CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) syllabus in Christian Religious Studies is to prepare the candidates for the Board's examination. It is designed to test their achievement of the course objectives, which are to:

- 1. acquire the knowledge and understanding of the tenets of the Christian faith as contained in the Bible
- 2. interpret biblical teachings and themes;
- 3. apply biblical teachings and tenets to life in society;
- 4. evaluate the level of application of biblical teachings and tenets to life in society.

The syllabus is divided into four sections, namely:

SECTION A: Themes from Creation to the Division of the Kingdom

SECTION B: Themes from the Division of the Kingdom to the Return from Exile and the

Prophets

SECTION C: Themes from the four Gospels and Acts of the Apostles

SECTION D: Themes from selected Epistles

DETAILED SYLLABUS

TOPICS/CONTENTS/NOTES	OBJECTIVES
SECTION A: Themes from Creation to the Division of the Kingdom	
1. The Sovereignty of God God as Creator and Controller of the Universe (Gen. 1 and 2) cf. Amos 9:5-6; Is. 45:5-12 Ps. 19:1-6	Candidates should be able to: i. define the term 'sovereignty; ii. analyse God's process of creation; iii. interpret the sequence of creation; iv. identify man's role in advancing God's purpose in creation.
 2. The Covenant (a) The flood and God's covenant with Noah (Gen. 6:1-22; 7:1-24; 9:1-17) (b) God's covenant with Abraham (Gen. 11:31-32; 12:1-9; 17:1-21; 21:1-13; 	Candidates should be able to: i. explain the concept of covenant; ii. examine the importance and implication of the covenants; iii. distinguish between God's covenants with Noah,

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	25:19-26)) God's covenant with Israel (Ex. 19; 20; 24:1-11) cf. Deut. 28:1-19) The New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek 36:25-28)	Abraham and Israel; iv. Distinguish between the old and the new covenants.
Ex (a (b (c	eadership qualities: xamples of) Joseph (Gen. 37:1-28; 41:1-57; 45:1-15)) Moses (Ex. 1; 2; 3; 4:1-17; 5; 12; Num. 13:1-20; 14:1-19)) Joshua (Num. 13:21-33; 27:15-23; Josh. 1:1-15; 6; 7; 24:1-31)) Judges (Deborah - Judges. 4:1-24; Gideon: Judges 6:11-40; Samson: Judges 13:1-7, 21-25; 16:4-31)	Candidates should be able to: i. examine the circumstances that gave rise to the leadership of Joseph, Moses, Joshua and the Judges; ii. identify the major talents of these leaders; iii. assess God's role in the works of these leaders; iv. analyse the achievements of these leaders.
(a	ivine providence, Guidance and Protection) Guidance and Protection (Gen. 24:1-61; 28:10-22; 46:1-7: Ex. 13:17-22; 14:1-4; 10-31)) Provision (Gen. 21:14-18; 22:1-14; Ex. 16:1-21; 17:1-7; Num. 20:1-13; 1 Kings 17:1-16)	Candidates should be able to: i. identify the different ways by which God guided and protected the people of Israel; ii. specify how God provided for His people; iii. identify the different occasions when God provided for Israel.
(a) (b)	arental responsibility: xamples of) Eli and Samuel (1 Sam. 2:11-36; 3:2-18; 4:10-22: 8:15)) David (11 Sam. 13; 15:1-29; 18; 19:1-8)) Asa (1 Kings 15:9-15; 22:41-44; cf. Deut. 6:4-9; Prov. 4:1-10; 13:1; 24; 22:6; 23:13- 14; 31:10-31)	Candidates should be able to: i. determine the extent to which Eli, Samuel and David were responsible for the short-comings of their children: ii. describe how Asa pleased God.
(i) Ex (a) (b)	Obedience and Disobedience Obedience and Rewards: xamples of Obedience and Disobedience	Candidates should be able to: i. determine why Abraham, the Hebrew midwives and David obeyed God; ii. identify the rewards for obedience.
(b (c (d	Disobedience and Consequences: Examples of) Adam (Gen. 2:15-25; 3)) Collection of Manna (Ex. 16:22-30)) The Golden Calf (Ex. 32)) Moses (Num. 20:7-12; Deut. 34:1-6)) Saul (1 Sam. 10:1-16; 15:1-25; 16:14-23; 31:1-13)	Candidates should be able to: i. compare the disobedience of Adam, the people of Israel, Moses and Saul; ii. indicate the reasons for their disobedience; iii. identify the consequences of disobedience.
	man after God's own heart) The early life of David (1 Sam. 16:1-13; 17; 18:17-30; 22:1-5; 24:1-23; II Sam. 2:1-7; 3:1-39)	Candidates should be able to: i. identify David's childhood experiences; ii. specify how David submitted to the will of God; iii. examine the situations that led to David's sin

