**MARKING GUIDE P245/1 The Old Testament**

**1. (a). Explain how the faith of Abraham was demonstrated throughout his life.**

* When Abraham was called by God, he responded positively to God’s call.
* Abraham accepted to leave his homeland of Haran and moved to the new land God was to show him.
* He started worshipping the strange God who had called him and whom he had not known before.
* Abraham abandoned the many gods that were visible to worship the invisible God.
* He accepted to leave his friends, relatives and property to go and lead a life that he was uncertain of.
* Abraham very often offered sacrifices of animals to God to demonstrate his faith.
* He accepted to enter into a covenant with God and obeyed all the instructions to the letter.
* He believed that he would get a son as promised by God much as he and his wife Sarah had passed child bearing age.
* Abraham also accepted to change his name from Abram to Abraham and that of his wife from Sarai to Sarah thus demonstrating himself as a man of faith.
* God told him to circumcise himself and all the male descendants in his family and he obeyed the order.
* At the age of 99 years, he got a son. When God asked him later on to offer his son as a sacrifice to him, he was willing to do exactly that.
* When he reached the towns of Bethel and Sheckem, he built there alters for the worship of God.
* Abraham prayed continuously to God thus demonstrated that he was a man of faith.
* He accepted God’s advice to send away Hagar and Ismail to stabilize his marriage and covenant with God.
* Abraham interceded for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah who had sinned against God and Lot and his two daughters were spared.

**(10 marks**)

**(b). Compare the Abrahamic covenant with the one God made with his descendants at mt. Sinai**

The Abrahamic covenant and the sinaic covenant are similar in some ways, yet there are also different in the following ways;

* Both Abrahamic covenant and sinaic covenant were initiated by God.
* Both covenants involved sacrifices. Abraham offered a ram, a goat, a cow and the Israelites scarified cattle to God.
* In both covenants, God’s presence was manifested. In Abrahamic, God appeared inform of a flaming torch and the sinaic covenant God appeared in form of thunder and lightning.
* In both covenants, faith was required. Abraham was faithful to what God told him and the Israelites were expected to be faithful to God.
* In both covenants, the people of Israel were involved.
* In both covenants, Monotheism was emphasized so as to please God.
* In both covenants, God’s love for his people, the Israelites was demonstrated.

However, the two covenants had some differences and these included;

* The Abrahamic covenant was made between God and one person Abraham while the sinaic covenant was made between God and many people, the Israelites.
* In the Abrahamic covenant, God talked directly with Abraham while in the sinaic covenant, God talked to the people through a mediator, Moses.
* In the Abrahamic covenant, covenant, God’s instructions to Abraham were verbal while in sinaic covenant, God’s instructions to the people were written down.
* In the Abrahamic covenant, the animals sacrificed were cut in halves and these halves were placed facing one another while in the sinaic covenant, cattle was slaughtered and blood was collected in bowels.
* Abraham never shared in the sacrifice while the people of Israel had fellowship where they ate some of the sacrifice.
* Abraham fell asleep while the Israelites seem to have kept watch throughout the covenant making.
* The Israelites had to be purified before the covenant making while Abraham was already considered as righteous.
* As a condition, Abraham had to circumcise while the Israelites were already circumcised by the time of the covenant.
* 0n Abrahamic covenant, God appeared in a calm way while in the sinaic covenant, God appeared in a violent way.
* In the Abrahamic covenant, there was change of names while in the sinaic covenant, there was change of names while in the sinaic covenant, and the Israelites remained with their names.
* In conclusion, the Abrahamic covenant was fulfilled in the sinaic covenant.

