

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
ARTS IN RELIGION**

REST 711: THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH UPTO AD 313

STREAM: M.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES

TIME: 3 HRS

DAY: TUESDAY [8.30A.M.-11.30 A.M] ***DATE: 3/02/2026***

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3) PAGES

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR SAYS SO

Vision: Nurture and Transform for the World

Mission: To Contribute to the World through Education, Research, Training, Consultancy, Innovation, Outreach and Collaboration

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

Answer **FOUR** Questions (Question **One** and **any other** three). Question one is **compulsory**. **All** questions carry **equal** marks. Marks will be awarded for clarity, accuracy and good handwriting.

QUESTION ONE

Examine the contributions of the following to Christian thought:

- a) Justin Martyr (5 marks)
- b) Irenaeus (5 marks)
- c) Tertullian (5 marks)
- d) Origen (5 marks)
- e) Clement of Alexandria (5 marks)

QUESTION TWO

Discuss the main features of Second Temple Judaism and how they shaped the earliest Christian movement (15 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Explain the influence of Hellenistic culture and philosophy on early Christian thought (7.5 marks).
- b) Analyse the political and religious environment of the Roman Empire and its impact on early Christianity (7.5 marks).

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Discuss the role of apostolic preaching and witness in shaping early Christianity (7.5 marks)
- b) Discuss the missionary contributions of Peter and Paul to the expansion of Christianity (7.5 marks).

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Discuss the emergence and roles of bishops, presbyters, and deacons (7.5 marks).
- b) Explain the major factors that influenced the formation of the New Testament canon (7.5 marks).

QUESTION SIX

a) Describe the core teachings of Gnosticism and why it was considered a threat to early Christian orthodoxy **(15 marks).**

or

b) Discuss the rise of Montanism and how the early Church responded **(15 marks).**