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	 (b) David's submission to the will of God (I Sam. 26:1-25); II Sam 12:15-25 (c) David's repentance and forgiveness (II Sam. 11; 12:1-15, cf. Ps. 51:130) 	and repentance; iv. identify why God forgave David.
8.	Decision - Making (a) Reliance on a medium (I Sam. 28:3-25) (b) The wisdom of Solomon (I Kings 3:3-28; 4:29-34; 5:1-12; 8:1-53) (c) Unwise policies of Solomon and Rehoboam (I Kings 9:15-23; 11:1-40; 12:1-20)	Candidates should be able to: i. identify the source of Solomon's wisdom; ii. compare the different ways used by Saul and Solomon in making decisions; iii. analyse the decisions made by Saul, Solomon and Rehoboan. iv. assess the consequences of Solomon and Rehoboam's unwise decisions.
The	CTION B: emes from the Division of the Kingdom to the urn from Exile and the Prophets	
1.	Greed and its effects Examples of (a) Ahab (I Kings 21:1-29; 22:1-40; II Kings 9:30-37) (b) Gehazi (II Kings 5:1-27 cf (Josh 7)	Candidates should be able to: i. deduce the meaning of greed; ii. distinguish between Ahab and Gehazi's greed; iii. analyse the consequences of Ahab and Gehazi's greed.
2.	The Supremacy of God Religious tension and the power of God on Mount Carmel (I Kings 16:29-34; 17:1-7; 18; 19:1-18)	 Candidates should be able to: i. assess the religious situation in Israel at the time of Elijah and Ahab; ii. identify the characters involved in the contest on Mount Carmel iii. differentiate between God's power and that of Baal.
3.	Religious reforms in Judah (a) Cleansing of the Temple (II Kings 22) (b) Renewal of the Covenant (II Kings 23:1-30)	Candidates should be able to: i. analyse Josiah's religious reforms; ii. determine the reasons for the renewal of the covenant; iii. assess the significance of the reforms.
4.	Concern for Judah (a) The fall of Jerusalem (II kings 24; 25:1-17) (b) Condition of Judah (Neh. 1:1-11; Ezra 1:1-11) (c) Response to the state of Judah (Neh. 2; 4:1-23 Ezra 3:4; 5; 6; 7)	Candidates should be able to: i. identify the reasons for the fall of Jerusalem; ii. examine the condition of Judah during the exile; iii. analyse the people's response to the call of Nehemiah and Ezra to rebuild Jerusalem iv. distinguish between Nehemiah and Ezra's responses to the opposition of their enemies
5.	Faith, Courage and Protection: Examples of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. L; 3:1-30: 6:1-28	Candidates should be able to: i. analyse the stories of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel; ii. determine the occasions in which the four men demonstrated faith; iii. analyse the effects of the faith of the four men on the Babylonians.

