

CHRISTIAN STUDIES — SYLLABUS



INTERIM JOINT MATRICULATION BOARD EXAMINATION (IJMBE)
CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CRS) SYLLABUS (REVISED 2012)

1.00 Introduction

The Interim Joint Matriculation Board Examination in Christian Religious Studies consists of three papers, namely:

- i. History and Religion of Israel (Old Testament)
- ii. The Synoptic Gospels
- iii. Christianity in Sierra Leone and Nigeria from the 18th century to date and Contemporary Issues.

The programme is designed to enable candidates explain what and why they believe about the Christian faith. It is for this reason that theological issues have been built into the Old and New Testaments courses to help candidates apply their knowledge of the Bible in their daily living. Contemporary issues and History of Christianity in West Africa describe how Christianity was introduced and accepted by West African communities with particular reference to Sierra Leone, and Nigeria. Then contemporary issues deal with problems that the Church grapples with in modern society. This section of the programme is designed to help candidates identify and utilize solutions to these teething social problems in Christian perspective. Finally, the programme prepares candidates for university education.

2.00 Objectives

The general objectives of the Christian Religious Studies programme shall include the following among others. At the end of the study of the courses in Christian Religious Studies, candidates should be able to:

- (a) Explain how the Christian Bible came into existence (Old and New Testaments).
- (b) Enumerate outstanding kings and prophets of Israel during the Monarchy, pointing out their contributions to the religious, social and political developments of Israel.
- (c) Explain the teachings of Jesus and their relevance to the Nigerian Christian today.

- (d) Trace the history and developments of Christianity in West Africa with particular reference to Sierra Leone, and Nigeria.
- (e) Discuss Christian response to specific modern social problems, pointing out the effects of such problems on the individual and the society and proffer solutions in Christian perspective.

3.00 Examination

There shall be seven (7) questions each for Papers I and II, and eight (8) for Paper III. Candidates are expected to answer four (4) questions from both papers I and II and five (5) from paper III. Each paper will contain two sections as indicated below:

Paper I: History and Religion of Israel as a united kingdom.

Section A: Introduction to the Old Testament
Candidates will answer one (1) out of the two (2) questions.

Section B: History and Religion of Israel
Candidates will answer three (3) out of five (5) questions.

Paper II: The Synoptic Gospels

Section A: Background to the New Testament
Candidates will answer one (1) out of two (2) questions.

Section B: The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke)
Candidates will answer three (3) out of five (5) questions.

Paper III: Contemporary Issues and Christianity in West Africa from the 18th Century to date.

Section A: Contemporary Issues
Candidates will be required to answer two (2) out of three (3) questions from this section.

Section B: The History of Christianity in West Africa (Sierra Leone and Nigeria).

Candidates will be required to answer three (3) out of five (5) questions from this section.

African Independent Church Movement

Weighting: C.A. 20%, Exam 80% obtained from the 3 examination papers

3.00 Detailed Syllabus

3.01 PAPER I: OLD TESTAMENT: (Institution of the Monarchy to King Solomon).

i. Formation and composition of the Bible (Old Testament)

- a) Inspiration
- b) Canonicity and Apocryphal writings
- c) Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch

ii. I and II Samuel

iii. I and II Kings

iv. Isaiah chapters 1 – 6, and 12-27 (Holiness theme).

v. Hosea (Theme of Love).

vi. Amos (Theme of Justice).

vii. Revision and Examinations

3.02 PAPER II: NEW TESTAMENT (The Synoptic Gospels)

i. Composition of the Gospels

ii. The Synoptic problem

iii. The authorship, date and characteristics of Matthew, Mark and Luke

iv. The Birth and Preparation of Jesus for his ministry

v. Jesus sermon on the mount and His teaching on:

- a. Prayer and Fasting
- b. Fatherhood of God
- c. Wealth and Poverty
- d. Marriage and Family

vi. The Parables of Jesus

vii. The Miracles of Jesus

viii. The Sufferings, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus in the Synoptics

ix. Revision and Examinations

3.03 PAPER III: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN WEST AFRICA WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SIERRA LEONE AND NIGERIA

