

SECTION A (20 marks)

Answer ALL the questions in this section.

1. B. Omnipresence
2. A. Gospels
3. B. Canaan
4. C. Mosaic Covenant.
5. D. Songs and prayers.
6. B. His baptism
7. C. Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer.
8. B. Exorcising the demoniac in Gerasenes
9. C. the meaning of neighbourly love.
10. C. Antioch.
11. B. Faithfulness
12. B. close and personal.
13. C. ordinances.
14. B. separation from God.
15. C. Generosity
16. D. Easter.
17. C. The descent of the Holy Spirit.
18. B. Acts of the Apostles
19. B. Talking to God.
20. B. perform acts of service and compassion.

SECTION B (80 marks)

Answer ALL the questions in this section in the spaces provided.

21. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the foundation of Christian faith.

(a) Describe the events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. (5 marks)

The events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ are a series of significant incidents that unfolded rapidly, culminating in His death on the cross.

1. **The Last Supper:** Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples, instituting the Lord's Supper (Communion). During this meal, He predicted His betrayal and suffering.
2. **Prayer in Gethsemane:** After the supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, where He agonized over His impending suffering, demonstrating His human nature and submission to God's will. His disciples fell asleep despite His request to watch and pray.
3. **Betrayal and Arrest:** Jesus was betrayed by one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who identified Him to the Jewish religious authorities with a kiss. A detachment of soldiers and temple guards then arrested Jesus in the garden.

4. **Trials before Jewish Authorities:** Jesus was taken first to Annas, the former high priest, and then to Caiaphas, the current high priest, and the Sanhedrin (the Jewish high court). He was accused of blasphemy for claiming to be the Son of God. These trials were often unfair and rushed, seeking to find grounds for His condemnation.
5. **Trial before Pilate:** As the Jewish authorities lacked the power to execute Him, they brought Jesus before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. They accused Jesus of sedition, claiming He was a king who challenged Caesar's authority. Pilate found no guilt in Jesus but, under pressure from the crowd and fearing a riot, eventually succumbed and handed Jesus over to be crucified.
6. **Scourging and Mockery:** Before the crucifixion, Roman soldiers brutally scourged Jesus (flogged Him) and mocked Him by dressing Him in a purple robe, placing a crown of thorns on His head, and hailing Him as "King of the Jews."
7. **Journey to Golgotha (Via Dolorosa):** Jesus was forced to carry His own cross (or at least the crossbeam) to Golgotha (Calvary), the place of crucifixion, outside the city walls of Jerusalem. Along the way, He was weak and fell, and Simon of Cyrene was compelled to help Him carry the cross.
8. **Crucifixion:** Upon reaching Golgotha, Jesus was nailed to the cross between two criminals. He hung on the cross for several hours, enduring immense physical pain and suffering. During this time, He spoke some final words, including "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" and "It is finished." Darkness covered the land, and the temple veil was torn in two.

(b) State three reasons why the death of Jesus is important to Christians. (3 marks)

1. **Atonement for Sins:** Christians believe that Jesus' death on the cross was a sacrificial act that atoned for the sins of humanity. His shed blood pays the penalty for sin, reconciling humanity with God.
2. **Demonstration of God's Love:** The cross is seen as the ultimate demonstration of God's immense love for humanity. God sent His only Son to die for sinners, showing the depth of His compassion and grace.
3. **Victory over Sin and Death:** Through His death, Jesus conquered the power of sin and death. His death breaks the chains of sin, offering liberation and a path to eternal life for those who believe.
4. **Model of Obedience and Sacrifice:** Jesus' willingness to suffer and die obediently to God's will serves as a supreme example for Christians to live lives of obedience, self-sacrifice, and selfless love.
5. **New Covenant:** His death established a New Covenant between God and humanity, based on grace and faith rather than adherence to the Mosaic Law.
6. **Justification and Forgiveness:** Through His death, believers are justified (declared righteous) before God and receive complete forgiveness for their sins.

(c) Outline two proofs of Jesus' resurrection according to the biblical accounts. (2 marks)

1. **The Empty Tomb:** The biblical accounts consistently report that Jesus' tomb was found empty on the third day after His crucifixion. The stone had been rolled away, and the body was gone, despite guards being posted, suggesting a miraculous departure rather than a simple theft.
2. **Eyewitness Appearances of Jesus:** Jesus appeared to numerous individuals and groups after His resurrection, including Mary Magdalene, His disciples (Thomas, Peter, James, etc.), and even more than 500 people at one time (1 Corinthians 15:5-8). These multiple, distinct eyewitness testimonies provide strong evidence of His living presence.
3. **Transformed Lives of the Disciples:** The disciples, who were initially fearful and scattered after Jesus' crucifixion, were radically transformed after encountering the resurrected Jesus. They became bold, courageous, and fearless preachers of the Gospel, willing to suffer persecution and martyrdom for their belief in the resurrected Christ. This transformation is seen as powerful proof.
4. **The Establishment of the Christian Church:** The rapid and widespread growth of the early Christian church, despite intense persecution, is attributed to the belief in the resurrection. The resurrection gave the disciples the power and message to preach, leading to thousands of conversions and the establishment of a new faith movement.

