

WASSCE / WAEC CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES SYLLABUS
(FOR CANDIDATES IN GHANA ONLY)

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[May not be taken with Islamic Religious Studies]

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

At the end of the **three year** course of study, the candidate will be expected to:

1. have knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the religious, cultural, historical and social background of the biblical materials provided to be studied;
2. understand the nature of biblical moral lessons in the selected passages/themes from the Bible and the extent of their relevance and possible application to present day social, political, religious and cultural life and existence;
3. identify difficulties involved in the application of healthy attitudes, concepts and skills acquired from the Bible in ensuring peaceful co-existence and national development.

EXAMINATION SCHEME

There will be **two** papers - Paper 1 and 2 both of which must be taken.

Paper 1: Will be **60 minutes** multiple choice (objective) test paper consisting of **fifty** (50) questions drawn from the entire Christian Religious Studies syllabus. Candidates will be required to attempt all the questions for a total of **40 marks**.

Paper 2: Will be essay test paper consisting of **three sections** A, B and C. Four questions each will be set in Sections A and B and two questions in Section C. Candidates will be required to answer **four questions** in all choosing at least **one** question from each section and the **fourth** from **either Section A or B** for a total of 60 marks.

The sections on the question paper will cover the following portions of the of the syllabus:

Section C: Themes from the Acts of the Apostles, James and I Peter

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible will be used in the setting of questions.

DETAILED SYLLABUS

Section A: Themes from the Old testament

DETAILED SYLLABUS:

CONTENT	NOTES
Section A:	
1. The Creation and the fall of Human Kind	
(a) Creation	
(b) The garden of Eden and fall of human kind	Gen. 1:1-2:4a ; 2:4b-25 Gen. 3
(c) Cain and Abel	Gen. 4:1-16
(a) God's covenant with Abraham	Gen.12:1-9, 17:1-21, 21:1-8
(b) God's covenant with Israel	Exodus 1:8-22; 2:23-25; 19;20, 24:1-11; 32:1-24;
(c) The new covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-34, 32: 36-41. Ezekiel. 36:24-28
3. Leadership Roles	
(a) Joseph as a leader	Gen. 37:1-28, 41:1-57,
(b) Moses as a leader	Exodus 1; 2; 3; 4:1-17; 5, 14, 32:1-24 Numbers: 13:1- 33. 14: 1-24
(c) Joshua as a leader	Numbers. 27:15-23 Joshua.
(d) Deborah as a leader	Judges 4
(e) Gideon as a leader	Judges 6, 7, 8
4. Parental Responsibilities	
(a) Flaws in Eli and Samuel's	I Samuel 2:11-36; 3:2-18; 4:10-
5. Consequences of Saul's disobedience	
	1 Samuel. 13:5-15; 15: 1-34, 16: 14 -23; 31;
6. David: A man after God's own heart	
(a) David's submission to the will of God	1 Samuel.26, 2 Samuel. 12:15-25
(b) David's sin, repentance and forgiveness	2 Samuel. 11, 12:1-25
7. Making Decisions	
(a) Solomon's wisdom	1 Kings 3:3-28, 4:29-34, 5:1-12, 8:1-53 10:1-13
(b) Unwise policies of	1 Kings. 9:15-23, 11:1-13,

Solomon and Rehoboam	12:1-20
8. Supremacy of God	
(a) Religious tensions during	1 Kings.16:29-34; 17:1-7;
(b) Elijah at mount Carmel	1 Kings 18:17- 46
Ahab and Gehazi's greed	1 Kings 21; 2 Kings 5
10. The Apostate and the Reformer	
The reign of King Manasseh (The Apostate)	2 Kings 21:1-18
(b) The Reign of King Josiah	2 King 22; 23: 1-30
11. Faith in God	
(a) Faith and Courage	Daniel 3
(b) Faith and power	Daniel 6
(a) God's Universalism	Jonah 1,2,3,4
(b) Social injustice and true religion	Amos 2:6-8, 4, 5: 1-24, 7:10-17, 8
(c) God's divine love	Hosea 1, 2, 3, 6
(d) Gods holiness/divine call	Isaiah 1:10-20, 6: 1-8
(e) The call of Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1
(f) The call of Ezekiel	Ezekiel 1,2,3
Hope for the future	
(a) Individual responsibility	Ezekiel 18
(b) Hope for the future	Ezekiel 37
14. Concern for one's Nation	
(a) The condition of the nation	2 Kings 24; 25:1-17
(b) Response to the state of the nation	Nehemiah 1;2:9-20;4
(c) Jeremiah's letter to the exiles	Ezra 1; 4; 5:1-2; 6:13 -22;7:1-10 Jeremiah 29
SECTION B	
Themes from the Synoptic Gospels	
15. Religious Institutions and Sects at the time of Jesus	

