

**UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011 EXAMINATION SESSION**

HPA2500 – ANCIENT CHURCH HISTORY

Wednesday, 26th January 2011

Time: 3.30 – 5.30pm

Discuss any TWO of the following adhering strictly to the point

1. Jesus preached in the Roman province of Judea and his apostles and disciples proceeded with his teachings making converts among the Jews and the Greeks. Describe the *spreading and flourishing* of the early church from Jerusalem to its establishment at Rome, the centre of the Roman Empire.
2. The Roman Empire was a state based on law. If it took forcible action against Christianity – and it did so for over two centuries – it either proceeded on the basis of *special* legislation, or simply made use of *ancient* legislation that rendered Christianity a *religio illicita*. Elaborate on this point and on the multiple reasons of the initial and later opposition.
3. The principal interest of the early Church was to realize its life as a communion of believers. It can be rightly described as a plurality – with a considerable number of differences – within a unity. What was the basis of the *communio* or *koinonía* of the early Christian Church?
4. The inter-relationship between society, state, and Christendom led slowly to the formulation of an *ecclesiastical constitution*. Outline its development during primitive Christianity and Proto-Catholicism up to the first ecumenical Council of Nicea (325).
5. The post-Constantine period was a time of great transformation in the *worship and life* of the Church. Describe the salient moments in the development of liturgy, Baptism and the profession of faith, the standardization of the mass, penitential discipline, as well as marriage and family life.