

BANK MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

GRAECO-ROMAN HISTORY IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

For each one of the questions below, select a single best answer among the choices provided

- 1. Which one of the following is false regarding the genres of the books of the New Testament**
 - a. Every book of the New Testament is a single genre
 - b. The Gospels contain biography of Jesus
 - c. Acts of the Apostles is considered as a Historical Monograph
 - d. The New Testament Letters contain Apostolic preaching
 - e. The Book Revelation contains Apocalyptic Material

- 2. Which one of these is true about the primary sources of Graeco-Roman history**
 - a. No Aramaic sources exist for the purpose
 - b. Pottery is only of archaeological utility if they are unbroken
 - c. Numismatics deal with study of funerary materials of the time
 - d. Daniel 7 serves as one of Jewish sources
 - e. Archaeological excavations have limited utility for the purpose

- 3. Which one of the following is false regarding how Graeco-Roman Empire served as Fertile Ground for Christianity**
 - a. The Empire resulted in a common language for preaching the Gospel
 - b. Urbanization by the Empire facilitated thriving Christian communities in cities
 - c. Pacification of sea pirates enabled safer travels by Christian evangelists like Paul
 - d. The Romans resisted all new religions from the start
 - e. Roman persecution ultimately led to spread of Christianity

- 4. Which one of the following is true of first century Christianity in regions of the Roman Empire**
 - a. Antioch where the disciples were first named Christians was the capital of Asia Minor
 - b. Paul hailed from the Nabatean province
 - c. Persecution of Christians in Asia Minor was late in the century
 - d. Paul struggled to establish Churches in the Macedonian region

- e. At least four letters were written to churches in Ephesian region

5. Which one of the following is true of the features of Hellenization of Mediterranean World by Alexander the Great

- a. Adoption of Greek names occurred long before the time of Alexander
- b. Jewish familiarity with Greek philosophy, education, literature and rhetoric occurred earlier in Babylonian exiles
- c. Distinctively Greek architectural forms (i.e., stadiums, theatres, agora, gymnasia) only occurred after the Roman invasion of Palestine
- d. Use of imported Greek tableware and cookware by Jews in Palestine
- e. Hellenization tended to be more rural than urban even though

6. Which one of the following is false regarding the Hasmonean (Maccabean) Period

- a. Jewish festival of Hanukkah (“dedication”) had its origin as a commemoration of the victory of the Judas Maccabeus and followers over the Seleucids in 164 BC
- b. Judas Maccabees saw and modelled himself as a new Gideon (Judges 6 - 8) and mixed his military strategizing with intense religious zeal
- c. Hasmonean dynasty ruled as both kings and high priests.
- d. Hasmonean period was marked by major deterioration of the spiritual and moral fibre of the Jews of Palestine
- e. Invasion of Palestine by the Romans in 63BC was preceded by civil war between members of the Hasmonean aristocracy Hasmonean

7. Which one of the following is true regarding Herod the Great

- a. He was originally a Samaritan who came to power through conniving with the Romans
- b. He rebuilt the second Jerusalem Temple
- c. He is remembered as a kind and wise king of the Jews
- d. He divided his kingdom among his six sons after his death
- e. He cleansed Jerusalem of the false idols and their temples

8. Which of the following is false about the Jewish sects of Judaism in first century Palestine

- a. Most Pharisees were from the priestly class
- b. The Pharisees were theologically conservative

- c. The Sadducees were enthusiastic about Hellenization
- d. The Herodians were largely a political class in support of the Herodian dynasty
- e. The Scribes were regarded as experts of the law

9. Which one of the following is false about Roman Imperial Ideology

- a. It represents the beliefs and practices which served to sustain the authority of the Roman emperors.
- b. It was made up of religious, cultural and social elements
- c. It included the Imperial cult.
- d. It gave coherence to the large empire of different tribes and nations
- e. It is of less value in determining the day-to-day experiences of the Christians than studying the life of the Emperor at the time

10. Which one of the following is true regarding Emperor Caesar Augustus

- a. His original name was Gaius Octavius
- b. He was the natural born first son of Julius Caesar
- c. He inherited the title Augustus from his father
- d. He banned the Jews from following their usual customs and traditions
- e. The *Pax Romana* he ushered in inhibited the effective spread of Christianity