**(15marks)**

**2(a). How did the Israelites celebrate the defeat of their oppressors before they left Egypt?**

* This was referred to as the Passover feast.
* Moses called the Israelites together and gave them a command from God to get a lamb on the 10th day of the month of Ziv.
* It had to be either a lamb or a young goat and it was supposed to be male.
* It was supposed to be 1 year old and spotless or without any defect.
* The Israelites had to slaughter this lamb on the 14th day of the same month.
* The blood out of this lamb was supposed to be smeared on their door posts or above the doors of their houses.
* While smearing the blood on the door posts, they had to dip the branches of the hyssop trees into the container of the blood of the lamb.
* All the meat of the lamb had to be eaten that night and nothing was supposed to be left.
* The Israelites had to eat the meat of this lamb while roasted and not raw or boiled with all its insides including the legs and the head.
* On that night, no Israelite was supposed to leave his house but everybody was supposed to keep indoors.
* None of the bones of the lamb was supposed to be broken
* The Israelites were to accompany the meat with unleavened bread to show the state of hurriedness they were supposed to be in.
* They were also supposed to eat the meat together with bitter herbs which was aimed at reflecting the bitter life they had been subjected to in Egypt.
* None of the meat was supposed to stay until the next morning and if any meat was left, it had to either be burnt or buried in the ground.
* The Israelites were supposed to eat quickly with their sandals and their walking sticks in their hands.
* Moses also told them how they had to remember this day in future by telling it to their children and also observe it every year.
* On that day when the lamb was killed, the angel of God passed over the houses of the Israelites and killed all the first born of the Egyptians.

**(13marks)**

**(b). In which ways is the above event important in the New Testament?**

* In the New Testament, the Passover is the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist.
* This means that Christ became the sacrificed lamb to take away peoples sins.
* It means that Christ died so that man’s sins could be forgiven.
* It means that Christ is the only acceptable sacrifice before God.
* It means that Christ died to bring universal liberation to all mankind from sin.
* Christians are supposed to celebrate the Passover i.e. memory of Christ’s death.
* The bread of the Eucharist represents Christ’s body and the wine represents his blood.
* It means that people are in preparation for the journey to the new Promised Land in heaven.
* It also means that people should examine themselves before partaking of his meal.
* The Passover in the New Testament symbolized atonement for sin.
* Through the Passover, Christians come together and share.

**(12marks)**

**3(a). Explain the process of healing a leper in the book of Leviticus**.

* Among the Israelites, the leper was a person with infectious skin disease and such was isolated from the community.
* But on being cured, the priest took him outside the camp of the infected people and examined him.
* The cured leper could only be restored back into the community after being cleared and cleansed by the priest.
* If the leper had recovered, such a person was told to bring two ritually clean birds, cedar wood, a red cord and a spring of hyssop.
* One of the birds was then slaughtered over a clay pot containing clean spring water.
* The second bird, the Cedar wood and the hyssop would then be dipped in the blood of the first bird in the clay pot.
* The blood could then be sprinkled seven times on the person who was being cleansed
* The other alive bird would be left to fly away in the open air field which symbolized the going of evil from a person being cleansed.
* The priest would instruct the person to wash his clothes, shave off all his hair and have a bath.
* He would go back to the camp but had to stay outside his tent for seven days.
* On the seventh day, he was to re-share, wash his clothes and have a bath before he is proclaimed clean.
* The shaving off the hair was a sign of repentance among the Israelites.
* On the 8th day, the leper was told to bring two male lambs and one female sheep each one year without any defects with 3/10 fine flour mixed with oil.
* After this, the priest together with the cleansed person presented themselves to God at the tent and the priest would declare the victim free of the disease.
* The ceremony was concluded by offering other sacrifices like burnt, fellowship offering which was to ensure that the leper is now a free person and is now free to mix up with other people.

**(15marks)**

**(b). How did Jesus deal with Lepers in the New Testament?**

* The New Testament shows that lepers were more willing to listen and understand Jesus Christ in order to have themselves healed.
* When approached by lepers, Jesus had pity and mercy on them and were eventually healed.
* Healing a leper depended on one’s faith. Those who were strong in faith were often instructed to be free from their sins and they were often instructed to be free from their sins and they would be healed.
* In the New Testament, Jesus was often feeled with deep love and compassion for the people suffering from leprosy.
* Jesus even touched them, yet as a Jew he was not supposed to touch a leper.
* Jesus listened to them, prayed for them and declared them to be free and clean.
* This therefore meant that Jesus, the most holy touched the leper, because of his divine power, the unclean became healed and clean.
* Jesus did not show any discrimination between the lepers and the healthy people.
* Jesus was in close contact with the lepers, touched them with his hands and even healed them.
* Under Jesus command, the disease often left the victims and they would be healed at once. According to Jesus, there were evil spirits or powers disturbing people.
* However, Jesus too recognized the role of priests in examining the sick and so he would often urge them to go for further examination to the priest after they had been healed.
* According to Jesus Christ, salvation was for all including those who were physically unclean.
* Jesus taught that physical impurity did not mean that one had sinned. He argued that one can be physically impure but spiritually clean.
* Jesus used to associate with the unclean like the gentiles, tax collectors, sinners and even ate with them.

