

WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION  
CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

(Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia)

**May not be taken with Islamic Studies**

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The examination syllabus is designed to test candidates’

- (i) knowledge and understanding of selected themes running through most of the books of the Old and New Testaments as a necessary preparation for higher studies;
- (ii) ability to evaluate and apply these basic themes in their lives and actions.

## **EXAMINATION SCHEME**

There will be **two** papers, **both** of which must be taken.

**PAPER 1:** This will be a 60-minute multiple choice (objective) test paper consisting of fifty (50) questions drawn from the entire Christian Religious Knowledge syllabus. Candidates will be required to attempt **all** the questions.

**PAPER 2:** This will be a 2½-hour essay-type paper consisting of three sections A, B and C. Four questions will be set on each section in Paper II. Candidates will be required to answer four questions in all choosing at least **one** question from each section.

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible will be used in the setting of questions.

## **DETAILED SYLLABUS**

### **SECTION A: THEMES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT**

| <b>CONTENT</b>                         | <b>NOTES</b>    |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>1. The Sovereignty of God</b>       |                 |
| (a) God the creator                    | Genesis 1 and 2 |
| (b) God the controller of the universe | Genesis 1:26-31 |

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| <b>CONTENT</b>                              | <b>NOTES</b>   |
|---|--|
| <b>2. The Covenant</b>                      |  |
| (a) God's Covenant with Abraham             | Genesis 12:1-9; 17:1-21; 21:1-8; 25:19-26  |
| (b) God's Covenant with Israel              | Exodus 2:23-25; 19:20; 24:1-11; 32:1-20; 30-34   |
| (c) The New Covenant                        | Jeremiah 31:31-34; 32:36-41; Ezekiel 36:25-28  |
| <b>3. Leadership</b>                        |  |
| (a) Joseph as a leader                      | Genesis 37:1-28; 41:1-57; 45:1-15  |
| (b) Moses as a leader                       | Exodus 1; 2; 3; 4:1-17; 5:1-5, 22-23; 6:28-30; 7:1-7; 14:1-31; 32:1-14. Numbers 13:1-33; 14:1-19 |
| (c) Joshua as a leader                      | Numbers 13:16-33; 14:1-10; 27:15-23, Joshua 1:1-15; 6; 24:1-31.                                  |
| (d) Deborah as a leader                     | Judges 4:1-24  |
| <b>4. God's care for His people</b>         |  |
| (a) Guidance and protection                 | Exodus 14  |
| (b) Provision                               | Exodus 16:1-21; 17:1-7   |
| <b>5. Parental Responsibility</b>           |  |
| (a) Examples of Eli and Samuel              | 1 Samuel 2:11-36; 3:2-18; 4:10-22; 8:1-5   |
| (b) Example of Asa                          | 1 Kings 15:9-15; 22:41-44  |
| <b>6. Disobedience and Consequences</b>     |  |
| (a) Saul's disobedience                     | 1 Samuel 10:1-16; 15:1-19  |
| (b) Consequences of Saul's disobedience     | 1 Samuel 15:20-25; 16:14-23; 31:1-13.  |
| <b>7. A man after God's own Heart</b>       |  |
| (a) David's submission to the will of God.  | 1 Samuel 26:1-25; 2 Samuel 12: 15-25   |
| (b) David's repentance and forgiveness      | 2 Samuel 3:1-39; 11; 12:1-15   |
| <b>8. Making Decisions</b>                  |  |
| (a) Solomon's Wisdom                        | 1 Kings 3:3-28; 4:29-34; 5:1-12; 8:1-53  |
| (b) Unwise Policies of Solomon and Rehoboam | 1 Kings 9:15-23; 11:1-13; 12:1-20  |

