

AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

Certificate in Theology

CHRISTIAN BELIEF

Thursday, 11th June 2009 Time: 2 hours

Attempt FOUR questions.

1. Discuss THREE of the following attributes of God:
infinity
holiness
righteousness
omnipotence
wisdom
2. Outline the main features of the Christian doctrine of creation. What does it have to say to contemporary concerns about the environment?
3. What is sin and what effect has it had on human beings?
4. What aspects of the person and work of Jesus Christ revealed him as the Messiah?
5. Describe the role of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration and sanctification of a believer.
6. Outline the main features of the ascension of Jesus as presented in the New Testament. Why is the ascension important?
7. The chief end of man is to glorify God. How can the Christian life glorify God?
8. Discuss the features of baptism that make it a sacrament.
9. What can we learn about the Kingdom of God from the parables of Jesus?
10. What does the New Testament teach us about the return of Jesus?



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Certificate in Theology

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Friday, 06th November 2009 Time: 2 hours

**Candidates to be supplied with an unmarked copy of the NRSV, RSV, or NIV
(No Study Bibles, concordance or cross referenced Bibles)**

Attempt any FOUR Questions

1. Jethro, the father in-law of Moses, in Exodus chapter 18 outlines a model for Moses to govern and judge the people. This model is often put forward as a model for leading and managing teams. Outline the model and discuss how a leader can delegate while retaining responsibility.
2. In the bible we have lots of models of leadership. Contrast the leadership of Pilate with the leadership of Paul and evaluate their effectiveness.
3. Is success alone the measure of a successful Christian leader? Justify your position using biblical examples.
4. The character of a leader and the skills of a leader are two different things, discuss the relationship between these for the Christian leader.
5. Jesus sometimes explained things gently, like to Nicodemus or Martha. At other times he made his point more strongly, like with the money changers at the temple with a whip or with Peter in Matthew 16:23. Should the Christian Leader also use different styles or approaches for different circumstances? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages.
6. Outline a plan for how you would evaluate the effectiveness of a particular ministry in a Church. Apply this plan to a Sunday School programme as an example.
7. Proverbs 27:17 speaks of 'iron sharpening iron' and 'one man sharpening another'. Mentoring has become popular both in the church and in the secular business world. What is the distinction then between mentoring in the church and mentoring in the world?
8. Teamwork can sometimes diminish the personal responsibility that a leader takes. Consider the role of personal responsibility, personal discipleship, and accountability for the Christian leader when working with a team.
9. Discuss the difference between manipulation and influence from a Christian Leadership perspective.
10. Is conflict in the Church bad? Justify your answer and provide some biblical steps for dealing with conflict in the Church.
11. An episcopalian model of church leadership may be considered hierarchical. A presbyterian model might be considered committee structured. Outline the benefits and drawbacks of both models.



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

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CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Monday, 15th June 2009 Time Allowed Two hours

Bible allowed at Examination

Attempt four questions at least 1 question from each section.

Section 1

1. In what ways is worship a 'way of life' and what biblical foundations validate this way of viewing worship? Include comments on prayer among the other issues addressed.
2. What are the biblical foundations for the practice of gathered worship among the people of God?
3. What place do symbols and feasts have in Old Testament worship? What place do symbols have in 21st century worship gatherings?
4. What was the contribution of the Didache to the formation of worship practices in the early centuries of the life of the Christian Church?

Section 2

5. What are the central characteristics of the reformed rites of Luther and Zwingli? name them and comment on their importance for the reformers?
6. What are the distinctive features of Anglican Worship compared to the other Protestant liturgies?
7. Evaluate the priority of preaching over the sacraments in Protestant forms of corporate worship?
8. What are the benefits of Taize forms of worship for contemporary Christians and what are its weaknesses?

Section 3

9. What in your opinion are the value and the drawbacks of the 'triumph of the praise songs' in 21st century gathered worship practice?
10. What forms of prayer can be used constructively in gathered worship?



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CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Tuesday, 10 November 2009 Time allowed: two hours

Bible allowed at Examination

Attempt four questions choosing 1 question from each section.

Section A

1. In what ways is worship a way of life? In your answer include biblical references and your understanding of the meaning of this idea.
2. What is the nature and purpose of prayer in gathered worship? Among other things distance the educational nature of this ministry

Section B

3. What features of gathered worship are common to Jewish Synagogue gathering and Christian gathered worship practice?
4. What clues do we get about the purpose of meeting together as God's people in Hebrews 10: 19-24? What place has teaching and preaching in this situation?

