

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

JANUARY 2007 SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

**SHG1000 Foundations of Theology**

**Sat 3 Feb 2007**

**09.00 – 12.00**

**Use a different script for each section.**

**SECTION A: Old Testament**

Write an essay on **ONE** of the following:

1. Dei Verbum 3:11 affirms that “having been written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit”, the books of the Bible “have God as their author”. Explain the notion of biblical inspiration and what it entails.
2. Dei Verbum 3:11 affirms that “Holy Mother Church, relying on the belief of the apostles, holds that the books of both the Old Testament and the New Testament in their entirety, with all their parts, are sacred and canonical”. What do we mean by canonicity in the context of biblical studies?
3. Distinguish between the literal and the spiritual senses of Scripture.

**SECTION B: New Testament**

Answer **ONE** question:

4. What historical factors gave rise to a New Testament canon?
5. There have been numerous proposed solutions to the ‘Synoptic problem’, and they have their merits, but no one of them is right in all cases. Discuss.
6. Discuss how the followers of Jesus have never been content with the fact that Jesus died but have always been concerned with the interpretation of this fact.

## SECTION C: Ancient Christian Writings

Answer **ONE** question:

7. Discuss some of the major characteristics of *Apostolic* Literature.
8. Write very short notes on *any two* of the following topics on martyrdom:
  - i) *confessores*
  - ii) *libelli pacis*
  - iii) *Passio Perpetuae et Felicitatis*
9. What is *Apologetical* literature?
10. *"After the death of his father and mother he was left alone with one little sister: his age was about eighteen or twenty, and on him the care both of home and sister rested. Now it was not six months after the death of his parents, and going according to custom, into the Lord's House, he communed with himself and reflected, as he walked, how the Apostles left all and followed the Saviour; and how they in the Acts it is said that they sold their possessions and brought and laid the returns at the Apostles' feet for distribution to the needy, and what and how great a hope was laid up for them in heaven. Pondering over these things he entered the church, and it happened that the Gospel that was being read, was when the Lord said to the rich man, 'If you want to be perfect, go and sell all that you have, give to the poor; and come follow Me and you shall have treasure in heaven'*
  - i) Who is the author of the text?
  - ii) About whom is the author speaking?
  - iii) Where did the Hearer go to as a result?
  - iv) What type of life did he lead there?
11. *"So I came to Milan, to the Bishop, known throughout the world as one of the best men. Thy reverent servant... Unknowingly, I was led to him by Thee, so that through him I might knowingly be led to Thee".*
  - i) Who is the author of the text?
  - ii) What is the title of the work?
  - iii) What is the name of the Bishop?
  - iv) What is so important about the text?