- i. Drug Abuse
- ii. Cults and Occultism
- iii. HIV/AIDS Epidemic
- iv. Communal and Religious conflicts
- v. Gender Issues
- vi. Pentecostal Churches
- vii. The problems of the Church today
- viii. Establishment of Christianity in Sierra Leone, and Nigeria
- ix. The impact of the Christian Faith on Communities in Sierra Leone and Nigeria.
- x. Outstanding Missionary Figures
- xi. African Independent Churches in Nigeria. (origins, characteristics and impact on society).
- xii. Revision and Examination

FIRST SEMESTER SYLLABUS

(HISTORY AND RELIGION OF ISRAEL)

S/NO:	TOPICS AND CONTENTS	ACTIVITIES	DURATION
1.	INSPIRATION i. The meaning of inspiration ii. Various theories of inspiration	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignment	2weeks/12hrs 4hrs
2.	Canonicity and Apocryphal Books i. The meaning of canonicity and apocrypha ii. The criteria for Old Testament canonicity iii. Identification of canonical and apocryphal books	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Questions & answers	4hrs
3.	MOSAIC AUTHORSHIP OF THE PENTATEUCH i. Proofs of Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch ii. Objections against Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch	i. Lecture ii. Debate and discussion	4hrs
4.	HISTORICAL SETTING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MONARCHY (1 SAMUEL 1 – 7) i. The birth and call of Samuel; God's judgment on Eli's sons ii. The Philistines defeat of Israel iii. The restoration of the Ark of God iv. The roles of Samuel as Judge, Priest and Prophet	i. Lectures ii. Drawing the Ark iii. Class discussion	4weeks/24hrs 4hrs
5.	THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MONARCHY UNDER SAMUEL (1 SAMUEL 8 – 12) i. Israel's request for a King ii. Samuel anointing Saul iii. Saul's public choice as King iv. Defeat of the Ammonites v. Saul's inauguration at Gilgal	i. Lectures ii. Draw map showing Gilgal and position of Ammonites iii. Discussion	4hrs
6.	SAUL'S REIGN AND FAILURES (1 SAMUEL 13 – 15) i. Teach the successes of the reign of king Saul ii. The war of Israel against the Amalekites iii. Other factors that led to the fall of king Saul	i. Lectures ii. Drawing a picture of a King iii. Assignments	4hrs
7.	DAVID'S RISE TO THE THRONE (I SAMUEL 16:1 – II SAMUEL 5:5) i. David's private anointing and his services in the palace of King Saul ii. The refuge sought by David among the Philistines iii. David made king over Judah in Hebron iv. David as king over Israel in Jerusalem	i. Lectures ii. Drawing of a shepherd boy and sheep iii. Drawing of a map showing Hebron, Jerusalem and Philistia	6hrs

8.	<p>DAVID'S KINGSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENTS (II SAMUEL 5:6 – 9:12)</p> <p>i. Discuss David's adultery and murder ii. The loss of David's sons – Ammon, Absalom and Adonijah iii. Final reflections on David's reign</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Group discussion</p>	1 week/6hrs
9.	<p>THE REIGN OF KING SOLOMON (I KINGS 1:1 – 12:24)</p> <p>i. The succession and consolidation on the throne of king Solomon ii. The reign of king Solomon and his building projects iii. The folly of king Solomon and threats on the throne.</p>	<p>i. Discussion ii. Lectures iii. Sword drill</p>	1 week/6hrs
10.	<p>THE ROLE OF PROPHETS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (I KINGS 17:1 – II KINGS 8:15;9)</p> <p>i. Teach the contest of prophet Elijah and prophets of Baal ii. The prophetic ministry of prophet Elisha in relation to state affairs.</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Dramatization</p>	1 week/6hrs
11.	<p>THE MESSAGE AND ORACLES OF JUDGEMENT AGAINST ISRAEL (AMOS 1 – 5)</p> <p>i. God's charges against Israel's neighbours ii. God's charges against Israel</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Questions & answers</p>	1 week/6hrs
12.	<p>THE UNFAITHFUL WIFE AND THE FAITHFUL HUSBAND (HOSEA 1:1 – 3:5)</p> <p>Experiences of Hosea's marriage relationship and the significance of the children's names.</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Debate iii. Sword drill</p>	1 week/6hrs
13.	<p>THE UNFAITHFULNESS OF ISRAEL AND FAITHFULNESS OF GOD (HOSEA 4:1 – 14:9)</p> <p>i. God's view of Israel's religion ii. God's love and punishment on Israel</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Group discussion</p>	1 week/6hrs
14.	<p>MESSAGE OF REBUKE AND PROMISE (ISAIAH 1 – 6)</p> <p>God's charges, punishments and promises of blessing for Judah; Isaiah's call and commission</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Questions & answers</p>	1 week/6hrs
15.	<p>JUDGEMENT AGAINST THE NATIONS AND</p>	<p>i. Lectures</p>	