11. Which one of the following is false regarding Emperors in the New Testament

- a. Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of senators
- b. Emperor Tiberius' name was given to the Sea of Galilee
- c. Emperor Tiberius was in power at the time of the crucifixion of Jesus
- d. Emperor Caligula was named as the "Comedian" Emperor
- e. Emperor Caligula is explicitly named in the New Testament

12. Which one of the following is true regarding Emperor Claudius and the New Testament

- a. He ordered Jews out of Corinth
- b. He appointed Pilate as governor of Palestine
- c. He came into power after leading assassination of Tiberius
- d. His reign coincided with the famine in Asia recording in Acts
- e. His reign is helpful for dating Paul's letters

13. Regarding Emperor Nero, which one of the following statements is false

- a. He was initially a good emperor
- b. He received Paul's "Appeal to Caesar"
- c. He executed Apostle Peter
- d. It has been disproved that the number 666 (Rev 13:18) does not refer to Nero
- e. Some scholars have identified him with beast of Rev 12, 13 and 17

14. Which one of the following is true about Emperor Titus

- a. He had one of longest reigns among the emperors
- b. He led the successful destruction of Jerusalem while as an Emperor
- c. He reconstructed and restored Rome after the great fire
- d. He opposed the humanitarian efforts to help the survivors of Pompeii
- e. He overthrew his father Vespasian to ascend to the throne

15. Which one of the following is false regarding Roman political institutions in the first century

- a. Senators were from the Patrician class
- b. Praetors served as Judges who administer civil and criminal justice
- c. Senatorial provinces were set up by the will of the Emperor against the Senate
- d. Free Cities like Tarsus had a degree of independence as reward for their loyalty
- e. Few conquered colonies were allowed to be Client Kingdoms e.g., Judea under Herod

16. Which one of the following is true regarding Roman citizenship in first century

- a. Citizenship made all citizens equal
- b. To become a citizen, one must be born to a Roman father
- c. A citizen had the right to sue in the courts
- d. People had to take a practical test in order to be admitted into citizenship
- e. Paul's parents probably paid bribes for their citizenship

17. Which one of the following is false regarding Roman conception of the family

- a. The paterfamilias acted as head of the Roman family with unchallenged authority
- b. Roman family tended to be multigenerational
- c. Each household had their own household gods

- d. Adoption process served as potent metaphor for Christian soteriology
- e. All boys were expected to attend outside rhetorical schools

18. Which one of the following is true regarding first century Roman taxation system

- a. The empire benefited from a simple single-rated taxation system
- b. Tax collectors paid the Roman authorities a percentage of their total collection
- c. Tax collectors hired their own sub-agents and contractors
- d. Import and export customs tax collectors were prohibited from Palestine
- e. Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1-10) was the only named tax collector converted by Jesus

19. Which one of the following is false regarding why the first Christians were persecuted?

- a. Many Christians were drawn from revolutionary movements and so seen as threat
- b. Politicians used Christians as scapegoats to pacify crowds
- c. Christian non-participation in idolatrous social events led to resentment
- d. Conversions led to loss of business by influential people in society
- e. Jews regarded Christians as undermining their exemptions

20. Which one of the following is true regarding the culture of reciprocity among the Romans

- a. Not all cultures in Graeco-Roman world practiced reciprocity
- b. It countered the concept of limited goods in society
- c. It involved duties of hospitality but not the exchange of gifts or debts
- d. Greek reciprocity was of the same public expression and Jewish
- e. It was fundamental to maintaining harmony and order within society

21. Which one of the following is false regarding Patron-Client relationship in first century Mediterranean world

- a. It was an extension of reciprocity
- b. Higher social status people officially and informally acted as patron
- c. A broker was client who provides access as mediator to a patron
- d. Patron protected and provided for the interests of his or her clients
- e. Theophilus was a Patron to Luke (Lk 1:3; Acts 1:1)

22. Which one of the following is true regarding Honour and Shame as cultural values

- a. Honour is attribution of esteem depending on fulfilment of certain expectations
- b. Shame is absent in some cultures
- c. Honour is only acquired whereas shame may be by birth or acquired
- d. Guilt and shame are the same
- e. The first Christians faced shame by society but not honoured

23. Which one of the following is false regarding the use of clothing as metaphor in the New Testament

- a. The believe is encouraged to be clothed with Christ
- b. In the resurrection Christians will not be clothed anew but not with a new body
- c. Christian virtues are to be believers' clothing
- d. Christians are to put on spiritual armour for spiritual warfare
- e. Clothing is employed to underline Christian ethical behaviour

