

AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY

Certificate in Theology

CHRISTIAN BELIEF

9 June 2011 Time: 1 hour

**Attempt THREE questions.
All questions are of equal value.**

1. What theological information about God and about man is revealed to us in the creation accounts in Genesis?
2. What points would you include to describe a Christian perspective on the environment?
3. Why is it important that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine?
4. What do the miracles of Jesus tell us about him?
5. Discuss two or three images of the church (for example, bride of Christ) that are found in the New Testament. What do they tell us about the church?
6. Write short notes on ALL of the following three topics:
(i) grace (ii) justification (iii) sanctification
7. What role do the gifts of the Holy Spirit play in the life of the church?
8. How will the return of Jesus complete his work of salvation?



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11 November 2011 Time: 1 hour

**Attempt THREE questions.
All questions are of equal value.**

1. Outline what the Bible tells us about the relationships between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. Outline a doctrine of the church.
3. Choose TWO of the following titles of Jesus and outline what each tells us about the work of Jesus.
Messiah Lord Word Son of Man
4. Outline a Christian doctrine of death?
5. Describe the main features of the doctrine of justification by faith.
6. What is worship?
7. Jesus commands us to pray (Lk 11:2). What does prayer in the Christian life tells us about God and about man?
8. Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God has two aspects: a reality now and a future promise. Discuss.



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CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

11 November 2011 Time: 1 hour

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

Attempt any THREE Questions

1. Nehemiah is often used as an example of leadership and management for Christians to follow; we find however in the final chapter of the book of Nehemiah that despite his efforts in organising the rebuilding of the wall, there are many failures and disappointments. Using Nehemiah as your example, discuss some of the pitfalls of using biblical stories to draw out a theory of management and leadership for Christians today.
2. What is the relationship between the leader's character and the leader's abilities/gifts? In your answer provide a definition for character, abilities, and gifts.
3. Some people might be concerned that the Christian leader that chooses different leadership styles for different situations is somehow lacking consistency or honesty. Discuss. In your answer provide a definition of leadership styles.
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a vision or clearly stated purposes and goals for a ministry? In your answer define the distinction between a vision or clearly stated purposes and goals.
5. "Sometimes it is easier to do a job yourself than to get someone else to do it." What is the value of teams and what are the costs? In your answer provide a biblical justification for the importance of teams.
6. Conflict seems to be an inevitable part of leadership. Using Matthew 18:15-18, outline how to deal with conflict and explain the importance of each stage.
7. Every denomination has a governance structure. Outline a governance structure of a denomination that you are familiar with and list that governance structure's advantages and limitations.
8. What is the stewardship of time and why is it an important concept in Christian ministry? In your answer outline some skills you have studied to improve your stewardship of time.



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CHRISTIAN MISSION AND MISSIONS

14 June 2011 Time Allowed: 1 hour

Attempt THREE questions ONE from EACH SECTION

SECTION A.

1. What was the chief mission of the People of God in the Old Testament?
2. Compare and contrast the characteristics of the People of God in the Old and New Testaments.
3. What is the role of the church in the world today?
4. Describe the role of those in lay ministry in the church today.

SECTION B.

5. Outline the emphasis and outcomes of the work of one mission you have studied.
6. How have Christian missions changed in their approach from the earliest dates you have studied until today?
7. What do you consider is the relationship of mission and the Kingdom of God?

SECTION C.

8. How have urbanization and secularization affected the mission church? Do you consider that this requires a difference in approach to ministry?
9. What should be the role of the expatriate worker where the local church has become indigenous?
10. Is there any value in inter-faith dialogue? If not, why not? If so, what can it accomplish?



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CHURCH HISTORY

16 November 2011 Time: 1 hour

Attempt THREE questions, selecting ONE from each section, plus one other.

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. Did monasticism rise as state persecution of the Church decreased? Is this an adequate explanation for the emergence of the monastic movement?
4. Analyse the role of Augustine of Hippo in the Donatist and Pelagian controversies.