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<p>THE PROMISE OF THE LORD'S KING (ISAIAH 13 - 27)</p> <p>i. Judgement against the nations ii. God's promises of blessing and restoration for Israel</p>	<p>ii. Discussion iii. Sword drill</p>	<p>1 week/6hrs</p>
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THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

S/NO	TOPICS AND CONTENTS	ACTIVITIES	DURATION
16.	<p>ORAL AND WRITTEN GOSPEL</p> <p>i. Factors that delayed written Gospel ii. Factors that prompted written form of the Gospel</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Sword drill</p>	1 week/6hrs
17.	<p>NATURE OF THE SYNOPTIC PROBLEM</p> <p>i. The synoptic problem ii. Similarities and dissimilarities among the synoptics iii. Theories and solutions to the problem</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Questions & answers</p>	1 week/6hrs
18.	<p>THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW</p> <p>i. Authorship and date ii. Destination iii. Characteristics of Saint Matthew's Gospel</p>		<p>2weeks/12hrs</p> <p>4hrs</p>
19.	<p>THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK</p> <p>i. Authorship and date ii. Destination iii. Characteristics of the book</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Debate</p>	4hrs
20.	<p>THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE</p> <p>i. Authorship and date ii. Destination iii. Characteristics of the book</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignment</p>	4hrs
21.	<p>THE BIRTH AND REPARATION OF JESUS</p> <p>i. Birth and early childhood of Jesus ii. Baptism of Jesus and its significance to believers iii. The temptations of Jesus and their significance to believers</p>	<p>i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignment</p>	1 week/6hrs
22.	<p>THE PARABLES OF JESUS</p> <p>i. Definition of parables</p>	<p>i. Guided questions</p>	

	ii. Why Jesus taught in parables PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM i. The parable of the Sower ii. The Wheat and Tares iii. Parable of the mustard seed	ii. Lectures iii. Discussion	1 week/6hrs
23.	PARABLES ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOURS i. Parable of the lost sheep ii. Parable of the Good Samaritan	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignment	2weeks/12hrs 4hrs
24.	PARABLES ABOUT FORGIVENESS i. The unmerciful servant ii. The prodigal son	i. Lectures ii. Role playing iii. Discussion	4hrs
25.	PARABLES ABOUT WEALTH Parable of the rich fool	i. Lectures ii. Discussion	4hrs
26.	THE PARABLES ON JUDGEMENT i. The talents ii. The last judgement (sheep and goats)	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignment	4hrs
27.	THE MEANING OF MIRACLES i. Definition of miracles ii. Why Jesus performed miracles iii. The values of miracles (physical, spiritual, temporal and eternal) NATURE MIRACLES OF JESUS i. Feeding of 4000 people ii. Walking on the sea	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Debate i. Lectures ii. Drawing a boat on water and a man going towards the boat walking on water iii. Discussion	2weeks/12hrs
28.	HEALING MIRACLES OF JESUS The healing of: i. The leper ii. The centurion's servant	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Drama	2weeks/12hrs
29.	THE MIRACLES OF EXORCISM i. The Demonic ii. The Epileptic boy	i. Lectures ii. Discussion	
30.	RESURRECTION MIRACLE OF JESUS i. Raising of Jairus daughter ii. Raising of the Widow's son at Nain	i. Lectures ii. Discussion	

