

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

**SHG2160 - Introduction to the Old Testament: Pentateuch &
Historical Books**

Monday, 24th January 2011

Time: 14.15 – 16.15

Answer ONE of the following:

1. Gen 1-11 serve as a prelude to the story of Israel. These chapters were written in literary genres and contain motifs and symbols that were very common in the ancient Near East. However, a comparison between them and these other ancient Near Eastern Creation myths show that the biblical author wanted to give us a very different view of God, creation, and the human person. Discuss this with reference to the story of creation (ch. 1), the story of the Garden of Eden (ch. 2-3), and the flood story (ch. 6-9). You may give a general presentation of all these stories, or take one of them and present it in detail.

2. The 6th century BC author of the Pentateuch wrote the stories of the ancestors using older material and his own imagination to narrate the past in a way that it may illuminate the present and help construct the future. The early post exilic Judeans could only succeed to rebuild the nation if they were people of faith like Abraham, attached to the promised land like Isaac, people who struggle with God like Jacob, and people who dare dream like Joseph. Discuss this, either by giving a general presentation of Gen 12-50, or by taking one patriarch and presenting him in detail.

3. The book of Exodus rotates around two fundamental events that constitute the heart of the Old Testament and Jewish faith, the liberation from Egypt and the covenant. Write, either a general essay on the whole book, or a more detailed one, on **one** of these topics: Moses' call (ch. 3-4), the crossing of the sea (13, 17- 14, 31); the covenant.