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6. God's message to Nineveh Jonah and his message (Jonah 1; 2; 3 and 4)	Candidates should be able to: i. analyse the story of Jonah's call; ii. describe the consequences of Jonah's disobedience; iii. assess the effect of Jonah's message on the Ninevites; iv. emulate the example of the Ninevites.
 7. Social justice, True religion and Divine love (a) Social justice and true religion (Am-2:6-8; 4; 5:1-25; 6:1-14; 7:10-17; 8:4-1 cf James 1:19-27 (b) Divine love and human response (Host 1; 2; 3; 4; 6:1-11; 14) 	4) ii. identify the ills that led to the call for social justice in Amos' time;
8. Holiness and Divine call (Isaiah 6:1-13; Ezek. 2; 3:1-11; Jer. 1:4-10)	Candidates should be able to: i. distinguish the calls of Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah; ii. compare the assignments given to these prophets; iii. determine the need for God's people to be holy.
9. Punishment and Hope (Jer. 3:11-18; 32:26-35; Ezek. 18; 37:1-1 Isaiah 61)	Candidates should be able to: i. describe the situations that led to the punishment of Israel; ii. identify the conditions for hope; iii. determine the benefits of restoration.
SECTION C: Themes from the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles	ne
 The birth and early life of Jesus John, the forerunner of Jesus (Lk. 1:5-2 57-66; 3:1-20; 7:18-35; Mk. 1:1-8; 6:1 29; Mt. 3:1-12: Matt.11:2-19 Jn. 1:6-19-37; 3:22-36) The birth and boyhood of Jesus (Mt. 1:1 25; 2; Lk. 1:26-45:2) 	4- Jesus; 8; ii. assess the importance of John as the forerunner of Jesus;
2. The baptism and temptation of Jesus (Mt. 3:13-17; 4:1-11; Mk. 1:9-13; Lk. 3:21-2 4:1-13)	Candidates should be able to: i. determine the meaning and purpose of the baptism of Jesus ii. enumerate the temptations of Jesus; iii. examine the significance of the temptations of Jesus.

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3.	Discipleship	Candidates should be able to:
	(a) The call of the first disciples (Mt. 4:18 22; 9:9-13; Mk. 1:16-20; 2:13-17; Lk. 5:1-11; 27-32)	i. identify the first disciples to be called by Jesus;ii. determine the demands of discipleship;
	(b) The demands of discipleship (Mt. 8:19-22; Lk. 9:57-63; 14:25-33)	
4.	Miracles (a) Nature miracles (i) Stilling the storm (Mt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41; Lk.8:22-25) (ii) Feeding of the five thousand (Mt. 14:13-24; Mk. 6:30-44; Lk, 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-13) (iii) Walking on the sea (Mt. 14:22-26; Mk. 6:45-52; Jn. 6:16-21)	Candidates should be able to: i. classify the different miracles of Jesus; ii. indicate the occasion of each of the miracles; iii. examine the significance of each of the miracles;
	 (iv) Changing water to wine (Jn. 2:1-11) (b) Miracles of resuscitation (i) The raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-45) (ii) The raising of Jairus' daughter (Lk. 8:41-42, 49-56; Mk. 5:21-43) (iii) The raising of the widow's son at Nain (Lk. 7:11-17) 	
	 (c) Healing miracles (i) The lepers (Mt. 8:1-4; Mk. 1:40-45; Lk. 5:12-16; 17:11-19) (ii) The paralytic at the pool (Jn. 5:1-17) (iii) The centurion's servant (Mt. 8:5-13; Lk. 7:1-10) (iv) The blind (Jn. 9:1-12; Mk. 10:46-52; Lk. 18:35-43) 	
	(d) Exorcism (i) The Gerasene (Gadarene) demoniac (Mt. 8:28-34; Mk. 5:1-20; Lk. 8:26-39) (ii) The epileptic boy (Mk. 9:14-29; Lk. 9:37-43a; Mt. 17:14-21)	
5.	The Parables (a) Parables of the kingdom (i) The sower (Mt. 13:1-23; Mk. 4:1-20) (ii) The weeds (Mt. 13:24-30; 36-43) (iii) The drag-net (Mt. 13:47-50) (iv) The wedding garment (matt 22:1-14)	Candidates should be able to: i. classify the different parables of Jesus; ii. identify the occasion of each parable; iii. interpret the meaning of each parable; iv. give reasons why Jesus taught in parables.
(b)	Parables about love of God (Mt. 18:12-14; Lk. 15:1-32) (c) Parables about love for one another (Lk.10:25-37; 16:19-31) (d) Parable about wealth: The rich fool (Lk. 12:13-21) (e) Parables on prayer (Lk 18:2-14)	