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| CONTENT   | NOTES  |
|---|--|
| <b>9.</b> Greed and its effects (Ahab and Gehazi) | 1 Kings 21:1-29; 2 Kings 5:1-27  |
| <b>10.</b> The Supremacy of God                   |  |
| (a) Religious tension                             | 1 Kings 16:29-34; 17:1-7; 18:1-19; 19:1-18                             |
| (b) Elijah at Mount Carmel                        | 1 Kings 18:17-46.  |
| <b>11.</b> Religious Reform (Josiah)              | 2 Kings 22; 23:1-30  |
| <b>12.</b> Concern for one's Nation               |  |
| (a) The condition of the Nation                   | 2 Kings 24; 25:1-17.   |
| (b) Response to the state of the nation           | Nehemiah 1:1-11; 2:9-20; 4:1-23. Ezra 1:1-11; 4:5:1-2; 6:13-22; 7:1-10 |
| <b>13.</b> Faith in God                           |  |
| (a) Faith and Courage                             | Daniel 3:1-30  |
| (b) Faith and Power                               | Daniel 6:1-28  |
| <b>14.</b> The message of God                     |  |
| (a) Jonah as messenger                            | Jonah 1:1-17; 2:1-10   |
| (b) The message                                   | Jonah 3; 4:1-11  |
| <b>15.</b> Social Justice and True Religion       |  |
| (a) Social Justice                                | Amos 2:6-8; 4; 5:1-20; 7:10-17; 8:1-14                                 |
| (b) True Religion                                 | Amos 5:21-24   |
| <b>16</b> Divine Love                             |  |
| (a) The Love of God                               | Hosea 1:2; 3; 4.   |
| (b) Man's response to God's Love                  | Hosea 6:1-11; 14.  |
| <b>17.</b> Holiness and Divine Call               |  |
| (a) Holiness of God                               | Isaiah 1:10-20; 6:1-7  |
| (b) Divine Call                                   | Ezekiel 1; 2; 3:1-11   |

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| CONTENT                        | NOTES                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>18. Punishment and hope</b> |                                 |
| (a) Punishment                 | Jeremiah 2; 5:14-19; 14:1-12    |
| (b) Hope                       | Jeremiah 3:11-18; 4:1,2, and 14 |

**SECTION B: THEMES FROM THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS, ST. JOHN AND THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1. The birth, baptism and temptation of Jesus</b> |   |
| (a) The birth  | Mathew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-40                                |
| (b) The baptism                                      | Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22                          |
| (c) The temptation                                   | Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13                           |
| <b>2. Discipleship</b>                               |   |
| (a) Call to discipleship                             | Matthew 4:18-25; 9:9-13; Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-17. Luke 5:1-11, 27-32. |
| (b) The demands of discipleship                      | Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-63; 14:25-33.                            |
| <b>3. Miracles</b>                                   |   |
| (a) Nature miracles                                  |   |
| (i) Stilling the storm                               | Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25.                        |
| (ii) Feeding the five thousand                       | Matthew 14:13-24; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17                        |
| (iii) Feeding the four thousand                      | Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-9  |
| (iv) Walking on the sea                              | Matthew 14:22-32; Mark 6:45-52                                      |
| (b) Healing miracles                                 |   |
| (i) Healing the leper                                | Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16                           |
| (ii) The Paralytic                                   | Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26                            |
| (iii) The Centurion's servant                        | Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10   |
| (iv) The Demoniac                                    | Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39                          |

