



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN THEOLOGY, PENTECOSTAL &
CHARISMATIC STUDIES**

MASTER OF ARTS IN DIVINITY

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2019

CAMPUS: ROYSAMBU

DEPARTMENT: BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

COURSE CODE: MDV506 | MPC500

COURSE TITLE: EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

EXAM DATE: FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2019

DURATION: 3HRS

TIME: 5:30PM-8:30PM

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you write the answers.
- Write your **STUDENT NUMBER** in the Answer Booklet given
- Section A is compulsory.
- Answer ANY TWO questions in Section B.
- *ALL PAC University's examination rules and regulations apply*

SECTION A: Answer ALL questions (20 marks)

1. The study of church history demonstrates that Christianity was from its inception destined to be a global faith.

- a) Outline two approaches to the study of church history, and give two features of each of the approaches. (4 marks)
- b) Describe 4 examples of how the Gospel message crossed boundaries, 2 from the Apostolic period and 2 from the Patristic Period. (8 marks)
- c) List and explain 3 prevailing heresies that Christians contended with in the first 500 years of Christianity. Describe in detail how Christian leaders made a concerted effort to refute one of these heresies and restore orthodoxy. (8 marks)

SECTION B: Answer ANY TWO questions (20 marks)

2. Christianity resisted efforts to limit the spread of the message. Instead, it grew and in the processes deepened the faith experience of Christians.

- a) Explain 3 elements of the urban context for Christian growth within the Roman Empire in the Apostolic period. (3 marks)
- b) Outline 2 accusations against Christians that caused them to be persecuted in the Roman Empire. (2 marks)
- c) Describe 2 effects of persecution of Christians. (2 marks)
- d) What are 2 lessons African Christians today can learn from the persecution of Early Christians. (3 marks)

3. Successive generations of Pastor-Theologians refined Christian doctrine in the face of heresy.

- (a) Name the founder of Arianism and state 2 of its main assertions about Christian faith. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain the role of St. Athanasius in disputing Arianism. Outline 2 arguments he gave to counter the Arian heresy. (4 marks)
- (c) What was a major outcome of the 1st Council of Nicea which challenged Arianism. (1 mark)
- (d) Outline 2 ways the 1st council of Nicea can help Christians today address issues relating to the church. (2 marks)

4. Mission and conversion in the early church opened new ways in which Christianity developed.

- a) Using examples describe 2 features of missions work among monks in the Patristic and Early Middle Ages. (2 marks)
- b) Give 2 examples of missionaries to Africa in Patristic and Early Middle Ages. Describe one feature of each of these missions. (4 marks)
- c) Name and describe 2 missionary methods and 2 evangelistic tools used by the missionaries. (2 marks)
- d) State 2 ways in which African Christians can learn from these early missions. (2 marks)

5. The growth of Christianity was not linear but came in waves of expansion and recession. The expansion of Islam in the Middle East is one example.

- a) State and explain 2 reasons for the previously Christian areas to fall to Islam. (3 marks)
- b) Describe who Charlemagne was and give 2 ways he was significant in the development of Christian Europe. (3 marks)
- c) Outline 2 outcomes of his influence in Europe. (2 marks)
- d) Explain one lesson Christians in Africa can learn from the Christian and Imperial activities of Charlemagne in Early Middle Age Europe. (2 marks)