**4. (a). Comment on the Act of Herem as reflected in the book of Leviticus.**

* Herem is a Hebrew word which means ‘’total destruction.
* The Israelites were instructed by God to destroy all the people, their animals and property if they were to remain faithful to their God.
* The Israelites were not to have intermarriage with foreigners or to make any alliance with them.
* The Israelites were also to totally destroy the gods and goddess they found in the new land of Canaan.
* The disobedience to the act of Herem would lead to God’s punishment for the Israelites.
* It was a sacred duty the Israelites had to carry out without fail.
* Although the act of Herem looked harsh and barbarious, they had to follow it and do as the lord had commanded them.
* It was intended to show that the Israelites were a special nation of God empowered to defeat the pagan nations.
* The act of Herem was intended to prevent the Israelites from worshipping the foreign gods or idols.
* It was intended to stop the Israelites from mixing with the Canaanites as they would copy their bad acts.
* It was intended to show how the Israelites were to practice monotheism by destroying the gods founds in the new land.
* It was intended to show God’s supremacy over other gods.
* The act of Herem was a form of punishment by God to the pagan nations.
* It was intended to clear all tempting situations that would divert Israel from the worship of a true God.
* It was intended to reveal the commitment of the Israelites and their obedience to their God.
* It was to act as a warning to the Israelites of what would happen to them if they disobeyed God.

**(13marks)**

**(b).What lessons do Christians learn from the act of Herem?**

* Christians learn to show total dependence on God through Jesus Christ.
* They also learn to trust in God through prayers because with God, nothing is impossible.
* Christians learn to resist all sorts of temptation in life just as the Israelites were to destroy the pagan gods and things.
* Christians should do only those things which do not put God’s name to ridicule.
* They learn to worship only one God Yahweh since God is a jealous God.
* Christians should contented with what they have.
* They should be faithful to God in all situations just as the Israelites were expected to carry out the act of herem to the letter.
* Christians should have self-control in order to overcome all temptations of the worldly life.
* Christians learn to marry fellow Christians to avoid being influenced by heathen beliefs and conduct just as the Israelites were prohibited form marrying pagan people.
* Christians should be obedient to god in all situations.

**(12marks)**

**5. (a). Why was Samuel opposed to Israel’s demand for a king?**

Samuel was opposed to the people’s demand for the king because of the following reasons:

* The demand for a king displeased Samuel because it meant that the Israelites were rejecting him as a judge.
* Samuel was opposed to the demand of a king because he was still enjoying the office of judgeship and the privileges attached.
* It was a direct rejection of Samuel’s sons. He had appointed Joel and Abijah to act as judges but the Israelites rejected them which annoyed Samuel.
* Samuel was opposed to the demand of a king because he had introduced a hereditary system judgeship which he wanted to continue in his family.
* The demand for a king meant that the Israelites were rejecting God’s leadership (theocracy) which displeased Samuel.
* Samuel was opposed to the idea because the Israelites did not consult him to find out his opinion but went to him, demanding for a king.
* The Israelites demand for king meant that they had forgotten the good works of God almighty right from Egypt up to the promised land thus Samuel opposed it.
* Samuel was opposed to the demand for a king because the Israelites were trying to copy the pagan way of life since the pagan states were having human kings.
* Samuel feared that the kings people were demanding for would oppress them through forced labour, overtax them, murder and confiscate their property.
* Samuel also foresaw the greed, extravagancy and selfishness which would be associated with the kings people were demanding for thus opposed the idea of kingship.
* Samuel also foresaw that kings would bring about the future division of the kingdom thus opposed the Israelites demand for a king.
* Samuel looked at peoples demand as an insult to God because God had given them everything.
* The peoples demand for a king meant that the Israelites doubted that God could fight wars and protect them as well thus Samuel opposed it.
* Samuel was displeased because the demand for a king implied that the people of Israel were not appreciative of his work.

