



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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

JANUARY -MARCH 2020 – SPECIAL EXAM

CAMPUS: ROYSAMBU

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. (20 marks)

1. The word gospel is translated from the Greek word *euangelion*.
 - a) Describe one way in which the usage of the word “gospel” in the first century differs from how we understand it today. (3 marks)
 - b) Give one reason why the early church chose to use the word “gospel” in the title to the first four books of the New Testament. (3 marks)
 - c) Give two reasons why it makes much sense to place the fourfold Gospel at the head of the New Testament canon. (4 marks)
2. There is need to establish the sources behind the Synoptic Gospels.
 - a) Explain what you understand by the term “synoptic problem”. (4 marks)
 - b) Illustrate the “synoptic problem” using scriptural references from the three gospels. (6 marks)

SECTION B: Answer ANY TWO questions. (20 marks)

3. The four gospels present four different perspectives of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - a) From your understanding explain why the church the church rejected the Diatessaron. (5 marks)
 - b) Giving scriptural references, give one advantage and one disadvantage of reading the gospels vertically. (5 marks)
4. The intertestamental or Second Temple period is the contextual background upon which the events of the New Testament period took place.
 - a) Make an outline of the political powers that ruled over Israel, in their correct order, during the intertestamental period. (5 marks)
 - b) Refer to Matthew 2:1-19 in your Bible. Describe how this passage relates to the intertestamental period. (5 marks)

5. Each of the synoptic gospels is unique.
- a) Describe how each of the synoptic gospels presents the portrait of Jesus. Give a scriptural reference for each to support your answer.
(6 marks)
 - c) Discuss the significance of the multiple usage of the title “Son of David” in relation to Matthew’s portrait of Jesus. (4 marks)
6. 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 one can apply this theme to today’s life and vocation. (10 Marks)