22. The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in the lives of Christians and the church.

(a) Describe the events of the day of Pentecost as recorded in the book of Acts. (5 marks)

The day of Pentecost, recorded in Acts Chapter 2, describes the dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in Jerusalem, marking a pivotal moment in the birth of the Christian church.

1. **Gathering of Disciples:** About 120 disciples were gathered together in one place, most likely in an upper room, unified in prayer and expectation, ten days after Jesus' ascension.
2. **Sound of a Rushing Wind:** Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, which filled the whole house where they were sitting. This was an audible, powerful manifestation of the Spirit's arrival, signaling a divine and supernatural event.
3. **Tongues of Fire:** What appeared to be tongues of fire descended and rested on each one of them. This was a visible manifestation, symbolizing purification, divine presence, and empowering for witness.
4. **Speaking in Other Tongues:** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages (tongues) as the Spirit enabled them. These were actual, recognizable human languages previously unknown to the speakers, not incoherent babbling.
5. **Confusion and Amazement of the Crowd:** A large crowd of devout Jews from every nation under heaven, who were in Jerusalem for the Pentecost festival, heard the noise and gathered. They were astonished and perplexed because each one heard the disciples speaking in their native language, praising God.
6. **Scoffing by Some:** While many were amazed, some mocked the disciples, accusing them of being drunk on new wine.
7. **Peter's Sermon:** Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, stood up and preached a powerful sermon. He explained that what they were witnessing was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28-32) regarding the outpouring of God's Spirit. He then proclaimed Jesus as the crucified and resurrected Messiah, calling the crowd to repentance and baptism.
8. **Mass Conversions:** Convicted by Peter's message, about 3,000 people repented, believed, and were baptized that day, being added to the number of believers. This marked the official birth of the Christian church.

(b) State three roles of the Holy Spirit in the life of an individual Christian. (3 marks)

1. **Conviction of Sin and Guiding to Truth:** The Holy Spirit convicts individuals of their sin, righteousness, and judgment, leading them to repentance. He also guides believers into all truth, helping them understand God's Word and discern His will.
2. **Empowerment for Witness and Service:** The Holy Spirit empowers Christians with spiritual gifts (e.g., teaching, healing, prophecy, evangelism) and the courage to witness about Jesus Christ, enabling them to serve God and others effectively.
3. **Sanctification and Transformation:** The Holy Spirit works within believers to transform them into the likeness of Christ, producing the "Fruit of the Spirit" (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) and helping them to overcome sinful desires.
4. **Comforter and Counselor:** The Holy Spirit acts as a Comforter, providing solace, strength, and encouragement during times of distress, sorrow, or difficulty. He also serves as a Counselor, offering guidance and wisdom in decision-making.
5. **Intercession in Prayer:** The Holy Spirit helps believers in their weakness, interceding for them with groanings too deep for words when they don't know what to pray for (Romans 8:26-27). He facilitates communication with God.
6. **Assurance of Salvation and Adoption:** The Holy Spirit bears witness with a believer's spirit that they are children of God, providing assurance of salvation and adoption into God's family.
7. **Enables Worship:** The Holy Spirit enables genuine, heartfelt worship of God, moving believers to praise Him in spirit and truth.

(c) Give two ways the Holy Spirit empowers the church today. (2 marks)

1. **Enabling Evangelism and Mission:** The Holy Spirit empowers the church to effectively share the Gospel message globally, giving believers boldness, wisdom, and miraculous signs (where appropriate) to reach unreached populations and expand God's kingdom.
2. **Gifting and Equipping Members for Ministry:** The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts among church members (e.g., teaching, leadership, administration, service, mercy, prophecy, evangelism, healing) which are essential for the healthy functioning, growth, and effective ministry of the entire church body.
3. **Building Unity and Fellowship:** The Holy Spirit promotes unity, love, and harmonious fellowship among diverse believers within the church, overcoming divisions and fostering a sense of belonging and mutual support.
4. **Guiding and Directing the Church:** The Holy Spirit provides divine guidance and direction to church leaders and the congregation as a whole, helping them make wise decisions, discern God's will, and navigate challenges.
5. **Strengthening and Sustaining the Church:** The Holy Spirit provides spiritual strength, resilience, and perseverance to the church in the face of persecution, opposition, or internal challenges, ensuring its continued existence and impact.
6. **Inspiring Worship and Prayer:** The Holy Spirit inspires and enlivens corporate worship and prayer within the church, making these practices meaningful, powerful, and God-honoring.