**(12marks)**

**(b). Examine the merits and demerits of kingship in Israel**

**Merits**

* God’s temple was constructed. This was done by King Solomon who built the temple in Jerusalem as a worshipping Centre.
* The nation of Israel was expanded i.e. king David captured Jerusalem from the Jebusites
* The covenant box was brought God’s presence among his people.
* A strong army was put in place to defend Israel against her enemies.
* Monotheism was promoted among the Israelites especially when King David brought back the covenant box.
* The Israelites became united under king David
* Israel was able to carry trade and accumulate wealth as a result of making alliances with neighboring states.
* God began guiding the people during the reign of the king’s e.g. king Solomon prayed for wisdom and he received it which assisted him to lead people.
* The Israelites became more nationalistic during the reign of King Saul.

**Demerits**

* The Israelites were overtaxed and exploited e.g. King Solomon over taxed the people during the construction of the temple.
* There was power struggle during David’s reign e.g. his son Adonijah was trying to overthrow his father.
* Nepotism was introduced e.g. King David and Solomon used to favor the southern people by giving them key positions in leadership.
* Corruption was promoted among the Israelites. Kings were bribed e.g. King Saul spared Agag’s life because he was promised a ransom.
* Forced labour was introduced. This was during the reign of King Solomon and Rehoboam which brought a lot of suffering among the people.
* Many people lost their lives because of kingship e.g. king Saul killed the priests of Nob.
* Many false prophets emerged e.g. during the reign of Ahab, Jezebel brought 850 false prophets into Israel leading to Baal worship.
* God’s sacrifices were abused e.g. King Saul sacrificed on Samuel’s behalf yet he wasn’t a priest.
* Kingship led to the selling of God’s land to foreign country e.g. king Solomon sold 20 towns of Israel to king Hiram of Tyre.

**(13marks)**

**6(a). ‘’David worked for the unity of Israel as a king ‘’ DISCUSS**

To a larger extent, David worked for the unity of Israel as a king discussed below;

* King David captured Jerusalem from the jebusites and made it Israel’s capital city which was acceptable to all tribes.
* He united the southern tribes with the Northern tribes of Israel after the death of Saul.
* He brought peace and security in Israel especially when he defeated the philistines after coming to power.
* King David was able to sign an alliance with all the 12 tribes of Israel who agreed to be loyal to him.
* He reduced internal resistances in Israel when he killed all the family members of Saul.
* David extended the boundaries of the nation of Israel.
* He brought the covenant box to Jerusalem which became a worshipping center for all the Israelites
* He ruled the people fairly and justly by not oppressing them.

However, King David did not work for the unity of Israel as analyzed below:

* He practiced tribalism where he only developed the south , his origin and neglected the Northern part of Israel
* King David subjected the people of Israel to forced labour.
* He carried out an illegal census where he only counted energetic men to conscript them into the army.
* He killed all the family members of Saul
* King failed to have control over his military officers who killed anyone at will.
* Towards the end of his reign, David became a dictator something which annoyed the Israelites. **(13marks)**

(b). what lessons do political leaders learn from David’s failures?

* Political leaders should honor God if they are to stay in power and peace.
* They should accept to be corrected when they go wrong in their leadership.
* Political leaders should respect the human rights of the subjects they serve
* Political leaders should be faithful to their partners
* They should respect other people’s wives
* Political leaders should be contented with what they have.
* Political leaders should follow and honor the constitution of the country.
* Political leaders should guard against leading others into sin
* They should defend the poor and weak in the society
* Political leaders should work for the unity of the people they serve.
* Political leaders should lead their subject by good example.
* Political leaders should respect religious leaders who give them the counsel of God for their leadership.

**(12marks)**

**7. Assess the greatness of King Solomon in Israel**

To a smaller extent king Solomon was a great king in Israel as discussed below;

* Solomon was a very wise man. He judged the case of the two prostitutes.
* The wisdom of King Solomon excelled more than that of the wise men of the east.
* He built the great temple for the lord in Jerusalem which became the worshipping Centre for the Israelites.
* King Solomon constructed many cities in Israel e.g. Hazar, Maggido and Gezer.
* He was a great merchant king. He got a lot of wealth from his trading’s.
* King Solomon developed the port of Geber where the copper refineries were located.
* He exploited the copper deposits in Edom for the benefit of Israel
* King Solomon dedicated the temple of God in a great ceremony.
* He made Jerusalem to become a center of fashion and culture in the Middle East.
* King Solomon composed 3000 proverbs and over 1000 songs
* He built a powerful palace for himself and his wives and his court displayed high levels of culture and sophistication.