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| CONTENT   | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| <b>4. The Parables</b>                                    |   |
| (a) Parables of the Kingdom                               |   |
| (i) The Sower   | Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20                  |
| (ii) The Mustard Seed                                     | Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19 |
| (iii) The Wheat and the Tares                             | Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43                       |
| (iv) The seed growing secretly                            | Mark 4:26-29                                  |
| (b) Parables illustrating God's Love                      | Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:1-32                |
| (c) Parables illustrating concern for one another         | Luke 10:25-37; 16:19-31                       |
| <b>5. Sermon on the Mount</b>                             |   |
| (a) The demands of the Kingdom                            | Matthew 5; 6:1-18; 7:1-27                     |
| (b) Worldly possessions                                   | Matthew 6:19-34                               |
| <b>6. Mission of the Disciples</b>                        |   |
| (a) The mission of the twelve                             | Matthew 10:1-15; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-16     |
| (b) The mission of the seventy                            | Luke 10:1-24                                  |
| <b>7. The Transfiguration</b>                             | Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36    |
| <b>8. The Triumphal Entry and Cleansing of the Temple</b> |   |
| (a) The Triumphal Entry                                   | Matthew 21:1-12; Mark 11:1-14; Luke 19:29-44  |
| (b) The Cleansing of the Temple                           | Matthew 21:1-17                               |
| <b>9. The Trials and Death of Christ</b>                  |   |
| (a) The trials of Christ                                  |   |
| (i) Christ before the High Priest                         | Matthew 26:36-75                              |
| (ii) Christ before Pilate and the Roman authorities       | Matthew 27:11-31                              |
| (iii) Christ before Herod                                 | Luke 23:6-12                                  |

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| CONTENT   | NOTES   |
|---|---|
| (b) Death of Christ                                       |   |
| (i) The crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ            | Matthew 27:32-66                              |
| (ii) The words of Jesus on the Cross                      | Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; Luke 23:34; 43; 46 |
| <b>10. The Resurrection and Appearance of Jesus</b>       |   |
| (a) The Synoptic Accounts of the Resurrection             | Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-11     |
| (b) The Appearance of Jesus                               | Matthew 28:9-20; Luke 24:13-49                |
| <b>11. Jesus' teaching about Himself</b>                  |   |
| (a) Jesus as the Lamb                                     | John 1:29-34                                  |
| (b) Jesus as the Door and the good Shepherd               | John 10:1-18                                  |
| (c) Jesus as the Light of the World                       | John 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:1-5                     |
| (d) Jesus as the True Vine                                | John 15:1-11                                  |
| (e) Jesus as the Living Water and Bread                   | John 4:7-15; 6:25-40                          |
| (f) Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life                | John 11:17-27; 14:1-7                         |
| <b>12. Signs of Jesus</b>                                 |   |
| (a) Nature Miracles                                       | John 2:1-11; 6:5-13, 16-21                    |
| (b) Miracles of healing                                   | John 4:46-54; 5:1-18; 9:1-7                   |
| (c) Raising of Lazarus                                    | John 11:1-44                                  |
| <b>13. Love</b>   |   |
| (a) God's Love for man                                    | John 3:16-18                                  |
| (b) John's Message of Love for one another                | John 13:34-35; 15:12-13                       |
| <b>14. The Ascension, the Holy Spirit and the Mission</b> |   |
| (a) The Ascension   | Acts 1:6-11                                   |
| (b) The Pentecost   | Acts 2:1-41                                   |
| (c) The Mission of the Church                             | Acts 8  |

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|--|--|
| <b>15. Fellowship in the Early Church</b>                                      |  |
| (a) Communal Living in the Early Church  | Acts 1:15-26; 2:41-47; 4:32-37                       |
| (b) Problems of the Early Christian Community and the solution to the problems | Acts 5:1-11; 6:1-6                                   |
| <b>16. Opposition to the Gospel message</b>                                    | Acts 4:1-31; 5:17-42; 6:8-15; 7:1-60; 9:1-2; 12:1-24 |
| <b>17. Mission to the Gentiles</b>   |  |
| (a) Conversion of Saul   | Acts 9:1-30  |
| (b) The Commissioning and the mission of Paul                                  | Acts 13; 14:1-20                                     |
| (c) The mission of Peter and the Council of Jerusalem                          | Acts 9:32-43; 10:1-48; 11:1-18; 15:1-35              |

