

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
JANUARY 2009 SESSION OF ASSESSMENTS

SHG1000 Foundations of Theology

Sat 24 January 2009

09.15 – 12.15

To answer ONE question from each section.

Section A

1. The books of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit. What does this mean and how was it understood throughout the centuries?
2. Distinguish between the literal meaning and the more-than-literal meaning of Scripture and describe in some detail one of them.
3. Give an overview of the salient moments in the history of Israel as it is described by the Bible.

Section B

1. Discuss why Jesus' miracles cannot be regarded as magic.
2. Comment on the Christology and the related theological themes of one of the four canonical gospels.
3. What are the distinctive characteristics of Jesus' parables?

Section C

1. Write a **short note** (not more than 10 line on each) on each of the following texts:
 - i) the *Letter to Pliny*
 - ii) the *Didachè*
 - iii) the *Letter to Diognetus*.
2. Write an essay on *Gnosticism*.
3. Discuss briefly the fourth century CE phenomena of *monasticism* and *asceticism*.

P.T.O.

4. "He also had a very high degree of practical wisdom. The wonder was that although he was without formal schooling" he was yet a man of ready wit and understanding. To illustrate: once two Greek philosophers came to him, thinking they could experiment with *him*. He happened to be on the Outer Mountain at the time. When he had sized up the men from their appearance, he went out to them and said through an interpreter: "*Why, philosophers, have you gone to so much trouble to come to a foolish man? When they said that he was not foolish, but very wise, he said to them: "If you have come to a foolish man, your trouble is to no purpose; but if you do think that I am wise, make yourselves what I am, for one ought to imitate the good. Indeed, if I had come to you, I would have imitated you; conversely, now that you have come to me, make yourselves what I am: I am a Christian"*". They left marvelling at him, for they way that even demons feared him".
 - i) Who is the *author* of the text?
 - ii) About *whom* is the author speaking?
 - iii) What are the implications underlying the following terms in the anecdote *Greek philosopher – wisdom – I am a Christian*.
5. Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430CE) can also be considered to have been one of the more relevant Early Christian Writers who contributed immensely towards the forging of a new concept of Christianity and of believing.