

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
Faculty of Theology
Semester Tests – January 2005
B.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT I – THE GOSPELS SHG2650

Monday, 31 January 2005

18.00 – 20.00

Answer ONE question from each Section, and answer each question on a separate answer booklet.

SECTION I: THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

- 1) A fundamental distinction obtains between the Three Stages of Gospel Tradition and Formation. Elaborate.
- 2) EITHER: Explain the tenets of the Sadducee Movement;
OR: Give a synthesis of the presentation of the Pharisees as portrayed in the New Testament.
- 3) Show how the three Christological Titles of Messiah, Son of God, and Son of Man are linked together under the matrix of the Cross in Mark's Gospel.
- 4) Matthew's Gospel has been written from a "Jewish" perspective, developed on three levels: discuss.
- 5) Luke's Gospel shows particular interest in Jerusalem and Jesus' Journey to the City: explain.

SECTION II: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

- 1) Jesus, the Christ, the Word, the Son of God, dominates the Gospel of John. This gospel is thoroughly Christological. It is structured so as to bring the reader into an intimate confrontation with Jesus, to which the reader will respond with faith. Comment.
- 2) The identification of the Beloved Disciple with John, the son of Zebedee owes much to the work of Irenaeus who is often credited with having rescued the Gospel of John from the Gnostics of the second century. The massive support that this identification has received across the centuries has given this identification a popularity lending the hypothesis a weight that the evidence cannot support. Comment.
- 3) It has long been recognised that the Gospel of John is markedly different from the other three Gospels in its presentation of the basic historical facts of Jesus' life and ministry. And the same time there are also demonstrable similarities. How shall we explain both these similarities and these differences at once?