



For Performance Measurement

**ZIMBABWE SCHOOL
EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
(ZIMSEC)**

**DIVINITY
9154**

ADVANCED LEVEL SYLLABUS

EXAMINATIONS SYLLABUS FOR 2013 - 2018

DIVINITY
GCE Advanced Level
SUBJECT – 9154

(Available in the **November** examination only)

INTRODUCTION

The syllabus consists of three papers (9154/1/2/3) and these will be set as below:
Candidates will offer two papers, the compulsory paper 1 (9154/1) and either paper 2 (9154/2) or paper 3 (9154/3). It is an added advantage if candidates would have studied Religious Studies at GCE Ordinary Level.

AIMS

The syllabus gives the students the opportunity to:

1. develop knowledge and understanding of some key religious teachings and issues in the Old Testament and New Testament;
2. develop skills in interpreting and comparing views expressed in recent academic study in the chosen areas;
3. attempt an informed response to religious and moral issues arising out of their study;
4. demonstrate application of major lessons or issues learnt to the Zimbabwean context.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

The examination will assess candidates' ability to:

1. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of some key religious issues and teachings in the Old Testament and their chosen area of the New Testament;
2. analyse, interpret, organise and present information, ideas, descriptions, arguments clearly and logically;
3. evaluate issues that arise from a consideration of academic study in their chosen area;
4. apply what they have learnt to the Zimbabwean context.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

Three papers will be set. Candidates are required to answer **four** questions from each paper. Each paper is of 3 hours duration.

Candidates at GCE 'A' Level must enter for the compulsory paper 9154/1 and **either** 9154/2 **or** 9154/3.

No texts may be used during the examination.

AGGREGATION OF COMPONENT MARKS

The subject aggregate is determined by applying the combined aggregation and weighted mean methods as described by the ZIMSEC Code of Practice. All components have equal weighting.

The candidates' answers to all questions in all components will be assessed according to the following specification:

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3
Knowledge and Understanding	40	40	40
Analysis and Interpretation	30	30	30
Evaluation and/or Application	30	30	30
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

QUALITY OF LANGUAGE:

In this examination, candidates will be credited for their ability to organise and present information, ideas, descriptions and arguments clearly and logically, taking into account their use of grammar, punctuation and spelling.

PROHIBITED COMBINATIONS OF ENTRY

Candidates entering for this syllabus are prohibited from entering for any other GCE Religious Studies Syllabus (2042,2043) in the same examination series.

WRITTEN PAPERS

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible will be used for quotations included in question papers. Examiners have been instructed not to set questions in which the answer depends on a rendering peculiar to a particular version of the Bible.

9154/1 THE PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The aim of this paper is two-fold:

- (a) to help candidates to an understanding of one of the key factors in the maintenance of the religious faith of Ancient Israel, and to introduce them to the study of a particular significant part of the Jewish and Christian Bibles.
- (b) to help candidates to apply what they would have learnt to their own context.

Candidates need to have a basic overall view of the history of Israel from the Conquest to *circa* 400 BCE; they should understand the context of the events and people they are studying, how they relate to parallel accounts of the same periods in other parts of the biblical literature. Throughout, they should be aware of the views of the modern scholars.

The paper will be divided into three sections.

Candidates will be required to answer **four** questions of which one will be the compulsory comment question in Section C, where **four** passages must be chosen out of a possible nine. They must choose one question from Section A, one question from Section B, and one further question from either Section A or Section B.

SECTION A. Pre-canonical prophets and General Questions

Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of:

- (a) the earliest manifestations of prophecy in Israel;
- (b) the views of modern scholars on the origins of prophecy;
- (c) the significance of pre-canonical prophets of the 10th and 9th centuries BCE, their roles, functions and impact with a special focus on the significance of Moses, Samuel and Elijah for the prophecy of Israel.

Transition from Pre-canonical to Canonical Prophets

- (d) characteristics of Israelite prophecy and prophetic literature;
- (e) the collection and preservation of prophetic writings;
- (f) the relationship of prophets with social and religious institutions of their day;
- (g) the roles and activities of prophets;
- (h) prophets' methods of communicating their message;
- (i) the issues addressed in prophecy;
- (j) parallels that can be drawn between prophecy in Israel and similar phenomena in Zimbabwe.

Candidates may be asked to compare the prophecy of one period of Israel's history with another. There will be passages in Section C, prescribed with particular reference to this Section, which should be given detailed study.

Section A will consist of **five** questions.

SECTION B. Pre-Exilic Prophets, with special reference to Amos, Hosea, Isaiah of Jerusalem and Jeremiah

Candidates should be familiar with the **main** contents of Amos, Hosea, Isaiah 1-12, 28-39; Jeremiah 1-45. They should have detailed knowledge of the relevant passages prescribed in Section C. Questions will be set on the life and/or work and message of individual prophets, but comparative questions and general questions on pre-exilic canonical prophets may also be included.

Section B will consist of **four** questions.

