



Classical Hebrew Continuers

Sample HSC Examination Questions

Decisions made by the Board of Studies in December 2008 have resulted in changes to some HSC examinations in 2010 and beyond.

In the Classical Hebrew Continuers HSC examination in 2010 and beyond:

- Section I, Part A will consist of short-answer questions to the value of 40 marks spread across the prescribed Tanakh texts. It is no longer an examination requirement that questions on the Ketuvim refer to a theme.
- Section I, Part B will be an extended–response question based on an extract or extracts from one or more of the prescribed texts, worth 10 marks. There will be one question only. The question may be based on any of the prescribed texts, not only the Ketuvim as in past examinations.
- Section II will consist of short-answer questions on the prescribed Mishna to the value of 20 marks.
- The total number of marks in Sections I and II is reduced from 85 marks to 70 marks. Section III will now be worth 30 marks and will include grammar questions on unseen texts.

The following sample questions provide examples of extended–response questions based on extracts and grammar questions on non-prescribed texts. The extended–response questions reflect the style of question that could be used in Section I of HSC examinations from 2010 and the grammar questions give an indication of the style of question that could be used in Section III. There will be only ONE extended–response question in Section I from 2010. These sample questions provide teachers and students with guidance as to the sort of questions to expect, although they are not meant to be prescriptive. That is, each year the questions may focus on different syllabus outcomes and grammatical features, and vary in the number of extracts used.

Section I – Part B

Example 1 (10 marks) — Torah

Read the extract provided, then answer in ENGLISH the question that follows.

Genesis 4: 13–14

13 וַיֹּאמֶר קַיִן אֶל־יְהוָה גְּדוֹל עֹנִי מִנְשׂוּאָה׃
14 הֲוֹגֵרֶשֶׁת אֶתִּי הַיּוֹם מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה וּמִפְּנֵי אֶסְתֵּר
וְהָיִיתִי גֵר וְגֵר בְּאֶרֶץ יְהוּדָה כָּל־מֹצְאֵי יְהִרְגֵנִי׃

Using the extract provided, analyse the events which led to and resulted from the death of Abel.

Example 2 (10 marks) — Nevi'im

Read the extract provided, then answer in ENGLISH the question that follows.

Judges 2: verses 16–17

16 וַיִּקֶּם יְהוָה שְׁפָטִים וַיּוֹשִׁיעוּם מִיַּד שָׂסִיָּהֶם׃
17 וְגַם אֶל־שְׁפָטֵיהֶם לֹא שָׁמְעוּ כִּי זָנוּ אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים
אַחֲרִים וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ לָהֶם סָרוּ מִדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר
הִלְכוּ אֲבוֹתָם לִשְׁמֹעַ מִצְוֹת־יְהוָה לֹא־עָשׂוּ כֵן׃

Using the extract provided as a basis, evaluate the role of the Judges in Ancient Israel and their success as national leaders.

Section III — Unseen Text

The following are sample questions involving grammar. Grammar questions will be integrated with other questions on non-prescribed texts.

Example 3 (2 marks)

Read the extract, then answer in ENGLISH the questions that follow.

Judges 4: 12 – 19

12 וַיֵּרֶד
13 לְסִסְרָא כִּי עָלָה בָרַק בְּדַאבְיָנָעַם הַר־תְּבוּרִי: וַיִּזְעַק
סִסְרָא אֶת־כָּל־רֶכֶבָּו וַתִּשַׁע מֵאוֹת רֶכֶב בָּרָזָל וְאֶת־כָּל־
14 הָעַם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ מִחֶרְשַׁת הַגּוֹיִם אֶל־נַחַל קִישׁוֹן: וַתֹּאמֶר
דְּבַלְהָ אֶל־בָּרַק כֹּחַ כִּי זֶה הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן יְהוָה אֶת־
סִסְרָא בְיָדְךָ הֲלֹא יְהוָה יֵצֵא לְפָנֶיךָ וַיֵּרֶד בָּרַק מִחֶרֶת
15 תְּבוּרִי וַעֲשֶׂרֶת אֲלָפִים אִישׁ אַחֲרָיו: וַיָּהֶם יְהוָה אֶת־
סִסְרָא וְאֶת־כָּל־הָרֶכֶב וְאֶת־כָּל־הַמַּחֲנֶה לְפִי־חֶרֶב לְפָנֶי
16 בָרַק וַיֵּרֶד סִסְרָא מֵעַל הַמְּרֻבָּה וַיִּגַּם בְּרִנְלִיּוֹ: וּבָרַק
רָדַף אַחֲרֵי הָרֶכֶב וְאַחֲרֵי הַמַּחֲנֶה עַד חֶרְשַׁת הַגּוֹיִם וַיִּפֹּל
17 כָּל־מַחֲנֶה סִסְרָא לְפִי־חֶרֶב לֹא נִשְׁאַר עַד־אַחַד: וְסִסְרָא
גַּם בְּרִנְלִיּוֹ אֶל־אֶהֱלָ יַעַל אִשֶׁת תְּבוּרִי הַקִּינִי כִּי שְׁלוֹם בֵּין
18 יָבִין מִלְּדִּי־חֲצוֹר וּבֵין בֵּית תְּבוּרִי הַקִּינִי: וַתֵּצֵא יַעַל לִקְבֹּאת
סִסְרָא וַתֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו סוּרָה אֲדֹנָי סוּרָה אֵלַי אֶל־חֵירָא
19 וַיִּסַּר אֵלָיָהּ הָאֵהָלָה וַתִּכְסְּהוּ בְּשִׂמְיָהּ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיָהּ
הַשְׂקִינִינָא מַעֲטָמִים כִּי צָמְתִי וַתַּפְתַּח אֶת־נְאוֹד הַחֶלֶב
וַתִּשְׁקְהוּ וַתִּכְסְּהוּ:

- (a) Identify the syntactical problem concerning **הר תבור** (verse 12). 1
- (b) Parse **השקיניני** (verse 19), giving *shoresh*, *binyan* and tense/aspect. 1