23. The early church, described in the book of Acts, serves as a model for Christians today.

(a) Outline four characteristics of the early Christian community in Jerusalem (Acts 2:42-47). (4 marks)

1. **Devotion to Apostolic Teaching:** The early believers "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching." This means they were committed to learning and adhering to the doctrines and instructions passed down by the apostles, who were direct witnesses of Jesus.
2. **Fellowship (Koinonia):** They "devoted themselves... to the fellowship." This refers to a deep communal bond, characterized by sharing meals together, spending time in each other's homes, and living in close unity and mutual support.
3. **Breaking of Bread (Communion/Meals):** They "devoted themselves... to the breaking of bread." This refers both to the practice of the Lord's Supper (Communion) and to sharing communal meals together, which further strengthened their bond and sense of community.
4. **Prayer:** They "devoted themselves... to prayer." This indicates a consistent and fervent commitment to corporate and individual prayer, recognizing their reliance on God.
5. **Sharing of Possessions (Communal Living/Generosity):** "All who believed were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need." This demonstrates radical generosity and a willingness to share material resources to ensure no one among them was in need.
6. **Worship and Praise:** They met regularly in the temple courts and in homes, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Their worship was fervent and public.
7. **Growth and Evangelism:** "The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Their vibrant community and powerful witness led to continuous growth in the number of believers.
8. **Signs and Wonders:** "Many wonders and signs were done through the apostles." God confirmed their message and ministry through supernatural demonstrations of power.

(b) State four ways Christians today can practice the characteristics of the early church in their communities. (4 marks)

1. **Commit to Biblical Study and Teaching:** Christians can practice devotion to apostolic teaching by consistently reading, studying, and applying the Bible, attending sound biblical teachings, and participating in Bible study groups in their churches or homes.

2. **Foster Intentional Fellowship and Community:** Actively cultivate deep relationships with other believers through regular gatherings, sharing meals, offering mutual support, participating in small groups, and practicing hospitality within their local church and broader community.
3. **Regularly Participate in Communion and Shared Meals:** Consistently partake in the Lord's Supper as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and share regular meals or potlucks with fellow believers, strengthening bonds and reflecting the early church's practice.
4. **Prioritize Prayer (Individual and Corporate):** Make prayer a central part of their daily lives, engaging in personal prayer, and actively participating in corporate prayer meetings, prayer walks, or prayer chains within their church and community.
5. **Practice Radical Generosity and Sharing:** Christians can give financially to support the church and those in need, share resources (time, skills, possessions) with less fortunate members of their community, and contribute to initiatives that address poverty and hardship, reflecting the early church's communal sharing.
6. **Engage in Consistent Worship and Praise:** Participate actively in church services, praise God in their daily lives, and use their gifts to contribute to the worship life of their community, both in formal and informal settings.
7. **Actively Engage in Evangelism and Outreach:** Share their faith with others, invite people to church, participate in outreach programs, and live in a way that attracts others to Christ, contributing to the growth of the church.

(c) Give two challenges faced by the early church. (2 marks)

1. **Persecution (from Jewish and later Roman Authorities):** The early church faced severe persecution, including arrests, imprisonment, floggings, and even martyrdom (e.g., Stephen, James). This came from Jewish leaders who viewed them as a sect deviating from Judaism, and later from Roman authorities who saw Christians as disloyal for refusing to worship the emperor.
2. **Internal Disputes and Divisions:** Despite their unity, the early church experienced internal conflicts, such as the dispute over the fair distribution of food to Hellenistic widows (Acts 6) and the debate over whether Gentile converts needed to follow Jewish law (Acts 15).
3. **False Teaching and Heresies:** As the church grew, false teachers emerged who promoted doctrines contrary to apostolic teaching, threatening to mislead believers and corrupt the true Gospel message (e.g., Gnosticism, Judaizers).
4. **Poverty and Economic Hardship:** Many early Christians, especially those who sold their possessions, faced economic challenges. The communal sharing was partly a response to the poverty among some members.
5. **Cultural and Social Opposition:** Christians faced social ostracism and cultural misunderstanding as their beliefs challenged prevailing Roman and Jewish customs and norms. Their refusal to participate in pagan rituals or idol worship often led to accusations and condemnation.
6. **Logistical and Organizational Challenges:** As the church grew rapidly, managing large numbers of converts, organizing ministries, and effectively communicating across diverse communities presented significant logistical and organizational hurdles.

