

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 2007 RE-SIT SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

HPA3300 St. Augustine the City of God      Sat 15 September 2007

09.15 – 11.15

To answer ANY ONE QUESTION

Either:

- 1) *“Those who still adore the multitude of false gods, whom we normally call pagans, are doing their utmost in order to place the blame of this disaster at the door of the Christian religion and they aim at blaspheming the true God now with even more shamelessness and bitterness than ever before.”*  
Discuss the origins and the development of this long-standing accusation of pagans against the Christian religion.

Or:

- 2) *“My dear Marcellinus, this work which I have begun makes good my promise to you. In it I am undertaking nothing less than the task of defending the glorious City of God against those who prefer their own gods to its Founder. I shall consider it both in its temporal stage here below (where it journeys as a pilgrim among sinners and lives by faith) and as solidly established in its eternal abode – that blessed goal for which we patiently hope ‘until justice be turned into judgment,’ (Ps 93,15) but which, one day, is to be the reward of excellence in a final victory and a perfect peace. The task, I realize, is a high and hard one, but God will help me. (Ps 61, 9).*
- i) Who was Marcellinus?
  - ii) Who does Augustine have in mind with the words: “...against those who prefer their own gods...”?
  - iii) Who is the Founder?