Total 150hrs

SECOND SEMESTER SYLLABUS			
1.	THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS ON i. The Fatherhood of God ii. Prayer, fasting and alms-giving iii. Forgiveness iv. Wealth and Poverty v. Women and children vi. The sermon on the Mount	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignments	1 week/6hrs
2.	PETER'S CONFESSION AND THE TRANSFIGURATION i. The significance of Peter's confession and transfiguration ii. Account of the transfiguration by each synoptic writer iii. Analysis of similarities and differences among the synoptic writers on the transfiguration	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignment	1 week/6hrs
3.	THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY AND THE LAST SUPPER i. The occasion, event and significance of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem ii. The last supper and its importance to believers THE PASSION NARRATIVES i. Agony at Gethsemane ii. The arrest and trial of Jesus iii. The crucifixion and death of Jesus	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Debate i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignment	2 weeks/12hrs
4.	THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS i. The resurrection of Jesus ii. The post resurrection appearances of Jesus iii. Note similarities and differences among the synoptics	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Roll play	1 week/6hrs
5.	THE ASCENSION OF JESUS Account of the ascension in each of the synoptics	i. Lectures ii. Discussion	1 week/6hrs

S/NO:	TOPICS AND CONTENTS	ACTIVITIES	DURATION
6.	DRUG ABUSE i. History/Origin and forms of drug abuse ii. Causes, effects of drug abuse on individual and society iii. Cure and prevention of drug abuse	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Use of Resource Persons	4weeks/24hrs 3hrs
7.	CULTISM AND OCCULTISM i. History and types of cults ii. Reasons why people join cults and occults iii. Effects of cults and occultism on individuals and society iv. How to curb cults on campuses	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Use of Resource person(s)	3hrs
8.	HIV/AIDS i. History or origin of HIV/AIDS ii. Causes of AIDS iii. Effects on individuals and society iv. Prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Panel Discussion iv. Use of resource persons	3hrs
9.	COMMUNAL AND RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS i. Types and causes of conflicts ii. Effects of conflicts on the individual and the society iii. How to prevent conflicts iv. Values of peaceful co-existence	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Panel discussion iv. Use of resource person(s)	3hrs
10.	GENDER ISSUES i. Notable women in the bible and their contributions. ii. Some heroines in the society and their contributions. iii. Specific roles of women in the modern society	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Debate	3hrs
11.	CHILD ABUSE AND ABORTION i. Definitions of child abuse and abortion ii. Types of child abuse iii. Effects of child abuse and abortion on the child and society	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Seminar	3hrs
12.	EUTHANASIA AND SUICIDE i. Definitions of euthanasia and suicide	i. Lectures ii. Discussion	3hrs

	ii. Pros and cons of euthanasia and suicide iii. Reasons for and against euthanasia and suicide	iii. Use of resource person(s)	
13.	BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION i. A definition of bribery and corruption ii. Identifying and discussing types of bribery and corruption iii. Ways to discourage bribery and corruption iv. Why people are involved in bribery and corruption, examination malpractice	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Seminar	3hrs

CHRISTIANITY IN WEST AFRICA

S/NO:	TOPICS AND CONTENTS	ACTIVITIES	DURATION
14.	THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PIONEERING WORK IN SIERRA LEONE AND NIGERIA i. Examine the motives for Catholic missionary work ii. Places visited and impact made on the communities visited	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Drawing maps of Sierra Leone, and Nigeria, showing areas of Catholic influence	1 week/6hrs
15.	SUCCESSSES AND FAILURES OF EARLY MISSIONARY EFFORTS IN SIERRA LEONE AND NIGERIA. i. Factors responsible for the successes and failures of Christian missions in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. ii. Achievements of early missionary efforts in Sierra Leone and Nigeria.	I. LECTURES ii. Discussion iii. Seminar	1 week/6hrs
16.	THE EVANGELICAL REVIVAL IN EUROPE AND AMERICA AND THE FOUNDING OF SIERRA LEONE AS A HOME OF FREE SLAVES i. The role of anti-slavery movement in founding S/Leone ii. How Sierra Leone became a base in the establishment of Christianity in West Africa iii. Why Sierra Leone was founded	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Sword drill i. Lectures ii. Discussion	1 week/6hrs
17.	THE ROLE OF FREED SLAVES IN PLANTING CHRISTIANITY IN SIERRA LEONE AND NIGERIA. The missionary activities of free slaves in Sierra Leone and Nigeria.	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Panel discussion	1 week/6hrs
18.	NIGER EXPEDITIONS OF 1841, 1854 AND 1857	i. Lectures ii. Discussion	1 week/6hrs