24. African Traditional Religion (ATR) has some connections and contrasts with Christianity.

(a) Outline four similarities between the Christian concept of God and the ATR concept of the Supreme Being. (4 marks)

1. **Belief in One Supreme Being:** Both Christianity and ATR believe in a singular, ultimate Supreme Being who is the Creator of the universe. In ATR, this being is known by various names such as *Ngai* (Kikuyu, Maasai, Kamba), *Were* (Luhya), *Asis* (Kalenjin), *Mumbo* (Luo), or *Mulungu* (Mijikenda, Akamba).
2. **Omnipotence (All-Powerful):** Both traditions attribute omnipotence to the Supreme Being, believing that God/the Supreme Being is all-powerful, capable of doing anything, and controls all creation.
3. **Omniscience (All-Knowing):** In both, the Supreme Being is considered omniscient, knowing everything that happens, including the thoughts and intentions of humans. Nothing is hidden from God/the Supreme Being.

4. **Creator and Sustainer:** Both believe that God/the Supreme Being is the ultimate Creator of the universe, including humans, animals, and the natural world. They also believe this being sustains creation, maintaining order and life.
5. **Transcendence and Immanence:** While transcendent (existing beyond human comprehension and the physical world), the Supreme Being in both traditions is also considered immanent, actively involved in the lives of individuals and the affairs of the world, often through intermediaries (ancestors/spirits in ATR, Holy Spirit/Jesus in Christianity).
6. **Righteousness and Justice:** Both traditions uphold the Supreme Being as righteous and just, upholding moral order and eventually punishing evil and rewarding good.
7. **Unchangeable/Eternal:** The Supreme Being in both is understood to be eternal, existing before all things and forever, and unchangeable in His nature.

(b) State four ways in which ATR beliefs and practices differ from Christian beliefs and practices. (4 marks)

1. Nature of God/Supreme Being:

- **Christianity:** God is understood as a Trinitarian God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), a concept not present in ATR. God is often seen as very personal and directly approachable through prayer.
- **ATR:** The Supreme Being is generally seen as one, often remote and not directly approached by humans. Communication usually occurs through intermediaries like ancestral spirits, diviners, or medicine men.

2. Mediators/Intermediaries:

- **Christianity:** Jesus Christ is the sole mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5), and the Holy Spirit facilitates direct communion. Ancestors are not worshipped or communicated with for mediation.
- **ATR:** Ancestral spirits and lesser deities play a crucial role as intermediaries between humans and the Supreme Being. They are revered, appeased, and consulted to influence the living.

3. Concept of Sin and Salvation:

- **Christianity:** Sin is fundamentally an offense against a holy God, leading to spiritual separation. Salvation is offered through God's grace, achieved through faith in Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice, leading to eternal life in heaven.
- **ATR:** Sin is often viewed as breaking communal taboos, violating moral norms, or disrespecting elders/ancestors, leading to disruption of communal harmony or misfortune. Salvation, in the Christian sense, is not a central concept; rather, the focus is on maintaining harmony with the spiritual world and ensuring prosperity in the present life and a good transition to ancestral status.

4. Scripture/Holy Books:

- **Christianity:** The Bible is the authoritative, written Word of God, serving as the primary source of doctrine, moral guidance, and historical accounts of God's interaction with humanity.
- **ATR:** There are no written scriptures or holy books. Knowledge, beliefs, and practices are transmitted orally through myths, legends, proverbs, rituals, and ceremonies.

5. Worship Practices:

- **Christianity:** Worship involves communal gatherings (church services), prayer, singing, sermons, sacraments (baptism, communion), and personal devotion, primarily directed towards God.
- **ATR:** Worship often involves rituals, sacrifices, libations, and ceremonies performed at sacred sites (shrines, trees) or homesteads, aimed at appeasing ancestral spirits, seeking their favor, or addressing specific communal needs.

6. Death and Afterlife:

- **Christianity:** Emphasizes a clear distinction between earthly life and an eternal afterlife in either heaven or hell, based on one's relationship with Christ.
- **ATR:** Believes in a continuation of life after death, with the deceased becoming ancestral spirits who remain connected to their living descendants and influence their lives. The focus is often on becoming a "living dead" ancestor rather than a distinct heaven/hell.

