

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF  
ARTS IN RELIGION

**REST 713: TOPICS ON CHRISTIANITY IN NORTH AFRICA**

***STREAM: MA RELIGIOUS STUDIES***

***TIME: 3 HRS***

***DAY: WEDNESDAY [8.30 A.M-11.30 A.M]***

***DATE: 4/02/2026***

**THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) PAGES**

**PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO.**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Question ONE is compulsory.
2. Answer ANY TWO questions from the remaining FIVE.
3. Each question has two subsections of 10 marks each (except Q1).
4. Write clearly and support your answers with relevant examples.

**QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY – 30 MARKS)**

- a) Explain five major reasons why Christianity grew rapidly in North Africa during the first four centuries. **(10 marks)**
- b) Using examples from the Alexandrian and Carthaginian Churches, discuss how African theologians shaped early Christian doctrine. **(10 marks)**
- c) Evaluate the significance of martyrdom traditions (e.g., Perpetua and Felicity) in strengthening Christian identity and faith in North Africa. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION 2**

- a) Discuss the main contributions of the Catechetical School of Alexandria to global Christian theology. **(10 marks)**
- b) Describe the roles played by Tertullian and Cyprian in developing the theology and structure of the Church in North Africa. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION 3**

- a) Explain the causes of the Donatist controversy and how it affected church unity in North Africa. **(10 marks)**
- b) Critically assess St. Augustine's response to Donatism and its relevance to the modern Church. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION 4**

- a) Describe the rise of monasticism in Egypt, highlighting the contributions of St. Anthony and St. Pachomius. **(10 marks)**
- b) Explain three ways monasticism shaped Christian spirituality in Africa and two ways it still influences Christianity today. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION 5**

- a) Examine the impact of Islamic expansion on Christian communities in Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia between the 7th and 10th centuries. **(10 marks)**
- b) Discuss three factors that allowed some Christian communities (especially the Copts) to survive under Islamic rule. **(10 marks)**

**QUESTION 6**

- a) Outline the major features of Ethiopian and Nubian Christianity, showing their uniqueness in African Christian history. **(10 marks)**
- b) Assess the relevance of Ethiopian Christianity to contemporary African theology and identity. **(10 marks)**