Section C

5. What are the principles of Luther's and Calvin's liturgies? Compare and contrast the two
6. What are the distinctive features of Anglican Worship compared to the features of 'Free church' worship?

Section D.

7. What statements do the placement and style of the furnishings in your home church buildings make about the nature of Christian worship?
8. Discuss the place of music, dance, drama and silence in gathered worship. In your comments include reflections on the supplementary place that these ministries have to preaching.



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CHURCH HISTORY

Wednesday 17th June 2009 Time: 2 hours

Attempt FOUR questions, selecting TWO from each section.

SECTION A

1. Explain how the Church came to develop its creeds and its canon in the first five centuries.
2. Compare and contrast the relations between Church and state in the third century with those in the fourth century.
3. Summarise the contribution of two of the following early Churchmen: Irenaeus, Athanasius, Jerome, and John Chrysostom.
4. Analyse the role of Augustine of Hippo in the Donatist and Pelagian controversies.

SECTION B

5. Did the medieval reform movements play any part in preparing the way for the Reformation?
6. 'Without Martin Luther, there would have been no Reformation'. Do you agree?
7. How significant was the Puritan movement of the seventeenth century?
8. What contribution did the evangelical revival make to British social life in the late eighteenth and the early nineteenth century?
9. Analyse either the progress of the Protestant missionary movement in the nineteenth century or the significance of the ecumenical movement in the twentieth century.



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ETHICS AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Friday, 12th June 2009

Time: 2 hours

Answer FOUR questions, TWO from each section

SECTION A

- 1 Define 'utilitarianism'. How well does this approach to ethics fit with Christian Ethics?
- 2 Outline Jesus' teaching about wealth and possessions. What ethical issues are involved in applying it today, in a financially sophisticated society?
- 3 How do you understand 'the moral authority of Scripture' (Hauerwas)?
- 4 What place might the Ten Commandments have in a secular democracy?

SECTION B

- 5 What are the key passages in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Jesus' own teaching in the Gospels, about homosexuality?
- 6 Is it ever acceptable for a Christian to conspire with others to remove a democratically elected leader from office, *EITHER* (a) by revolution, *OR* (b) by assassination?
- 7 What ethical arguments underpin the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- 8 *EITHER* (a) Does prohibition work as a strategy for controlling alcohol and drug use? *OR* (b) Does increased taxation work as a strategy for reducing nicotine usage?
- 9 When a public company goes into receivership, what do you think is the optimum balance between its duties to maximise profits for its shareholders, and its duties to its employees to pay their entitlements? Give reasons.
- 10 What is 'free speech'? What limitations, if any, should be placed on it?
- 11 What ethical issues are involved in capital punishment?
- 12 What is 'the preferential option for the poor'? Is it true to the teaching of Jesus?



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ETHICS AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Thursday, 05th November 2009 Time: 2 hours

Answer FOUR questions, TWO from each section

SECTION A

- 1 Briefly describe and critically assess ONE of the following ethical approaches, and its relevance to Christian Ethics:
 - a. utilitarianism
 - b. relativism
 - c. situationalism
- 2 Outline Jesus' teaching about wealth and possessions. What ethical issues are involved in applying it today, in a financially sophisticated society?
- 3 EITHER:
 - a. What place might the Ten Commandments have in a religiously plural democracy?; OR
 - b. Describe how the Bible, personal Christian character, and social context interact in the process of ethical decision-making? Provide ONE or TWO illustrative examples.

SECTION B

- 4 Describe Jesus' teaching about divorce and the possibility of marrying while the previous spouse is still alive. EITHER:
 - a. What pastoral implications does this have in a society with a high divorce rate? OR:
 - b. How does this teaching apply to de facto relationships?
- 5 In the light of Romans 13.1-6, discuss whether it ever acceptable for a Christian to conspire with others toward the violent removal of a democratically elected leader from office?
- 6 What ethical dilemmas are associated with capital punishment?
- 7 What ethical arguments underpin the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
- 8 Does prohibition work as a strategy for controlling alcohol and drug use? Give reasons.
- 9 When a public company goes into receivership, describe and assess the ethical issues regarding the company's duties to maximise profits for its shareholders, and its duties to its employees to pay their entitlements.
- 10 Describe 'free speech' and 'censorship', and identify the optimum balance between them.



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EVANGELISM

Friday, 19th June 2009 Time: 2 Hours

Attempt FOUR questions, at least ONE from each section

Part A

1. What is “evangelism”?
2. What is the “Gospel” and how is it still relevant in the 21st Century?
3. What must someone do to be “saved”?