(c) Give two reasons why some people convert from ATR to Christianity. (2 marks)

1. **Promise of Eternal Salvation and Forgiveness of Sins:** Christianity offers a clear path to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, addressing the universal human concern for the afterlife and forgiveness of sins, which ATR does not explicitly provide in the same way.
2. **Perceived Power of God/Jesus over Spirits and Illness:** Many converts are drawn to Christianity due to testimonies of divine healing, deliverance from evil spirits, and answers to prayer, which they perceive as demonstrating a greater power than traditional spiritual practices.
3. **Desire for Modernity and Education:** Historically, Christian missionaries brought education, healthcare, and other modern advancements. Conversion to Christianity was often associated with access to these benefits and a perceived path to a more "modern" lifestyle.
4. **Moral Guidance and Ethical Framework:** Christianity offers a clear ethical code (e.g., Ten Commandments, teachings of Jesus) that resonates with individuals seeking clear moral principles and a structured guide for righteous living.
5. **Community and Support:** Christian churches provide a strong sense of community, belonging, and mutual support, which can be very appealing to individuals seeking fellowship and a supportive network.
6. **Exposure to the Christian Message:** Through missionary work, media, and personal interactions, individuals are exposed to the Christian Gospel message, and some find it compelling and personally transformative.
7. **Liberation from Fear of Spirits/Ancestors:** For some, ATR can involve a sense of fear or constant need to appease spirits. Christianity offers liberation from such fears by emphasizing God's sole authority and protection.

25. Prayer is essential for Christian growth and relationship with God.

(a) State four reasons why prayer is important for a Christian. (4 marks)

1. **Communication and Relationship with God:** Prayer is the primary means by which Christians communicate with God. It builds and strengthens a personal relationship with Him, allowing believers to express their thoughts, feelings, praises, and concerns directly to their Heavenly Father.
2. **Receiving Guidance and Wisdom:** Through prayer, Christians seek God's guidance, wisdom, and direction for their lives, decisions, and challenges. It helps them discern God's will and align their actions with His purposes.
3. **Expressing Worship, Praise, and Thanksgiving:** Prayer provides an avenue for Christians to express their adoration, gratitude, and worship to God for His character, goodness, blessings, and mighty acts. It shifts focus from self to God.
4. **Confession and Forgiveness:** Prayer allows Christians to confess their sins to God, seek His forgiveness, and experience spiritual cleansing and restoration, thereby maintaining a right relationship with Him.
5. **Seeking Strength and Empowerment:** Through prayer, believers draw strength, courage, and empowerment from God to face temptations, overcome challenges, and live a life that honors Him. It's a source of divine enablement.
6. **Intercession for Others:** Prayer is crucial for interceding on behalf of others – family, friends, leaders, the sick, the needy, and the world. It is an act of love and solidarity that can bring about God's intervention in the lives of others.
7. **Experiencing Peace and Comfort:** In times of anxiety, fear, or distress, prayer offers a channel to cast burdens upon God, leading to inner peace, comfort, and a sense of God's presence.
8. **Spiritual Warfare:** Prayer is a key weapon in spiritual warfare, used to resist temptation, overcome evil influences, and stand firm against the schemes of the enemy.

(b) Outline four different types of prayer that Christians engage in. (4 marks)

1. **Adoration/Praise:** This type of prayer focuses on worshipping God for who He is – His character, attributes, and majesty. It involves expressing love, reverence, and awe for God's holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, goodness, mercy, and faithfulness.

- *Example:* "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
- 2. **Confession:** This type of prayer involves acknowledging and admitting sins to God, expressing remorse, and seeking His forgiveness. It's about taking responsibility for one's wrongdoings and seeking reconciliation with God.
 - *Example:* "Father, I confess my impatience and unkind words today; please forgive me."
- 3. **Thanksgiving:** This prayer expresses gratitude to God for His blessings, provisions, answered prayers, and acts of kindness. It involves acknowledging specific things God has done or provided.
 - *Example:* "Thank you, Lord, for good health, for providing food on our table, and for the gift of family."
- 4. **Supplication/Petition:** This is prayer where Christians make specific requests to God for their personal needs, desires, and challenges. It's asking God for His provision, intervention, or help in specific situations.
 - *Example:* "Lord, please heal my grandmother from her sickness" or "God, grant me wisdom for this upcoming exam."
- 5. **Intercession:** This type of prayer involves making requests to God on behalf of others – praying for family, friends, church leaders, the sick, the persecuted, nations, or specific societal issues. It is a selfless act of prayer for someone else's well-being.
 - *Example:* "I pray for my friend who is going through a difficult time; strengthen them, Lord."
- 6. **Meditation/Contemplative Prayer:** This involves quietly reflecting on God's Word, His character, or His presence, listening for His voice, and simply being still in His presence without necessarily speaking many words.
 - *Example:* Silently pondering a Bible verse, or simply resting in God's presence.

