

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011 EXAMINATIONS SESSION

THL1570/THL1560 – Introduction to Judaism

Tuesday 25th January 2011

Time: 8.00 – 9.00am

Please give a brief and to the point answer to each question.

1. Why is Nehemiah 8 considered as being a Biblical text that frequently indicates the birth of Judaism?
2. Give the original meaning and the normal usage nowadays of these words: Hebrew, Israel, Jews, Semites.
3. What is the *Shema Israel*?
4. Judaism believes in a Written and Oral Law: describe briefly and indicate the difference.
5. The concept of the Messiah is fundamental to Judaism. In what way has this concept been secularised?
6. Who founded the Zionistic movement and in which historical context?
7. Hasidim, Orthodox Judaism, Conservative and Reform Judaism: what essentially unites and divides the different movements in Judaism?
8. Briefly indicate the common features of any synagogue. What is a Torah 'portion'?
9. Indicate the scriptural reasons why Sabbath is celebrated and describe briefly the domestic ritual that initiates and ends the Sabbath.
10. Why is the Passover Meal considered a 'Memorial' (zikkaron)?