	Discuss the objectives, failures and achievements of each expedition		
19.	FACTORS THAT ATTRACTED CHRISTIAN MISSIONS TO SIERRA LEONE AND NIGERIA. The factors to be treated are: Religious, social, economic, political and intellectual	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Assignment	1 week/6hrs
20.	SPECIFIC MISSIONS TO SIERRA LEONE, AND NIGERIA i. The Roman Catholic ii. The Baptist iii. The Presbyterian/Methodist iv. The Church Missionary Society	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Use of resource person(s) iv. Assignment	1 week/6hrs
21.	THE NIGER MISSION CONTROVERSY Discuss i. Issues at stake in the Niger mission controversy ii. Effects of the Niger mission controversy on the work of missions iii. Objectives and activities of the Sudan party	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Debate	1 week/6hrs
22.	THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COLONIAL MASTERS AND MISSIONARIES IN NIGERIA Areas of conflicts and cooperation between the colonial masters and missionaries	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Panel discussion	1 week/6hrs
23.	THE IMPACT OF CHRISTIANITY ON SIERRA LEONE AND NIGERIA The socio-political and religious impact of Christianity on the African communities	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Seminar	1 week/6hrs
24.	AFRICAN INDEPENDENT CHURCHES i. Christ Apostolic Church ii. Cherubim and Seraphim iii. Celestial Church of Christ	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Use of resource person(s)	1 week/6hrs
25.	CHRISTIANITY IN WESTERN/EASTERN AND NORTHERN NIGERIA i. Missions to Western/Eastern and Northern Nigeria ii. Their problems and achievements	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Use of resource person(s)	1 week/6hrs
26.	PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES: HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF	i. Lectures ii. Discussion	

	i. Deeper Life Church ii. Redeemed Church of God iii. Their characteristics, teaching and differences from Orthodox Churches	iii. Questions and answers forum	1 week/6hrs
27.	PROBLEMS OF THE CHURCH TODAY i. Polygamy ii. Persecution iii. Impact of Western education and culture iv. Impact of Islam and A.T.R. v. Marriage and divorce vi. Christian unity vii. Proliferation of Churches viii. Church and finance	i. Lectures ii. Discussion iii. Panel discussion iv. Sword drill	1 week/6hrs

Total 138hrs

Basic Recommended Texts

1. The Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version
2. Daudu M and B.K. Kwala History and Religion of Israel
3. Salomi M.O. Topical Issues in Biblical Studies
4. Gbale J.N. and Daudu M: outline of Christianity in West Africa
5. Guy H.A. Synoptic Gospels
6. Daudu M. (Ed.) Contemporary Ethical Issues in Christian Context

Further Readings Materials

I. OLD TESTAMENT

- i. Merril Unger – Introduction to the Old Testament
- ii. Harry Boer – Commentary on Amos and Hosea
- iii. G. W. Anderson – History and Religion of Israel
- iv. D. Wambutda – Old Testament History and Religion
- v. M. Oduyoye – When Kings Ruled and Prophets spoke in Israel
- vi. Harry Boer – The Minor Prophets
- vii. Quaqupome – History and Religion of Israel
- viii. The Cambridge Bible Commentary – Understanding the Old Testament

II. NEW TESTAMENT

- i. D.B.J. Campbell – The Synoptic Gospels: A Commentary for Teachers and Students
- ii. Peter Schmidt – How to read the Gospels
- iii. Raymond E. Brown – An Introduction to the New Testament
- iv. W. Graham Scroggie – A guide to the Gospels

- v. Joachin Jeremias – Jerusalem in the Times of Jesus
- vi. Merril C. Tenney – New Testament Times
- vii. J. D. Douglas – The Bible Commentary
- viii. Guthrie et al – New Testament Instruction
- ix. Quaquopome – The Synoptic Gospels
- x. Jerome Biblical Commentary

III. CHURCH HISTORY

- i. Daudu M. and J. N. Gbule – An Outline of Christianity in West Africa
- ii. J. F. Ajayi – Christian Missionaries in Nigeria
- iii. E. A. Babalola – Christianity in West Africa
- iv. Deji Ayegboyin and S. Ademola Ishola – African Indigenous Churches: A Historical Perspective
- v. L. Sanin – West African Church History
- vi. Kalu Ogbu – the Nigerian Story
- vii. J. D. Anderson – West Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries
- viii. E. P. T. Crampton – Christianity in Northern Nigeria
- ix. Ayandele – Missionary Impact on West Africa
- x. M. O. Salami – Christian Missions in West Africa