(c) Give two things that might hinder a Christian's prayer life. (2 marks)

1. **Unconfessed Sin:** Unconfessed sin or living in deliberate disobedience to God's known will can create a barrier between a Christian and God, making prayer feel ineffective or causing a sense of guilt that discourages prayer.
2. **Doubt and Lack of Faith:** A lack of faith in God's willingness or ability to answer prayers, or doubting His goodness, can hinder one's motivation and persistence in prayer.
3. **Busyness and Lack of Discipline:** Modern life is often filled with distractions and busy schedules, making it difficult for Christians to set aside consistent time for prayer. A lack of self-discipline can easily lead to neglecting prayer.
4. **Distractions (Technology, Worries):** The constant stream of notifications, social media, and worldly worries can easily distract a Christian's mind during prayer, making it hard to focus and connect with God.
5. **Unforgiveness or Bitterness:** Holding grudges, bitterness, or unforgiveness towards others can obstruct one's prayer life, as Jesus taught that we must forgive others to be forgiven by God (Mark 11:25).
6. **Selfish Motives:** Praying with selfish motives, seeking only personal gain rather than God's will or the good of others, can hinder prayer as it does not align with God's purposes (James 4:3).
7. **Discouragement and Unanswered Prayers:** Experiencing what seems like unanswered prayers can lead to discouragement, making a Christian feel that prayer is futile and leading them to give up.

26. Christian ethics guide believers on how to live morally.

(a) Explain the Christian understanding of sin. (3 marks)

In Christian understanding, sin is fundamentally **any thought, word, deed, or omission that goes against God's perfect will, character, or law**. It is not merely a mistake or a social transgression, but an act of rebellion, disobedience, or a failure to meet God's righteous standards.

- It signifies a "**missing the mark**" (from the Greek *hamartia*), failing to achieve the moral perfection that God desires.
- It results in **separation from God** and spiritual death, breaking the relationship between humanity and its Creator.

- Sin originated with Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, leading to a fallen human nature that is prone to sin (original sin).
- Ultimately, sin is an affront to God's holiness and justice, deserving of judgment.

(b) State four consequences of sin in a person's life or in society. (4 marks)

1. **Separation from God:** Sin creates a spiritual chasm between a person and God, leading to a broken relationship, a loss of peace, and a feeling of alienation from the divine presence.
2. **Guilt and Shame:** Sin often leads to profound feelings of guilt, remorse, and shame, causing inner turmoil, anxiety, and a burdened conscience.
3. **Negative Impact on Relationships:** Sin can destroy human relationships, leading to conflict, mistrust, unforgiveness, bitterness, and broken families or communities. Lies, betrayal, and selfishness erode relational bonds.
4. **Spiritual Death and Eternal Consequences:** Unrepented sin ultimately leads to spiritual death (separation from God for eternity) and faces divine judgment in the afterlife.
5. **Physical and Emotional Harm:** Sinful choices (e.g., addiction, violence, promiscuity) can lead to physical illness, emotional distress, mental health issues, and a general decline in well-being for individuals.
6. **Societal Breakdown and Injustice:** When sin is prevalent in society, it manifests as corruption, injustice, crime, oppression, poverty, and war, leading to widespread suffering and societal decay.
7. **Loss of Peace and Joy:** Sin disrupts inner peace and robs a person of true joy, replacing it with restlessness, dissatisfaction, and unhappiness.
8. **Slavery to Sinful Habits:** Engaging in sin can lead to habitual behavior and addiction, trapping individuals in cycles that are difficult to break, limiting their freedom and potential.

(c) Give three ways Christians can overcome sin in their lives. (3 marks)

1. **Repentance and Confession:** The primary way to overcome sin is through genuine repentance (turning away from sin and towards God) and confessing sins to God, seeking His forgiveness through Jesus Christ's atonement.
2. **Reliance on the Holy Spirit:** Christians are empowered by the Holy Spirit to resist temptation and live righteously. By praying for His strength, listening to His guidance, and walking in step with the Spirit, believers can overcome sinful desires.
3. **Studying and Applying God's Word (Bible):** Regular engagement with the Bible provides moral guidance, reveals God's will, exposes sin, and equips believers with the truth needed to combat temptation and live a life pleasing to God.
4. **Prayer:** Consistent and fervent prayer helps Christians to seek God's help in times of temptation, to express their desire to live righteously, and to receive divine strength to resist sin.
5. **Accountability and Fellowship:** Engaging in healthy Christian fellowship and having accountability partners (trusted fellow believers) can provide support, encouragement, and honest feedback, helping individuals to stay on track and confess struggles.
6. **Avoiding Tempting Situations:** Being aware of personal weaknesses and proactively avoiding situations, environments, or relationships that lead to temptation is a crucial practical step in overcoming sin.
7. **Focusing on Christ and His Righteousness:** Instead of merely focusing on *not* sinning, a positive approach is to focus on living for Christ, pursuing righteousness, and actively practicing Christian virtues.