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6.	Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5; 6; Lk. 6:17-26	Candidates should be able to: i. analyse the teachings on the Mount; ii. identify the demands of the Kingdom; iii. determine the consequences of worldly possessions; iv. associate the rewards for obedience with the sermon on the Mount.
7.	Mission of the disciples (a)The mission of the twelve (Mt. 10:5-15; Mk. 6:7-13; Lk. 9:1-16) (b)The mission of the seventy (Lk. 10:1-24)	Candidates should be able to: i. distinguish between the mission of the twelve and the seventy; ii. specify the instructions to the disciples; iii. assess the outcomes of the missions.
8.	The Great Confession (Mt. 16:13-20; Mk. 8:27-30; Lk. 9:18-22)	Candidates should be able to: i. analyse the confession by Peter; ii. identify the occasion of the Great Confession; iii. examine the significance of the Great Confession.
9.	The Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-13; Mk. 9:2-13; Lk. 9:28-36)	Candidates should be able to: i. trace the events leading to the Transfiguration; ii. determine the significance of the Transfiguration to the disciples; iii. identify the personalities involved in the Transfiguration account
10.	The Triumphal Entry and the cleansing of the Temple (Mt. 21:1-17; Mk. 11:1-19; Lk. 19:29-48)	Candidates should be able to: i. recount the Triumphal Entry and the cleansing of the Temple; ii. determine the significance of the Triumphal Entry and the cleansing of the Temple; iii. examine how the cleansing of the Temple caused hostility towards Jesus.
11.	The Last Supper (Mt. 26:17-30; Mk. 14:10-26 Lk. 22:7-23; Jn. 13:2-38)	Candidates should be able to: i. trace the story of the Last Supper; ii. evaluate the significance of the Last Supper.
12.	The trials and the death of Jesus (a) The trials of Jesus before (i) the High Priest (Mt. 26:36-75; Mk. 14:53-72 Lk. 22:66-71) (ii) Pilate (Mt. 27:11-26; Mk. 15:1-15; Lk. 23:1-5; 13-25; Jn. 18:28-40; 19:1-16)	Candidates should be able to: i. analyse the different trials of Jesus; ii. describe the crucifixion and burial of Jesus; iii. deduce the lessons of the death of Jesus.

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(iii) Herod (Lk. 23:6-12) (b) Crucifixion and burial of Jesus (Mt. 27:32-66; Lk. 23:26-56; Mk. 15:16-47; Jn. 19:17-42)	
13. Resurrection, appearances and ascension of Jesus (Mt. 28:1-20; Mk. 16:1-20; Lk. 24:1-53; Jn. 20:1-31; Acts 1:1-11)	Candidates should be able to: (i) trace the stories of the resurrection, appearances and ascension of Jesus; (ii) compare the personalities involved in the stories. (iii) analyse the relevance of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus
14. Jesus' teachings about Himself (a) The Bread of Life and the Living Water (Jn. 4:7-15; 6:25-58) (b) The Light of the World (Jn. 1:4-8; 3:19-21; 8:12 9:1-5; 12:35-36 1 Jn. 1:5-7) (c) The Door the Lamb and the Good Shepherd (Jn 1:29-34; 10:1-18) (d) The True Vine (Jn. 15:1-11) (e) The resurrection (Jn.11:25)	Candidates should be able to: (i) analyse the different teachings of Jesus about Himself; (ii) deduce the reasons for Jesus' teachings about Himself; (iii) interpret the meanings of the symbols used by Jesus about Himself.
15. Love (a) God's love for man (Jn. 3:16-18) (b) Love for one another (Jn. 13:34-35; 15:12-13 cf. I Jn. 4:7-21)	Candidates should be able to: (i) describe God's love for man; (ii) specify the ways they can love one another; (iii) evaluate the significance of love.
16. Fellowship in the Early Church (a) Communal living (Acts 1:15-26; 2:41-47; 4:32-37) (b) Problems of communal living and solutions (Acts 5:1-11, 6:1-6)	Candidates should be able to: (i) identify the reasons for communal living in the Early Church; (ii) identify the problems of communal living and their solutions; (iii) examine how communal living helped the growth of the Early Church.
 17. The Holy Spirit and the mission of the Church (a) The pentecost (Acts 1:8; 2:1-41) (b) The mission of the Church (Acts 8:4-40) 	Candidates should be able to: (i) trace the story of the pentecost; (ii) examine the significance of the pentecost experience (iii) analyse the mission of the Church.