Section C

A compulsory question with passages for comment. These passages will be drawn from the following passages for detailed study, relating to other sections of the Syllabus:

- (a) Numbers 11 and 12
Deuteronomy 18: 9-22
1 Samuel 3; 9:1-10:13; 28:3-25
2 Samuel 7;
1 Kings 19:1-18; 22:1-38; 21:1-29
- (b) Amos 2-4; 7-9;
Hosea 1-4; 6:1-6; 11; 14;
Isaiah 1; 2; 5-9; 11; 31;
Jeremiah 1:1-2:13; 7; 11-13; 15:10-16:15; 17-20; 23-24; 27-29; 31-32

9154/2 THE FOUR GOSPELS

The aim of this paper is to encourage and develop a scholarly understanding of the life of Jesus as contained in the four gospels. A good working knowledge of the gospel text is required. Candidates will be expected to know and comment upon differences between the gospels where these are plainly relevant to this understanding, but they will not otherwise be asked for detailed comparison of parallel narratives.

The paper will be divided into three sections.

Candidates will be required to answer **four** questions of which one will be the compulsory comment question in Section C, where **four** passages must be chosen out of a possible eight. They must choose one question from Section A, one question from Section B, and one further question from either Section A or Section B.

Section A will consist of **five** questions on background, main gospel issues and themes.

Section B will consist of **four** questions and **one** question on each gospel.

Section C will include the compulsory comment question with **eight** short texts (gobbets), two from each gospel. Candidates should state the context of the gobbet (but not rewrite the story) and may provide explanatory comments on religious, historical, political or social aspects that arise from *that text*.

In preparing for this paper, candidates should study the following: -

- (a) The relevant gospel texts;
- (b) The historical, social and religious background to the gospels;
- (c) The main questions and ideas raised by biblical criticism, e.g. source, form and redaction;

- (d) Authorship, date, provenance and main themes of the gospels;
- (e) The main events in the gospels: birth narratives, John the Baptist and his relation to Jesus, baptism, temptations, confession of Peter, transfiguration, miracles and mighty works, entry into Jerusalem, last supper, trials, crucifixion and resurrection;
- (f) The teaching of Jesus (especially by means of parables and miracles) with special attention to: salvation, forgiveness, the kingdom of God, future judgement, discipleship and commitment, wealth and possessions, prayer, ethics, discussions with Jewish authorities and his self-understanding;
- (g) The main events and themes peculiar to John's gospel (e.g. the prologue, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the 'signs', the "I am" sayings and the paraclete);
- (h) The christological titles (son of God, son of man, son of David, etc);
- (i) Gospel issues and themes in a Zimbabwean context.

9154/3. THE APOSTOLIC AGE

The subject should be studied with reference to the following books: Acts, Romans; 1 Corinthians; Galatians; Colossians; 1 Thessalonians; Hebrews and James. There is a four-year rotation of books prescribed for detailed study:

- (a) 2011: Acts and Galatians
- (b) 2012: Colossians and Hebrews
- (c) 2013: Romans and James
- (d) 2014: 1 Corinthians and 1 Thessalonians

Candidates will be expected to have made a study of the history and development of the early Christian Church during the Apostolic Age, which should include the following:

- (a) the main features of the apostolic teaching and preaching to both Jews and Gentiles;
- (b) the progress and problems of the Christian mission, including opposition and persecution from both Jews and Gentiles as evidenced in Acts and the relevant passages in the epistles included in the syllabus;
- (c) the economic, social and political factors which aided or hindered the Christian mission;
- (d) the instruction and guidance given to converts, especially those from Gentile backgrounds;
- (e) the problems which arose concerning the admission of Gentiles into the membership of the Church;
- (f) the doctrinal, pastoral and ethical teaching given by Paul, James and the author of Hebrews and the problems dealt with in their letters;

- (g) the relation of the Christian Church to Judaism, including the use of the Jewish scriptures and the Church's growing independence;
- (h) the patterns of worship in the early Church, including both its debt to Judaism and distinctively Christian features;
- (i) the contribution to the life and mission of the early Church, including the development of its doctrine, by leading figures such as Peter, Stephen, Philip, Barnabas and Paul;
- (j) the relations of the Apostolic Church with the Jewish and Roman authorities, and teaching on the role of the state;
- (k) the authorship, date, circumstances of composition, purposes of Acts and the epistles included in the syllabus;
- (l) the question of the historical value of Acts in the light of the evidence of Paul's letters;
- (m) the date and destination of Galatians;
- (n) the authorship and destination of Hebrews,
- (o) the notably Jewish character of James;
- (p) Apostolic Age issues and themes in a Zimbabwean context.

The paper will be divided into three sections

Candidates will be required to answer **four** questions of which one will be the compulsory comment question in Section C, where **four** passages must be chosen out of a possible six. They must choose one question from Section A, one question from Section B, and one further question from either Section A or Section B.

Section A will consist of **five** questions on background and general Apostolic Age issues and themes.

Section B will consist of **four** questions on the books prescribed each year for detailed study.

Section C will include the compulsory comment question containing passages for comment selected from the prescribed books.