27. The Bible provides guidance on how Christians should use their resources.

(a) Outline four ways Christians can responsibly use their time. (4 marks)

1. **For God's Glory and Spiritual Growth:** Dedicate time to spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, meditation, and corporate worship. This builds a deeper relationship with God and fosters personal spiritual growth.

2. **Serving God and Others:** Use time to volunteer in church ministries, serve those in need (the poor, sick, lonely), participate in community outreach programs, or use one's skills for the benefit of others. This reflects Christ's command to love and serve.
3. **For Personal Development and Rest:** Allocate time for learning, personal development, acquiring new skills, maintaining physical health (exercise), and engaging in healthy recreation and rest. This ensures well-being and enhances one's ability to serve effectively.
4. **For Family and Relationships:** Prioritize quality time with family members (spouse, children, parents) and nurturing healthy relationships with friends. This involves active listening, presence, and intentional connection.
5. **For Productive Work and Stewardship:** Use work hours diligently and ethically, aiming for excellence in one's profession or responsibilities. This reflects good stewardship of the time given for earning a living and contributing to society.
6. **Managing Distractions and Avoiding Idleness:** Be intentional about limiting time spent on unproductive activities like excessive social media, entertainment, or idleness that do not contribute to personal growth or glorify God.

(b) State four ways Christians can use their talents and abilities to serve God and others. (4 marks)

1. **Serving in Church Ministries:** Use spiritual gifts (e.g., teaching, leading, hospitality, administration, music, prophecy, evangelism) to build up the body of Christ within the local church, contributing to its mission and growth.
2. **Community Service and Outreach:** Employ practical skills (e.g., medical, building, teaching, counselling, technical) to serve the broader community, addressing social needs, helping the vulnerable, and demonstrating Christ's love through tangible acts.
3. **Creative Expression and Arts:** Use artistic talents (e.g., painting, music, drama, writing, poetry) to create works that glorify God, inspire, educate, or minister to others, often as a form of worship or evangelism.
4. **Mentoring and Discipleship:** Use life experience, wisdom, and leadership abilities to mentor younger believers, disciple new converts, or guide others in their spiritual journey, passing on knowledge and fostering growth.
5. **Professional Excellence and Ethical Conduct:** Excelling in one's chosen profession and demonstrating integrity, honesty, and a strong work ethic can be a powerful testimony, serving as "salt and light" in the workplace and influencing others for good.
6. **Advocacy and Justice:** Use communication skills, analytical abilities, or leadership influence to advocate for justice, speak out against oppression, and champion the rights of the marginalized, reflecting God's heart for righteousness.
7. **Hospitality and Encouragement:** Use gifts of hospitality to open homes and welcome others, or use communication skills to offer encouragement, comfort, and support to those who are struggling.

(c) Give two reasons why generosity with finances is important in Christianity. (2 marks)

1. **It Reflects God's Character and Love:** Generosity is seen as a core attribute of God, who generously gave His Son for humanity and continually provides for creation. Christians are called to imitate God's generous love, showing their thankfulness and reflecting His nature to the world.
2. **Supports the Work of God's Kingdom:** Financial generosity enables the church to carry out its mission, including evangelism, discipleship, supporting ministers, maintaining facilities, and funding various ministries that extend God's kingdom and serve humanity (e.g., feeding the hungry, caring for orphans).
3. **Demonstrates Trust in God's Provision:** Giving generously (e.g., tithing or offering) demonstrates a Christian's faith and trust in God's ability to provide for their needs, rather than relying solely on their own resources. It is an act of worship and obedience.
4. **Addresses Poverty and Inequality:** Generosity is a practical way Christians can respond to social issues like poverty and inequality, fulfilling the biblical mandate to care for the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized within society.

5. **Spiritual Blessing and Stewardship:** The Bible teaches that generosity is often accompanied by spiritual blessings (e.g., "It is more blessed to give than to receive") and reflects good stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to believers.

