

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II

Hebrew Studies

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Monday 2 June 2008      09.00 – 12.00

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**H.18 HEBREW SPECIAL SUBJECT:  
HISTORY OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE**

*Candidates should answer **four** of the following questions.  
All questions are of **equal** value.*

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** Section booklet.*

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

*20 Page Answer Book x 1*

*Rough Work Pad*

**You may not start to read the questions  
printed on the subsequent pages of this  
question paper until instructed that you may  
do so by the Invigilator.**

Answer any **four** of the following questions:

1. Describe the background of the Tiberian vocalization and the pronunciation that it reflects.
2. Describe the Babylonian vocalization tradition and the pronunciation that it reflects.
3. Describe the Palestinian vocalization tradition and the pronunciation that it reflects.
4. Discuss the linguistic diversity that can be identified in the Masoretic Text of the Hebrew Bible.
5. Describe the history of the guttural consonants in Hebrew.
6. Describe the history of the sibilant consonants in Hebrew.
7. What is the linguistic background of the *qāṭal* and *yiqṭōl* forms in Biblical Hebrew?
8. Describe the different traditions of Rabbinic Hebrew.
9. Contrast payṭanic Hebrew with that of medieval Hebrew poetry from Spain.
10. Describe the background of the Hebrew that was used in medieval letters from the Cairo Genizah.

**END OF PAPER**