- (a) The Synagogue
- (b) The Temple
- (c) The Sanhedrin
- (d) The Religious sects
 - (i) The Pharisees
 - (ii) The Sadducees
- (e) Other Religious Sects
 - (i) The Scribes
 - (ii) The Herodians
 - (iii) The Zealots

16. Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels

- (a) Characteristics of the Synoptic Gospels
- (b) The Synoptic Problem

17. Birth Narratives: Birth of John and Jesus and the Preparation of Jesus' ministry

- (a) The genealogy Matt: 1:1-17; Lk 3:23- 38
Lk 3:1-20
- (d) The baptism of Jesus Matt: 3:13-17, Mk 1:9-11; Lk3:21-23

- 18. The temptation of Jesus** Matt: 4:1-11, Mk 1:12-13,
Lk 4:1-13

19. Galilean Ministry

- (a) The call and Demands of Discipleship Matt: 4:18-25; 8:18-22; 9:9-13,
Mk:1:16-20; 2:13-17, Lk 5:1-11,27-32, 9:57-63; 14:25-33
- (b) The teachings of Jesus
 - (i) The Beatitudes and Woes Matt: 5:1-12; Lk 6:17-26
 - (ii) The Usefulness of Salt and Light Matt: 5:13-16, Lk11:33-36;
14:34-35
 - (iii) Jesus and the Mosaic Law Matt: 5:17-48; Lk 6:27-36,
Lk 12:57-59
 - (iv) Alms Giving and Fasting Matt: 6:1-4, Lk 11:41; 12:33
Matt 6: 16 -18
 - (v) Prayer Matt: 6:5-15; 5:44; 17: 20,

	Mk 1:35;6:41-46, Lk: 3:21, 6:12, 9:18,28-29; 11:1-13; 22:31-34; 18:1-14
(c) Other Teachings of Jesus	
(i) Forgiveness	Matt: 5:38-48, 18:21-35, Mk 2:1-12, 3:28-29; Lk: 6:27-36, 7:36-50; 11:4, 18:4-14.
(ii) Humility	Matt: 18:1-4, 23:12, Mk 9:33-37, 10:13-18; Lk 9:46, 14: 7-11, 18: 9-14, 22: 24 -27
(iii) Wealth and Poverty	Matt: 5:3; 6:19-21; 19:16-30, Mk 10:17-30; 12:43-44, Lk 6:20; 12:13-21; 33-34; 16:19-31; 8:18-30; 19:8-9; 21:1- 5
(iv) Marriage and Divorce	Matt: 5:31-32; 19:3-12; 22:23-33 Mk. 10:2-12; 12:25; Lk 20: 27-40
(v) The Church and State	Matt: 17:24-27; 22:15-22 Mk. 12:13-17; Lk 20:20-26
20. Miracles of Jesus	
(a) Nature Miracles	
(i) Stilling of the Storm	Matt: 8: 23-27; Mk 4:35-41: Lk 8:22-25
(ii) Feeding of the Five Thousand	Matt 14:15-21, Mk 6:30-44, Lk 9:10-17
(b) Healing Miracles	
(i) The Leper	Matt: 8: 1 - 4 , Mk 1:40-45, Lk 5:12-16
(ii) The Centurion's Servant	Matt 8: 5-13, Lk 7:1-10
(iii) The Paralytic	Matt 9:1-8, Mk 2:1-12; Lk 5:17-26
(c) Exorcism and Power over Death	
(i) The Gerasene Demoniac	Matt 8: 28-34, Mk 5:1-20 Lk 8:26-39
(ii) The Syro-Phoenician Woman's Daughter	Matt. 15:21 - 28, Mk. 7: 24- 30
(iii) Jairus Daughter	Matt. 9: 18-26, Mk. 5:21-43, Lk. 8: 40-56

21. The Parables of Jesus

(a) Parables of the Kingdom

- (i) The Sower Matt: 13:1-23, Mk 4:1-20,
Lk 8:4-15
- (ii) The Mustard Seed Matt: 13:31-32, Mk 4:30-32,
Lk 13:18-19
- (iii) The wicked Tenant Matt: 21:33-46, Mk 12:1-12,
Lk 20: 9-19
- (iv) Pounds and Talents Lk 19:11-27, Matt 25:14-30

(b) Parables Illustrating God's love

- (i) The Parables of the Lost
E.g. .Prodigal Son, Lost Sheep
Lost Coin etc. Matt 18: 12-14, Lk 15

22. The Great Confession and the Transfiguration

- (a) The Great Confession Matt 16:13-20, MK 8:27-38
Lk 9: 18-27
- (b) The Transfiguration Matt 17: 1-13, MK 9:2-13
Lk. 9:28-36.

