



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLE AND THEOLOGY**

JANUARY -APRIL 2021

CAMPUS: ROYSAMBU - ONLINE

DEPARTMENT: BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

COURSE CODE: BIL2313

COURSE TITLE: Synoptic Gospels

EXAM DATE:

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you write the answers.
- This paper has Six questions
- Section A is Compulsory
- Answer ANY TWO questions in Section B

SECTION A: Answer ALL questions.

1. A correct interpretation of the Synoptic Gospels requires a correct understanding of the Greco-Roman background to the gospels. Choose a synoptic gospel text and justify this statement by explaining the religious and socio-political background to the gospels. (10 marks)
2. Explain the “synoptic problem” and discuss how the various theories relating to it facilitate understanding of the nature and content of the synoptic gospels. Give biblical references to support your answers. (10 marks)

SECTION B: Answer ANY TWO questions.

3. The word gospel is translated from the Greek word *euangelion*.
 - a) Explain one way in which use of the word “gospel” in the first century differs from how it is understood today. (3 marks)
 - b) Explain one reason why the early church opted to use “gospel” in the title to the first four books of the New Testament. (3 marks)
 - c) Explain two reasons for placing the fourfold Gospel at the head of the New Testament canon. (4 marks)
4. Choose one of the Synoptic Gospels and do the following;
 - a) Outline the historical context giving details of authorship, target audience, place, date of writing, and purpose. (4 marks)
 - b) Explain how Jesus is portrayed. (4 marks).
 - c) Discuss the effect of Jesus’ portrayal on the intended audience and on the Church today. (2 marks)
5. One of the theological themes of Mark’s gospel is “discipleship: following in the footsteps of the suffering Son of God/servant of the Lord.” Discuss how this can be applied in the context of a missionary to an unreached nomadic people group. (10 marks)
6. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of reading the Synoptic Gospels vertically and horizontally. Provide biblical references to support your answers. (10 marks)