

University of Malta
Faculty of Theology
January/February 2012 Examination Session

SHG1000 - Foundations of Theology

Monday, 30th January 2012

Time: 13.00 -16.00

**Answer ONE question from EACH section. Kindly use SEPARATE scripts
for each question**

Section A

1. How has the truth of biblical inspiration been understood throughout the centuries?

What are the four senses of Scriptures? Distinguish clearly between the literal sense and the other three senses, all of which can be classified as spiritual or more-than-literal.

3. Write a paragraph on four of the following topics: the Hebrew canon, the deuterocanonical books, Thomas Aquinas' understanding of inspiration, the literal sense of the Bible, the ancestors of Israel (patriarchs and matriarchs), the exodus from Egypt, King David.

Section B

4. Show how the Gospels bear witness to an already existing canon of Holy Scripture.
5. Show how the parables were the teaching method Jesus has chosen most frequently to explain the Kingdom of God and to show the character of God.
6. Why are the miracles of Jesus in the Gospels presented as signs and realizations of the gracious power of the God of Israel?
7. Comment on the main theological points of one of the four canonical gospels

Section C

8. Write a ***short note*** (not more than 15 lines) on ***each*** of the following:
 - i) The major characteristics of *Apologetical* Literature;
 - ii) Constantine The Great;
 - iii) Asceticism.

9. Assess and discuss the enormous benefit for nascent Christianity of the major philosophies of these early centuries, namely, Stoicism, Platonism, Middle Platonism and Neoplatonism.

10. Write an essay on the importance of the life and role of Augustine of Hippo for 5th century Christianity.