23. Jesus in Jerusalem.

Conflict with Jewish
Authorities over:

- (a) Sabbath Matt: 12:1-14, Mk 2:23-28,
3:1--6, Lk 6:1-11
- (b) Mixing with Sinners Matt: 9: 9-13, Lk. 5:27-32,
7:36-50, Mk. 2:13-22
- (c) Fasting Matt. 9: 14-17, Mk. 2: 18 -20
Lk. 5:33-39
- (d) Authority to forgive sins Mat: 9:1- 9, Mk. 2:1-12,
Lk 5: 17-26, Lk. 7: 36-50
- (e) Tradition of the Elders Matt: 15: 1-11, Mk. 7: 1-15,
Lk. 11:37-41

24. The Passion Stories

- (a) The Conspiracy of the
Priest and the Elders. Matt: 26:1-5, Mk. 14:1-2,
Lk. 22:1-2
- (b) The Anointing at Bethany Matt: 26: 6-13, Mk. 14: 3-9
- (c) The Last Supper Matt: 26:17-35, Mk. 14:12-31,
Lk. 22:7-3

(d) Jesus at Gethsemane	Matt: 26:36-56, Mk. 14:32-52, Lk. 22: 39-53
(e) Peter's Denials	Matt: 26:69-75, Mk. 14:66-72, Lk. 22:54-62
(f) The trial of Jesus	Matt: 26:47-75, Mk. 14:53-72, Lk. 22:66-71,23: 1-12
(g) The Crucifixion and death of Jesus	Matt: 27: 32-56, Mk. 15: 21 -41, Lk. 23: 26-49
(h) The burial of Jesus	Matt. 27: 57-66, Mk. 15: 42-47, Lk. 23:50-56
(i) The Resurrection Appearances	Matt: 28:1-20, Mk. 16:1-20, Lk. 24: 1-53
(j) The Great Commission	Matt: 28:19-20, Lk. 24:47, Mk. 16: 15-20

SECTION C

25. The History of the Early Church

(a) Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles	Acts 1:1-5
(b) (i) The Ascension (ii) The replacement of Judas	Acts 1:6-11 Acts 1:12-26
(c) The day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-47
(c) The day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-47
(d) The first Miracle of the Church	Acts 3:1-26
(e) Opposition to the Church	Acts 4:1-31
(f) The Church and Communal life	Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-16
(g) The arrest of the Apostles	Acts 5:17-42

26. The Appointment of the Seven, Persecution and Dispersion of the church after Stephen's Death.

(a) The appointment of the Seven Deacons	Acts 6:1-6
(b) Stephen, the first Christian Martyr	Acts 6:7-15; 7
(c) Persecution and dispersion of the Church	Acts 8:1-25

(d) Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:26-40

27. Witnessing Further Afield

- (a) The conversion of Saul Acts 9:1-31
- (b) Peter at Lydda and Joppa Acts 9:32-43
- (c) Conversion of Cornelius Acts 10:1-48; 11:1-18
- (d) The Church in Antioch Acts 11:19-30
- (e) Martyrdom of James and the arrest of Peter Acts 12:1-24

28. The first Missionary Journey and the Council of Jerusalem

- (a) Paul's first Missionary Journey Acts 13, 14
- (b) The Council of Jerusalem and the Question of Circumcision Acts 15:1-35

29. The Epistle of James

- (a) Faith and Works James 1:2-27; 2:14-26
- (b) Impartiality James 2:1-13
- (c) Effective Prayers James 1:2-8; 5:13-18

30. The Epistle of 1 Peter

- (a) Good Citizenship 1 Peter 2:13-17
- (b) Christians Living among non-Christians 1 Peter 2 : 1 - 25
- (c) Interpersonal Relationship among Christians 1 Peter 5 : 1 - 11