UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS
MAIN EXAMINATION: JUNE 2014
BIST320 P1: NEW TESTAMENT TEXTS

INTERNAL EXAMINER: PROFESSOR JONATHAN DRAPER
EXTERNAL EXAMINER: PROF PJJ BOTHA, UNISA
DURATION: 3 HOURS TOTAL MARKS: 100

INSTRUCTIONS:
1. This paper consists of 3 pages. Please ensure that you have all of them.
2. Answer all the questions in Section A (50 marks), and TWO questions from Section B (25 marks each).
3. Bibles will be provided.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED, IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS, TO WRITE LEGIBLY.

SECTION A
50 MARKS

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions which follow:

NRS John 2:1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."
4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."
6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.
8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.
9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom
10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."
11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

ANSWER ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON JOHN 2:1-11

a) Is the reference to “the third day” significant for John’s narrative or not? Relate this passage to what goes before and what follows in its literary context. (10 marks)
b) What importance would you give to the reference to a wedding as the setting for the first sign in John’s gospel at this point in the narrative? Why the six huge stone water jars and the reference to “the Jewish rites of purification”? Discuss whether you consider these references to be symbolic and if so of what? (10 marks)

c) Since the work of Rudolf Bultmann and C. H. Dodd the first 12 chapters of John have often been called “the Book of Signs”. What is the meaning of “signs” in John’s gospel? How many signs do you consider to be? How would you understand and interpret the structure of the signs in John’s narrative? (10 marks)

d) Compare the “mother of Jesus” in her role here with her role at the cross in 9:25-30. Why do you think she is never called “Mary” in John and is only mentioned in these two places? Do you consider Jesus’ address to his mother with the word “Woman” to be insulting from a son to his mother? or how would you interpret it? (10 marks)

e) What is Jesus’ “hour” here and in the rest of the gospel? How does it relate to wine? How does it relate to Jesus “revealing his glory”? (10 marks)

SECTION B
50 MARKS

ANSWER TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:

2. Answer ALL of the following questions on the Logos in John:

   a) What do you consider to be the cultural and philosophical background to John’s use of the “Logos”/ Word in the Prologue in John 1:1-18? (5 marks)

   b) How does John’s Prologue understand the role of the Word in creation? (5 marks)

   c) Why would it be a shock to people of his own day to hear that “the Word became flesh and lived among us”? (5 marks)

   d) How does John see God’s revelations in the Old Testament in relation to Jesus as the incarnate Word? (5 marks)

   e) How does John’s understanding of the Word relate to those who believe in him becoming “children of God”? (5 marks)

3. Answer ALL of the following questions on John 4:

   a) Compare and contrast the understandings of the narrative of the Samaritan woman in John in the interpretations of Sandra Schneiders and Gail O’Day. (10 marks)
b) Set out and defend briefly your own understanding of the narrative in relation to the understanding of Schneiders and O’Day. (5 marks)

c) Discuss briefly whether you consider the woman’s role to be symbolic primarily of a sinner who repents or do you consider that she should be seen as the first “apostle” in converting her village? (5 marks)

d) Compare and contrast the role of the Samaritan woman and the male disciples in the narrative. (5 marks)

4. Answer All of the following questions on the temple and its festivals in John’s gospel:

   a) Why does he place Jesus’ “cleansing of the temple” at the beginning of his narrative? (5 marks)

   b) What important role do the temple festivals play in the structure of John’s narrative? (5 marks)

   c) Provide an account of the importance of the Feast of Tabernacles/Feast of Booths and its symbolism in chapters 7 and 8. (10 marks)

   d) Why does John’s depict Jesus’ crucifixion as happening “at the time of the Preparation for the Passover” and “about noon” in 19:14-16, and how does it differ from the timing of Jesus’ crucifixion in the Synoptic tradition? (5 marks)

5. Answer All of the following questions:

   a) How does the narrative of the Man Born Blind in chapter 9 relate to the theme of light and darkness in John’s gospel? (5 marks)

   b) Discuss the way the narrative of the Man Born Blind in chapter 9 takes up themes in the narrative of Nicodemus in chapter 3 and the paralyzed man in chapter 5? (10 marks)

   c) What is the significance for John’s community of the statement that the Jews/Judeans “drove the man born blind out”? (9:34-35) (5 marks)

   d) What challenges does the narrative in chapter 9 challenge people outside the community? (5 marks)

6. Write an essay setting out the role of and importance of the Paraclete in John’s Farewell Discourse(s) in chapters 14-17? How does John relate the Paraclete to Jesus and to the community? (25 marks)

---o0o---