However, King Solomon was not a great king of Israel because of the following actions;

* He heavily taxed the Israelites which was very exploitative
* King Solomon made the Israelites suffer the burden of forced labour
* He enslaved the Israelites during his building programmes of the temple and palace.
* King Solomon accumulated too much wealth at the expense of the suffering Israelites.
* He stayed in luxury at the expense of the suffering masses.
* He married 700 wives and 300 concubines and hence he was a womanser.
* King Solomon allowed his foreign wives to continue the worship of their gods in Israel
* He accumulated a big debt for Israel which led to sell God’s land to king Hiram of Tyre.
* He killed his brother Adinijah who also wanted to become a king
* He built pagan worshipping places for the gods of the foreign nations where he got wives
* King Solomon introduced idolatry into Israel. This made the Israelites to turn away from God.
* He was extravagant. His daily expenditures was too high not in line with God’s servant.
* He promoted tribalism where he only developed the south and did very little for the northern tribes.
* King Solomon was disobedient to God band was unrepentant.
* He gave a bad example to the people of Israel as a leader.

**(25marks)**

**8(a). Examine the consequences of the division of the kingdom of Israel**

* Two independent kingdoms were created i.e. the northern kingdom retained the name Israel with Samaria as its capital while the southern kingdom called Judah with Jerusalem as its capital.
* The northern kingdom was ruled by jeroboam who ruled for 22 years while Rehoboam ruled the Judah for 17 years.
* New worshipping places were built in the northern kingdom i.e. at bethel and Dan which were pagan worshipping places built by Jeroboam.
* There was increased enmity between the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah) where they started fighting each other yet they were covenant people.
* There developed power struggle especially in the northern kingdom. Assassination of kings became common.
* The institution of priesthood was abuse, whereby in the northern region priests were chosen from any tribe.
* The northern kingdom became more sinful than before e.g. temples for worshipping pagan gods were constructed.
* God rejected the sacrifices of the northern kingdom because of their sinful nature.
* Baal worship was introduced in Israel especially during the reign of King Ahab.
* Foreign countries started regaining their lost territories from Israel thus Israel lost their independence
* There were illegal alliances with pagan nations such as Assyria which was against the covenant way of life.
* The Mosaic Law was rejected especially in the northern region i. they put more trust in apostasy, idolatry and syncretism.
* The northern people were relieved of the burdens of taxation and forced labour.
* God sent his prophets to restore the covenant faith like Elizar, Amos and Jeremiah.
* The northern kingdom developed faster than the southern kingdom, Judah because it was strategically placed and goods for trade passed through that region.

**(13marks)**

**(b).What is the relevance of Israel’s division to the Ugandans today?**

* Political leaders should promote unity in the country and avoid sectarian tendencies in their governance.
* Political leaders should govern according to national consensus i.e. be democratic.
* Political leaders should ensure balance development in the country and not favor some areas they come from.
* Political leaders should apologize for the mistakes they have made.
* Leaders should be careful with the words that they speak.
* Political leaders should be ready for any change if things are not going right for them.
* Political leaders should have respect for their subjects.
* They should always take advice from religious leaders seriously.
* Political leaders should preserve and respect the lives of others even if they are threats to their political positions.
* Political leaders should have faith in God other than putting trust in earthly positions and things.
* Political leaders should teach their children good behaviour just as Solomon should have guided his son Rehoboam.
* Political leaders should safeguard the interests of the weak and poor people.
* They should promote peace and stability in their country.