28. Christians are called to respond to contemporary social issues from a biblical perspective.

(a) State four social issues facing the community in Kenya today. (4 marks)

1. **Poverty and Economic Inequality:** A significant portion of the Kenyan population lives below the poverty line. Many face challenges like unemployment, low wages, lack of access to basic necessities (food, shelter, clean water), and a widening gap between the rich and the poor.
2. **Corruption:** Corruption is rampant at various levels of society, from petty bribery to grand corruption in government institutions. This diverts public resources, hinders development, undermines justice, and erodes public trust.
3. **Unemployment, especially Youth Unemployment:** There is a high rate of unemployment, particularly among the youth, leading to disillusionment, social unrest, and increased crime rates. Many graduates struggle to find jobs despite their qualifications.
4. **Drug and Substance Abuse:** Alcohol, drug, and substance abuse (e.g., *muguka*, illicit brews, hard drugs) is a major issue, especially among the youth, leading to addiction, mental health problems, family breakdown, crime, and reduced productivity.
5. **Environmental Degradation:** Issues like deforestation, plastic pollution, soil erosion, water scarcity, and climate change effects (e.g., prolonged droughts, unpredictable floods) threaten livelihoods, health, and sustainable development.
6. **Insecurity and Crime:** While varying by region, insecurity, including petty crime, organized crime, cattle rustling, and terrorism, remains a concern, affecting peace, economic activity, and quality of life.
7. **Tribalism and Ethnic Tensions:** Despite efforts to foster national unity, tribalism occasionally manifests in political and social spheres, leading to divisions and sometimes conflict.
8. **Healthcare Access and Quality:** Many Kenyans, especially in rural and low-income areas, face challenges in accessing affordable and quality healthcare services.
9. **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** GBV, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and female genital mutilation (FGM), remains a prevalent issue, affecting women and girls disproportionately.

(b) Outline four ways Christians can help address poverty in their communities. (4 marks)

1. **Charity and Direct Aid:** Christians can directly provide food, clothing, shelter, and other essential necessities to the poor and needy through church-run food banks, community outreach programs, or individual acts of charity. This offers immediate relief.
2. **Skills Training and Empowerment Programs:** Churches and Christian organizations can establish vocational training centers, workshops, or mentorship programs that equip individuals with practical skills (e.g., tailoring, carpentry, IT, farming techniques) to enable them to gain employment or start small businesses, fostering long-term self-sufficiency.
3. **Advocacy for Justice and Fair Economic Policies:** Christians can speak out against systemic injustices, corruption, and unfair economic policies that perpetuate poverty. They can advocate for policies that promote equitable resource distribution, fair wages, access to education, and opportunities for all.
4. **Microfinance and Small Business Support:** Churches can initiate or support microfinance initiatives or provide small seed capital to members of the community to start small businesses, helping them generate income and become economically independent.
5. **Education and Scholarship Programs:** Support educational initiatives, provide scholarships, or assist vulnerable children and youth in accessing quality education. Education is a powerful tool for breaking the cycle of poverty in families and communities.
6. **Community Development Projects:** Engage in community development projects such as building affordable housing, digging boreholes for clean water, or establishing community farms that improve living conditions and food security for the poor.

7. **Promoting Ethical Stewardship and Generosity:** Teach biblical principles of stewardship, tithing, and generosity within the church community, encouraging members to share their resources (time, talent, finances) to alleviate poverty.

(c) Give two ways the church can promote peace and reconciliation in times of conflict. (2 marks)

1. **Facilitating Dialogue and Mediation:** The church can serve as a neutral ground and trusted third party to facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties. Church leaders can act as mediators, bringing people together for open communication, listening, and seeking common ground, thereby helping to de-escalate tensions and find peaceful resolutions.
2. **Preaching Messages of Peace, Forgiveness, and Love:** Through sermons, teachings, and community gatherings, the church can consistently preach biblical messages emphasizing peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, and unconditional love. This helps to transform hearts, challenge hatred, and encourage empathy among members and the wider community.
3. **Practical Acts of Compassion and Service:** In conflict-affected areas, the church can demonstrate tangible acts of peace by providing humanitarian aid, caring for the injured, offering shelter to displaced persons, and supporting victims from all sides of the conflict. This impartial service builds trust and shows love, creating pathways for reconciliation.
4. **Organizing Joint Activities and Events:** The church can bring together people from conflicting groups through interfaith dialogues, joint prayer meetings, community projects, or sports events. These shared experiences can help break down stereotypes, build relationships, and foster mutual understanding and respect.
5. **Training in Conflict Resolution:** The church can offer workshops and training programs on conflict resolution, mediation skills, and non-violent communication to equip community members with tools to address conflicts constructively at various levels (family, community, national).
6. **Prayer and Spiritual Intervention:** Engage in corporate prayer for peace, wisdom for leaders, and reconciliation among conflicting parties. Believing in God's power, the church can invoke divine intervention to calm tensions and bring about lasting peace.