

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

Faculty of Theology

January-February Tests Session – 2010

SHG2260 – PROPETHIC APOCALYPTIC AND WISDOM LITERATURE

Monday, 25th January 2010

Time: 14.15 – 16.15

Answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Prophets were men of God. They had a deep personal experience of God and were sent to proclaim his message to his people. Generally speaking, their message was a call to be faithful to the covenant, particularly in the areas of exclusive worship of the one and only God of Israel, complete trust in him instead of forging political alliances, and social justice. The prophets threatened the people with God's punishment if they did not repent and promised them salvation if they did repent. They used various forms of speech to convey their message. Their words, that were proclaimed orally, were later put into writing and edited in various stages until they reached the form they now have in the Bible.

Write an essay on ONE prophetic book to illustrate this.

2. The books of Proverbs, Job, Qohelet, Sirach, and Wisdom are quite different from other Old Testament books and constitute a particular type of literature called Wisdom Literature. Their viewpoint is much more universal than the rest of the Old Testament. They deal with the problems of life, particularly the problem of suffering. Their teaching and reflection aims at instilling in the young the love for wisdom, for only by living wisely can one cope with life and attain happiness and success.

Illustrate this by focusing on ONE of the above-mentioned wisdom books.