**SECTION C: THEMES FROM SELECTED EPISTLES**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Justification by faith</b><br>The meaning and fruits of justification                                 | Romans 3:21-24; 5:1-11                    |
| <b>2. Law and Grace</b><br>The purpose and significance of law and grace                                    | Romans 4:13-25; 5:18-21                   |
| <b>3. New Life in Christ</b>  | Romans 6:1-4, 12-14; Colossians 3:1-17    |
| <b>4. Jesus the son of God/Christians are also children of God</b>  | Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-7                  |
| <b>5. Humility</b>  | Philippians 2:1-11; 1 Peter 5:5-11        |
| <b>6. Forgiveness</b>   | Philemon 1                                |
| <b>7. Spiritual gifts</b><br>(a) Different types of spiritual gifts<br>(b) Making use of individual talents | 1 Corinthians 12:1-31<br>Romans 12:3-8    |
| <b>8. Christian giving</b>  | Philippians 4:14-20; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15 |
| <b>9. Civic Responsibility</b><br>(a) The need for order in society<br>(b) Good citizenship                 | Romans 13:1-7<br>1 Peter 2:13-17          |

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| <b>CONTENT</b>                                  | <b>NOTES</b>                                    |
|---|---|
| <b>10.</b> Dignity of Labour                    | 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15                          |
| <b>11.</b> The family                           | Colossians 3:18-22                              |
| <b>12.</b> The second coming                    |   |
| (a) The signs of the coming of the Lord         | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 |
| (b) Preparation for His coming                  | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11                          |
| <b>13.</b> Resurrection                         | 1 Corinthians 15:1-58                           |
| <b>14.</b> Faith and Work                       | James 1:22-27; 2:14-26                          |
| <b>15.</b> Impartiality                         | James 2:1-13                                    |
| <b>16.</b> Effective Prayers                    | James 1:2-8; 5:13-18                            |
| <b>17.</b> Christian Living in the Community    |   |
| (a) Christian Living among Non-Christians       | 1 Peter 2:9-25                                  |
| (b) Interpersonal relationship among Christians | 1 Peter 5:1-11                                  |
| <b>18.</b> Christians and persecution           | 1 Peter 1:3-17; 4:12-19                         |

**WASSCE CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE SUGGESTED READING LIST  
(NIGERIA AND SIERRA LEONE)**

**1. REFERENCE**

- (i) The Holy Bible (Revised Standard Version)
- (ii) New Clarendon Bible Series
- (iii) Bright, John: History and Religion of Israel
- (iv) Anderson, B.W.: The Living World of the Old Testament
- (v) Kee, H.C. & Young: The Living World of the New Testament
- (vi) Campbell, D.B.J.: The Synoptic Gospels
- (vii) New Bible Commentary – Cambridge



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2. TEXTBOOKS

(a) OLD TESTAMENT

Quarcoopome, T.N.O.: History and Religion of Israel, AUP, Ibadan, 1986

Dickson, Kwesi: History and Religion of Israel, Darton L & T, 1968

1. From Abraham to the Early Days of Israel in the Promised Land.
2. From the Institution of the Monarchy to the Fall of the Northern Kingdom.
3. From Hezekiah to the Return from Exile

E.O.N. Aghaegbuna: Themes from the Old Testament, Jet Publishers, Onitsha

(b) NEW TESTAMENT

Guy H.A.: (i) The Life of Christ

(ii) A Critical Introduction to the Gospels.

(iii) The Acts of the Apostles.

Dickson, K.A.: Early Christian Church.

Pobee, John S.: Matthew and Mark for Schools.

E.O.N. Aghaegbuna: Themes from the Gospels and the Acts, Jet Publishers, Onitsha.

Themes from selected Epistles, Jet Publishers.

Imasogie & Abogunrin: Christian Religious Knowledge for SSS, UPL, Ibadan (In three volumes, Books I – III).

Akao, Alao & Solanke: Christian Religious Knowledge for SSS, Daystar, Ibadan, Books 2 & 3.

Dickson, K.A.: The Gospel According to Matthew

The Gospel According to Mark

The Gospel According to Luke  
(Accra, Asempa Publishers).