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 18. Opposition to the Gospel message (a) The arrest and imprisonment of Peter and John (Acts 3; 4:1-22; 5:17-42 12:1-24) (b) The martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 6:8-15; 7) (c) Persecution by Saul (Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2) cf. Gal. 1:11-17 (d) Persecution of Paul (Acts 16:11-40;19:23-41;21:27-36) cf 2 Cor:11:23-33 19. Mission to the Gentiles (a) Conversion of Saul (Acts 9:1-30; 22:4-21; 26:9-18) (b) Conversion of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-48) (c) The commissioning and mission of Paul (Acts 13; 14:1-20); (d) The Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-35; Gal. 2:1-21) 	Candidates should be able to: (i) trace the story of the arrest and imprisonment of Peter and John; (ii) trace the events that led to the martyrdom of Stephen; (iii) describe the role of Saul in the persecution of the Church; (iv) evaluate the importance of persecution to the growth of the Church. (v) account for the persecution of paul. Candidates should be able to: (i) compare the conversions of Saul and Cornelius; (ii) analyse the commissioning and mission of Paul; (iii) examine the main decisions at the Council of Jerusalem; (iv) identify the personalities involved at the Council of Jerusalem; (v) examine the relevance the main decisions at the Council of Jerusalem; (vi) assess Paul's role in the mission to the Gentiles.
SECTION D: Themes from Selected Epistles 1. Justification by Faith (Rom. 3:21-24; 5:1-11; 10:1-13)	Candidates should be able to: (i) interpret the phrase 'justification' by faith; (ii) identify the basic conditions for justification; (iii) determine the fruits of justification.
2. The Law and Grace (Rom. 4:13-25; 5:18-21; Gal. 3:10-14; 19-29)	Candidates should be able to: (i) examine the purpose and significance of the law and grace; (ii) identify the place of the Law among the Jews.
3. New life in Christ (Rom. 6:1-4; 12-14; Col. 3:1-17; Gals. 5:16-26; II Cor. 5:16-19; I Thess. 4:1-8; Rom. 12)	Candidates should be able to: (i) describe the characteristics of the old life; (ii) analyse the new life in Christ; (iii) identify the conditions of the new life; (iv) examine the benefits of the new life

TOPICS/CONTENTS/NOTES	OBJECTIVES
4. Christians as joint heirs with Christ (Gal. 3:23-29; 4:1-7)	Candidates should be able to: (i) describe how Christians are joint heirs with Christ; (ii) indicate the benefits of being joint heirs with Christ.
5. Humility (Phil. 2:1-11; I Pet. 5:5-11)	Candidates should be able to: (i) determine the meaning of humility (ii) identify the requirements of humility; (iii) identify the rewards of humility.
6. Forgiveness (Philemon; II Cor. 2:5-11)	Candidates should be able to: (i) analyse Paul's teaching on forgiveness; (ii) assess the benefits of forgiveness.
7. Spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12; Rom. 12:3-18; I Cor. 14)	Candidates should be able to: (i) identify the different spiritual gifts; (ii) analyse the benefits of spiritual gifts to the individual and the church.
8. Christian Giving (Phil. 4:14-20; II Cor. 8:1-5; 9) Cf. Matt 6:2-4	Candidates should be able to: (i) interpret the concept of Christian giving; (ii) relate the teachings of Paul on Christian giving. (iii) identify the importance of Christian giving.
9. Civic responsibility (Rom. 13; I Tim. 2:1-4)	Candidates should be able to: (i) identify the need for obedience to authority; (ii) specify the requirements of good citizenship.
10. Dignity of labour (II Thess. 3:6-15; Col. 3:23-25)	Candidates should be able to: (i) interpret the concept of dignity of labour; (ii) analyse the benefits of labour.
11. The second coming of Christ a) The signs of the Coming of Christ (1 Thess. 4:13-18; II Thess. 2:1-12) b) Preparation for His coming (I Thess. 5:1-11; II Pet. 3:1-13)	Candidates should be able to: (i) identify the signs of the Second Coming of Christ; (ii) specify the preparations for His coming; (iii) indicate what will happen during His Second Coming. (iv) examine the importance of His coming
12. Impartiality (James 2:1-13) cf. Acts 10:34-35; Matt 7:1-5	Candidates should be able to: (i) interpret the concept of impartiality; (ii) identify causes of partiality (iii) examine the consequences of partiality.