Part B

4. Is the Great Commission a call to us to evangelise?
5. Why should the laity in the Church be responsible for evangelism?
6. How possible is it to have “evangelism” without prayer?

Part C

7. What is important for effective one to one evangelism?
8. Is crusade evangelism the most effective approach to outreach? What are its strengths, or, what approaches might be better?
9. What can be done to nurture someone who decides to become a Christian?



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INTRODUCTION TO PASTORAL CARE

Friday, 19th June 2009

Time Allowed: Two hours

Attempt four Questions

Bibles are permitted in the Exam room

1. How does Ezekiel 34 contribute to Christian understanding of the nature and practice of pastoral care?
2. What other major images of pastoral care are given to us in scripture beside that of shepherd and how do they inform pastoral care practice?
3. What are the pastoral practices that sustain people in the midst of life's challenges, pains and joys?
4. What do John 10 and 1 Peter 2: 21-25 teach us about the nature of the Lord and his shepherding care for his people? How do they passages speak into pastoral practice for us today?
5. How does the pastoral carer's understanding of the doctrine of persons impact his or her pastoral practice?
6. How can we pastorally care for a couple who are planning to be married?
7. How can a congregation care for its primary pastoral carers?
8. In what ways can we pastorally care of a terminally ill mid life person and their family?
9. When asked to conduct a baptism how would you pastorally care for the candidate and the candidate's family?



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NEW TESTAMENT

Thursday, 11th June, 2009 Time allowed: 2 hours

Attempt FOUR questions, at least ONE from each section.

Section A

1. What were the most important political events for the Jewish people in the two centuries before Christ?
2. Give an outline of first century Jewish expectations of the Messiah.
3. How did Hellenism influence life in first century Israel?

Section B

4. What is a gospel?
5. Discuss the theme of discipleship in Mark's gospel.
6. How is the Gospel of Mark different to the other gospels?
7. What was John's purpose in writing his gospel?

Section C

8. What is the importance of the speeches recorded in Acts 1-15?
9. How did Paul address the issue of factions in Corinth?
10. How important is the idea of hope in the message of 1 Peter?



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OLD TESTAMENT

Tuesday, 9th June 2009

Time: 2 Hours

All candidates are to be supplied with an unmarked copy of the NIV, NRSV, RSV or TNIV

Attempt FOUR questions, at least ONE from each Section

SECTION A

1. How is the OT arranged and how does that arrangement help you to understand its message?
2. Why does the memory of Israel's time in Egypt (e.g. Deut 5:15) feature so prominently in Israel's laws?
3. Why was kingship taken away from Saul and what do we learn from this?
4. Compare and contrast apocalyptic and prophecy as they appear in the Old Testament.

SECTION B

5. What names are used for God and what do they tell us about him?
6. How important was sacrifice to Israel's worship?
7. How should the *Wisdom literature* have shaped the way the Israelites lived their lives?
8. What is meant by the terms *treasured possession* and *holy nation*?

SECTION C

9. What do we learn about temptation and sin from Genesis 3 and 4?
10. What does the story of Cain and Abel contribute to the overall message of Genesis 1-11?
11. How does Deuteronomy help to prepare the Israelites for life in Canaan?
12. What do we learn about the nature of the people of God from Deuteronomy?



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WORLD RELIGIONS

Tuesday, 3rd November 2009

Time:2 hours

Attempt **FOUR** questions; **one** each from Section A and B, and **two** others.

SECTION A.

1. Although the various religions of the world appear very different, there are, in fact, many similarities. What are those similarities? How do you account for this? What is the cause of the differences?
2. What do you consider appropriate ways for Christians to share their faith with those from other religions? Is it right for us to share our faith? If so, why? If not, why not?
3. Buddhism has been classified as an ethical system rather than a religion. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? Do you think this may be why many Westerners are converting to Buddhism?
4. Animism is a religious system with many variations. Where do we find animistic faiths? What are the main characteristics of these systems? Do you consider that animistic beliefs are influencing the Western world today? If so, how?

SECTION B.

5. What are the main beliefs of Hinduism? How does this compare with the Hinduism of the villages? How do you account for the differences?
6. The Islam we hear about in the media is a fanatical religion intent on terrorism. Do consider this to be the true picture of Islam? What are its main beliefs and practices?
7. Secularism is a system of secular beliefs which developed in the West. How is secularism affecting the Christian church today in the West ?What is its influence in the developing world?
8. Write notes on three of the following: shaman, jihad, Passover, karma