Section B

5. Did the Renaissance pave the way for the Reformation or hinder it?
6. Compare and contrast the roles of Martin Luther and John Calvin in the Reformation period.
7. What were the strengths and weaknesses of 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 rise of Pentecostalism in the twentieth century.



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CULTS AND SECTS

17 November 2011 Time: 1 hour

Instructions: You must answer THREE questions. You can only choose *either* the (a) *or* (b) option from each numbered question to answer (e.g. you cannot do both 1A and 1B).

1. (A). How do Christian experts define the words “cult” and “sect”? Compare and contrast the Christian understandings of these two words with the definitions of “cult” and “sect” used by non-Christian scholars (e.g. sociologists & religious studies) and secular journalists.

OR

(B). Walter Martin (*Kingdom of the Cults*) defined cults as heresies that denied important Christian doctrines. Steven Hassan (*Combatting Cult Mind-Control*) claims cults are defined primarily by their use of mind-control techniques and he then sorts cults into four main types: religious, political, psychotherapy-educational and commercial. Firstly, describe the main *differences* between Martin’s and Hassan’s definitions of “cult”. Secondly, discuss what are *strengths* and *weaknesses* of *both* Martin’s and Hassan’s definitions?

2. (A). Discuss at least **four social factors** that scholars/commentators point to as being important in stimulating the growth of new religious movements and cults.

OR

(B). To what extent are deficiencies in the teaching and application of biblical truths by mainstream/orthodox churches contributing to the growth of cults and new religions? What other factors should Christian churches consider in understanding the growth of these movements?

3. (A). Christadelphians, Jehovah’s Witnesses, & Mormons respect the Bible as authoritative BUT Hare Krishna, Transcendental Meditation, New Age, Scientology, and Vampirism do not. What do you believe are the best methods for evangelising followers of these different kinds of cults and new religions (keeping in mind that not all of them respect the Bible)?

OR

(B). Church leaders like Peter Wagner, Mark Bubeck, Ed Murphy and novelists like Frank Peretti have emphasized the power of demons in deceiving people, and recommend “spiritual warfare” techniques of prayer warfare and exorcism as vital tools in dealing with followers of cults, the New Age etc. Discuss the strengths and limitations of the spiritual warfare approach to cult evangelism in light of Jesus’ kingdom commission to make disciples.



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ETHICS AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

10 November 2011 Time: 1 hour

Answer 3 questions, 1 from Section A, 1 from Section B and 1 from either section.

Section A

1. Give an outline of the ethical theory of relativism.
2. Summarise the biblical theme of community, and how it impacts Christian ethics today.
3. What are some of the problems we face in applying the bible's teaching to modern day ethical problems?
4. What place do the Ten Commandments have in an understanding of Christian ethics?

Section B

5. What does the bible teach about marriage?
6. When, if ever, is revolution an acceptable course of action for a country's citizens?
7. Outline a Christian response to the issue of climate change.
8. Assess a zero-tolerance approach to drug use.
9. How does the teaching of Jesus shape our relationship with the two-thirds world?
10. What limitations, if any, should be placed on free speech?
11. Evaluate the arguments for the legalisation of euthanasia.
12. Is the compulsory detainment of refugees in Australia ethical?



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NEW TESTAMENT

9 June 2011 Time: 1 hour

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

Attempt THREE questions, at least ONE from each section

Section A

1. Which aspects of Hellenism had the greatest influence on life in Israel at the time of Jesus, and what were those influences?
2. Who were the Pharisees and the Sadducees and what were their aims and teachings?
3. What were Jewish expectations of the Messiah at the time of Jesus and what were their origins in the inter-testamental period?

Section B

4. Discuss the place of the kingdom of God within Mark's gospel?
5. What evidence is there that Matthew wrote for Jews?
6. To what extent can Luke 19:10 be said to be a summary of Luke's Gospel?
7. Compare and contrast John's gospel with the synoptic gospels.
8. What role did miracles play in the ministry of Jesus?.

Section C

9. In what ways does Acts 8 –11 document a transition from a Jewish church to a universal mission?
10. How does Paul address the problem of sexual immorality in the Corinthian Church?
11. How does Peter give hope to the suffering church in his letter?