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13. Effective prayer (James 1:2-8; 4:1-3; 5:13-18) cf. Matt 6:5-13	Candidates should be able to: (i) identify the requirements of effective prayer; (ii) distinguish between effective and ineffective prayer. (iii) identify the importance of prayer.
 14. Christian living in the community (a) Interpersonal relationships among Christians (I Pet. 5:1-4; Rom. 12:3-21; 2 Pet. 1:3-11; Heb.13:1-21) (b) Christians living among non- Christians (I Pet. 2:3-25; Rom. 15:1-2) (c) Christian attitude to persecution (I Pet. 1:5-9; 4:1-19; 1 Pet. 3:13-22) (d) Relationship in the Christian family (Eph. 6: 1-9; Col. 3:18-21; I Pet. 3:1-7) 15. Corruption (1 Tim 6:6-11; 2 Tim 3:8; 2 Pet. 1:4-11; James 5:1-6) 	Candidates should be able to: (i) determine interpersonal relationships among Christians; (ii) analyse Christian living among non-Christians; (iii) relate Christian attitude to persecution; (iv) determine the relationship in the Christian family; (v) examine the importance of maintaining good relationships. Candidates should be able to: (i) define the term corruption. (ii) identify the causes of corruption. (iii) determine the effects and consequences of corruption. (iv) identify ways of curbing corruption.
16. Sexual Immorality (a) Prostitution (1Cor.6:16-20) cf. Prov.7:10-27;23:27-28 (b) Adultery and Fornication (Heb. 13:4, Eph. 5:3-10) cf. Matt 5:28-32;Deut. 22:22; Lev. 20:10 (c) Homosexuality (Rom. 1:24-32) cf. Lev.18:21-30; 20:13	Candidates should be able to: (i) identify what constitute sexual immorality. (ii) determine the causes of sexual immorality. (iii) examine the effects and consequences of sexual immorality. (iv) identify ways of curbing sexual immorality.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Adetunji, P.G. et al (2000) ExamFocus Christian Religious Knowledge for WASSCE and SSCE Ibadan: University Press Plc

Adeyemo, I. O. et al (1998) Christian Religious Knowledge for Secondary Schools Books 1 - 3, Ibadan: Onibonoje

Adeyinka, A. A. et al (1991) Christian Religious Knowledge for Senior Secondary Schools, Book 1 – 3, Lagos: Longman

Adigwe, H.A et'al (2004) Christian Religious Knowledge for Senior Secondary Schools. Onitsha. Africana Publishers.

Aghaeghuna, E. O. N (1988) Senior Secondary School Christian Religious Knowledge: Themes from Selected Epistles, Vol 1 – III, Awka, Jet Publishers

Dopamu A. Et al (1990) Christian Religious Knowledge for Senior Secondary Schools Books 1 – 3, Lagos: Nelson

Ilori J. A. et al (1980) Christian Religious Knowledge for Senior Secondary Schools Books 1 – 3, Ibadan: Evans

Izuchukwu, A.E. et'al (1997) Round-Up for Senior Secondary Certificate Examination Christian Religious Knowledge: A Complete Guide. Lagos. Longman.

Throckmorton, B.H, Jr. (ed) (1966) Gospel Parallels: A Synopsis of the First Three Gospels. New York. Thomas Nelson.

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