**(12marks)**

**9(a). Comment on importance of Elijah’s hiding in the cave at mt. Horeb.**

* During Elijah’s time of service as a prophet of God, he conflicted with King Ahab and his wife Jezebel which put his life at stake forcing him to go hide in a cave on mt. Sinai.
* By Elijah returning to mt. Sinai where the people had received the Decalogue showed how it was a call for the people to go back to the covenant.
* Elijah wanted to receive fresh energy from God from the very mountain where Moses had been empowered
* It manifested God as a source of everything i.e. he protected Elijah and even provided him with food and water.
* The incident pointed to the end of Elijah’s ministry as he was instructed by God to anoint Elisha as his successor.
* It showed how God is universal i.e. he sent Elijah to anoint even Hazael as a king of Syria.
* It manifested God’s omnipotence i.e. at the mountain there was a furious wind, earthquakes and fire which terrified Elijah.
* It showed how God is everywhere. He was with Elijah wherever he went i.e. in a desert, mount and in a cave.
* It signified that God can appear to man in any form. in this case he appeared to Elijah in a still small voice.
* It pointed to the idea of the remnant or survivors which formed the basis of the teaching of the later canonical prophets in Israel.
* It showed that Yahweh is a God of justice he spares the righteous and destroys sinner’s i.e. he spared the 7000 people who had not bowed to Baal.
* It showed Elijah that he was not alone in serving Yahweh as he thought but there were other 7000 faithful worshippers of Yahweh.
* Elijah’s going to mt. Horeb was important as he wanted to find out the lasting solution to Baal worship.
* It demonstrated human weaknesses i.e. even Elijah wished to die when he requested God take away his life.

**(13marks)**

**(b). what lessons do Christians learn from this incident today?**

* Christians facing challenges in their lives should call for God’s guidance just as Elijah constantly followed God’s guidance in his ministry.
* Christians should have faith in God just as Elijah had faith in God who was sending him to the mountain of God.
* Christians should cry and pray to God while in trouble.
* They should accept their weaknesses just as Elijah accepted his weakness and wished God to take away his life.
* Christians should be confident while doing God’s work unlike Elijah who was filled with fear for Jezebel.
* They should humble themselves before God unlike Elijah who thought he was the only prophet who didn’t worship Baal yet God had 7000 Israelites who true to the covenant faith.
* Christians should remain faithful to God since God spares the righteous people and punishes sinners.
* They should put their trust completely in God because he never fails.
* Christians should try to seek knowledge of God just like Elijah went to the mountain of God to get God’s revelation or guidance.
* They should worship only one God just as the 7000 Israelites who worshipped Yahweh and had not bowed down to Baal gods.
* Christians should endure suffering while serving God.
* They should acknowledge God as great and powerful
* They should have confidence in God’s goodness and should never accuse him of their troubles unlike Elijah who was complaining to God about his troubles.

**(12marks)**

**10 (a). With examples clearly explain the features of true prophets in Israel**

* True prophets were specifically called by God to work for him and this was through visions e.g. Amos was called by God to prophesy to the people of Israel in the five visions he received from God, Isaiah saw God sitting on his throne

(Isaiah 6:1-3)

* True prophets gave their messages to the people for free e.g. Elijah worked for Yahweh without any considerations
* True prophets used divine power from God to perform miracles e.g. Elisha raised the son of the shunammite woman from death.
* True prophets gave messages which were guiding and always came to pass or were fulfilled e.g. prophet Micah prophesied about the death of King Ahab which came true.
* True prophets identified themselves with the poor people of God e.g. Amos identified with the plight of the poor people in Israel
* True prophets always made reference to the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian oppression to the promised land e.g. prophet Hosea described the relationship of God with the Israelites using that incident.
* True prophets were mindful of God’s people whenever there was any serious punishment, they would petition God on behalf of the people e.g. in the first two visions, and Amos pleaded for God’s mercy and God answered his petition. Amos
* True prophets performed prophetic symbolic signs under God’s guidance and power e.g. Ezekiel cut off his hair ezek 5:1-7, Isaiah walked naked (Isaiah 20:1-6)
* True prophets could be persecuted and suffered because of their genuine messages e.g. Amos was persecuted and harassed by Amaziah the chief priest at bethel (Amos 7:10) Pashur the priest imprisoned Jeremiah .
* True prophets communicated verbally and proverbially e.g. Isaiah sang the song of the vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7), Amos sang the funeral song (Amos 5:1-2) which communication could attract listeners.
* True prophets were always opposed to the activities of the false prophets and would condemn them to death e.g. Elijah killed 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah at Mount Carmel (1kings 18:1-40).
* True prophets lived a holy life as a means of demonstrating to the Israelites how they were supposed to live.

