

AN ROINN OIDEACHAS AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA

HEBREW STUDIES

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SYLLABUS

The aims of the course are, (i) to enable students to read and understand Classical and early post-Biblical Hebrew, and (ii) to enable them to acquire a general understanding of the history, religion and civilization of the Hebrew people from its origins up to the Bar Cochba revolt (including the Maccabean revolt, even though the syllabus does not include any Hebrew texts on this period).

These aims are to be pursued primarily through the study of prescribed Hebrew texts which focus upon major chronological events.

The examination syllabus is divided into four sections, A, B, C, and D, each of which covers two major topics on the history of the Hebrew people. The texts prescribed for the study of each session are as follows:-

- Section A -
1. *Israel in Egypt*: Gen 45.4-20; 46.26-34; 48
 2. *Israel's Election*: Gen 17; 26; Ex 3.1-17; 6.2-8
- Section B -
1. *Conquests of the land*: Josh 1.1-11; 3; 6.1-7; 8.3-7.
 2. *Judges and the Rise of Monarchy*: Judg 3.12-30; 4; 1 Sam 11
- Section C -
1. *Division of the Kingdoms*: 2 Sam 19.9-20.2; 1 Kings 5.1-8; 5.27-32 (Hebrew numbering; 11.26-12.17
 2. *Exile and Return*: 2 Kings 24; 25; Ps 126; 137; Ezra 1; 7.6-10 Lamentations 4.
- Section D - Mishnah
1. *Hillel and Shammai and the Early Mishnaic Period*: Berachot 1m.3; 8m.1, 2, 3, 6, 7; 9; Avot 1m.12, 14, 15; 2m. 4, 5; 5m.17.
 2. *Elisha Ben Abuyah (Aher)* taken from Sefer Ha'Aggadah (Edited by H. N. Bialick.)

The examination paper will have two parts. Questions must be attempted from both parts, in accordance with the options given in each part. The paper will carry a total of 400 marks, 280 marks for Part (I), and 120 marks for Part (II). Time allowed will be 2½ hours.

Part (I) will have four sections corresponding with the four sections of the syllabus. In each section, two passages of prescribed Hebrew text will be given, one relating to each of the two topics in the corresponding section of the syllabus. A group of questions (which may include a question on Hebrew grammar) will be set on each passage. The questions will demand a general knowledge of the background and content of the event

referred to in the passage, as well as an overall historical comprehension. Candidates must deal with one passage only in each section. Each section will carry 70 marks.

Part (II) will have four general essay questions, one on each of the four sections of the syllabus. Each question will carry 60 marks, and candidates must attempt two questions.

Candidates are encouraged to support their answers with appropriate quotation on reference, whenever possible. Quotation of Hebrew texts should be done with care and accuracy. Square script should be used.

Candidates are reminded that their answers to all questions attempted should reveal evidence of their understanding of the issues raised by the questions, and should not concentrate excessively or exclusively upon simple repetition of memorised notes.