elaborate.
- 6) What distinguishes Christian anthropology from other ways of approaching anthropology? Explain how this distinction throws light on the origin and the destiny of humanity, as well as on the everyday experience of human beings as they struggle through life.
- 7) Salvation is what is longed for by each one of us on an individual level and by humanity collectively. What is so specific about the Christian understanding of salvation? If Christ died and was raised 'for our salvation', how can the permanence of suffering in the world be explained?
- 8) At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the affirmation that "revelation has come to a close with the death of the last Apostle" was meant to bring to a doctrinal conclusion the Modernist controversy. Explain the meaning of that affirmation in the light of the understanding of revelation that developed throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and particularly in the light of the Constitution '*Dei Verbum*' of the Second Vatican Council.