**(13marks)**

**(b). In which ways were the canonical prophets different from professional prophets?**

* Canonical prophets prophesied what people ought to hear while the professional prophets prophesied what their audience wanted to hear.
* Canonical prophets used divine power from God while the prophessional prophets used divination and magic to predict the future.
* The prophetic message of the canonical prophets were guiding and could always come true while professional prophetic messages were misleading and were never fulfilled.
* Canonical prophets gave prophesies of destruction or disaster and hope while the professional prophets normally gave prophesies of prosperity and peace.
* Canonical prophets lived holy and pure lives while professional prophets often lived immoral lives e.g. they were drunkards, sexually immoral and told lies.
* Canonical prophets were appointed by God through visions and dreams whereas the prophessional prophets were self-appointed.
* Canonical prophets followed and maintained the covenant faith while professional prophets prophesied their own wishes.
* Canonical prophets worshipped Yahweh, the God of Israel whereas professional prophets worshipped idols and heathen gods like Baal.
* Canonical prophets identified themselves with the poor people whereas of God whereas professional prophets used to frequent royal courts and identified with kings and the rich people.
* Canonical prophets prophesied original message they had received from God whereas professional prophets stole one another’s oracles.
* Canonical prophets prophesied for free and worked for Yahweh whereas professional prophets were paid for their services e.g. Baal prophets were paid by Jezebel.
* Canonical prophets suffered for their messages and were always hated while professional prophets avoided any form of suffering.
* Canonical prophets lived solitary lives whereas professional prophets always moved in groups and music accompanied their oracles.

**(12 marks)**

**11(a). Comment on the call of Amos to be a prophet.**

* Amos was a prophet who prophesied in the northern kingdom, Israel and by occupation, was a trader and a shepherd.
* He was called by God from Judah to go and deliver his message of condemnation to the people of Israel.
* Amos call is traced in five visions which God revealed to him showing how he was going to punish the Israelites using the five destructive visions.
* In the vision of locust, Amos saw God create a swarm of locusts just after the kings’ share of the hay had been cut and the grass was starting to grow again.
* In the vision, Amos saw the locusts eat up every green thing in the land.
* The vision symbolized disaster which was to befall the Israelites in terms of famine leading to the death of many people.
* Amos pleaded for God’s mercy and forgiveness of the Israelites and God withdrew the punishment.
* In the second vision of fire, Amos saw God prepare to punish his people with fire. The fire burnt up the great ocean under the earth and started to burn up the land.
* The vision symbolized a prolonged drought which would dry up all the water bodies and the land as a sign of destruction to all the Israelites.
* Amos pleaded for God’s mercy upon the Israelites and God withdrew his punishment
* In the third vision of a plumbline, Amos saw God standing besides a wall that had been built with the help of plumbline and he had a plumbline in his hand.
* The vision symbolized that the crooked wall were the Israelites who had failed to live according to the covenant way of life.
* In vision, God promised to destroy the worshipping places and to bring the dynasty of king Jeroboam to an end.
* In the fourth vision, Amos saw a basket of fruit at the end of the king’s harvest.
* It meant that the end had come for the people of Israel and God wasn’t going to change his mind.
* The vision symbolized that people’s sins were beyond limit and it meant that it was the right time for God to punish them.
* In the fifth vision, Amos saw God destroy the temple and stones fall on the head of the people.
* The vision symbolized the destruction of the temple and all the worshippers.
* Because of people’s sins and their failure to change, the temple would no longer be God’s dwelling place.

**(b). why did prophet Amos begin pronouncing judgement on Israel’s neighbors before he would do it in Israel?**

* It was a technique of getting an audience form the Israelites.
* The Israelites would prefer condemnation and disaster to befall others and would be willing to listen to him.
* Amos wanted to show that Yahweh was a universal God. Therefore he had the right to pronounce judgement upon all the states.
* Amos wanted to show that sin is punishable everywhere it occurs.
* He wanted to show that being omnipotent, God had the power to punish all the sinners.
* Amos wanted to give the Israelites a chance to repent and ask for forgives.
* He wanted to show that salvation was for all people.
* Amos wanted to get attention from his own people the people of Judah.
* Amos began by condemning the pagan nations because of the evils they had committed.
* He people of Syria had mistreated the people of Gilead and God would send fire upon the palace built by king hazael.
* Amos condemned Philistia for continuous sinning. They captured the people and sold them as slaves to the people of Edom.
* Amos condemned the people of Edom for hunting down their relatives, the Israelites and failing to show them mercy.
* Amos condemned Ammon for ripping open pregnant women in Gilead. God was to send fire upon the city walls of Rabbah.

**(13marks)**