



PAN AFRICA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLE AND THEOLOGY**

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2019

CAMPUS: VALLEY ROAD

DEPARTMENT: BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

COURSE CODE: BIL3443

COURSE TITLE: GENERAL EPISTLES

EXAM DATE: WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2019

DURATION: 2 HOURS

TIME: 5:30PM-7:30PM

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you write the answers.
- Write your **STUDENT NUMBER** in the Answer Booklet given
- *Write clearly and legibly.*
- This exam paper contains TWO sections.
- Answer **ALL questions in Section A** and **any THREE** questions in section B.
- *ALL PAC University's examination rules and regulations apply*

SECTION A: Answer ALL questions (30 marks)

1. The “general” or “catholic” epistles are viewed to be circular letters addressed to a general audience.

a) List and briefly explain five (5) issues or themes that arise and are addressed in the General epistles. (5 marks)

b) Describe and briefly discuss the authorship, audience and the purpose of the following letters. (20 marks):

- i. Hebrews (5 marks)
- ii. James (5 marks)
- iii. 1 Peter (5 marks)
- iv. 2 Peter (5 marks)

c) Jude’s purpose in writing his letter was to warn the church against the invasion of false teachers and heretics who had distorted the doctrine of grace and turned it into an excuse for moral license. Discuss. (5 marks)

SECTION B: Answer ANY THREE questions (30 marks)

2. James is written to Christians who were facing different kinds of trials that no doubt discouraged them. Discuss the message of James under the following headings: wisdom and joy, wisdom and obedience, wisdom and peace, wisdom and the future, and wisdom and prayer (10 marks).

3. One of issues reflected in the General Epistles is Christian suffering and persecution. With examples, discuss how the epistles address this issue and apply their message to our contemporary situation(s). (10 marks)

4. The issue of false teaching and heresy is rampant in our day just as it was in the days when the General Epistles were written. Using examples discuss the message of the epistles regarding false teaching today. (10 marks).

5. In our African contexts, ancestors continue to be elevated to the position of mediators between God and human beings. The letter to the Hebrews has a very clear message about Christ – the Son of God and the only Mediator between man and God. Discuss how this message of Hebrews addresses the issue of ancestor worship/veneration. (10 marks)

6. Hebrews’ argument is developed in three movements: Jesus’ superiority in his person (1:1-4:13), Jesus’ superiority in his work (4:14-10:18), and Jesus’ superiority in the life he offers (10:19-13:25). Discuss with examples from the text. (10 marks)