24. Which one of the following is true regarding Graeco-Roman athletics and the New Testament

- a. Religious festivals and celebrations were conducted with sporting activities
- b. Olympic games were specifically dedicated to the god Poseidon
- c. Wrestling is employed as metaphor of Christian discipline but not boxing
- d. The Roman Triumph is surprisingly not employed as metaphor
- e. Foot race is seldom employed as metaphor for Christians

25. Which one of the following is false of Graeco-Roman polytheism in first century

- a. It was a pragmatic religious pluralism that was used to keep the empire
- b. It was associated with divination
- c. They were associated with numinous experiences such as visions and trances
- d. Grassroots polytheism focused on myths and rituals rather than coherent theology
- e. No miracles of healings were performed by idol priests

26. Which one of the following is true regarding eating food offered to idols in the New Testament

- a. It was an isolated problem in ancient Corinth alone
- b. City abattoirs were often situated near idol shrines
- c. The problem in Corinth was related to influence of vegetarian Christians
- d. The meat was regarded as sanctified by all Christians

- e. Christians in Rome were exempt from this issue

27. Which one of the following is false regarding Graeco-Roman Religions and Philosophical Schools

- a. Philosophical schools tended to trace their progeny to a named founder(s)
- b. Membership a school was regarded as philosophical apprenticeship
- c. Philosophers of schools in the same “tradition” agreed on all issues
- d. Schools expressed themselves through religious language, beliefs and practices
- e. Their books serve as gateway for understanding the theological tenets of Graeco-Roman religion

28. Which one of the following is true regarding the Sophists

- a. They are regarded as the final of the Graeco-Roman philosophical traditions
- b. They were hailed as the “celebrities” or “showmen” of the Graeco-Roman world
- c. They refused to charge for their public orations
- d. They were highly regarded by philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle
- e. Paul did not have major issues with the Sophists

29. Which one of the following is false regarding Platonism and the Academy

- a. Plato established the Academy in Athens
- b. Unlike others, the Academy students studied only religion and not mathematics
- c. Platonism taught that God and matter are incompatible
- d. Middle Platonism had a dualistic view of reality
- e. Philo of Alexandria is widely regarded as a Middle Platonist

30. Which one of the following is true of Stoicism and the New Testament

- a. They employed the word “physics” to represent their scientific views
- b. They employed the word “logic” to represent their theology
- c. They hacked a coherent ethical system
- d. Seneca was an influential Stoic during Paul’s time
- e. Stoics did not bother to keep themselves healthy

31. Which one of the following is false regarding Epicureanism and the New Testament

- a. Epicureans believed there is good in anyone and everything (pantheists)
- b. Epicureans did not believe that gods had any interest in human affairs
- c. Unlike other philosophical schools, they admitted women into their fellowships
- d. Epicureans sought after pleasure
- e. The Sadducees are thought to have been heavily influenced by the Epicureans

32. Which one of the following is true regarding Cynicism and the New Testament

- a. Cynicism started in Jerusalem during the Ptolemaic era
- b. Cynicism developed from some breakaway Stoics
- c. Cynics emphasized not speaking freely in public but only when necessary
- d. Cynics were sometimes ridiculed for living like foxes
- e. Cynics advocated self-sufficiency

33. Which one of the following is false regarding the household codes in the New Testament

- a. The code in Eph 5:21–6:9 is the longest and framed by theme of mutual submission
- b. The code in Col 3:18–4:1 is precisely the same as in Eph 5-6
- c. The code in 1 Pet 2:13-3:7 focuses on scenarios where the authority figures were unbelievers who were antagonistic to Christian faith
- d. The code in the Pastoral Epistles is technically Station code as they deal with relationship between the Pastor and various age groups
- e. Scholars are divided on whether the New Testament codes reinforced societal codes or undermined them

34. Which one of the following is true regarding the New Testament Churches and the Jewish Synagogues of their times

- a. All Churches emerged from Synagogues
- b. All doxologies in the New Testament mirror those used in diaspora synagogues
- c. Term was also employed in other settings & churches also employed
- d. The Churches liturgical practices were the same as the Synagogues
- e. Evangelism was only pursued by Christians and not by the synagogues.
- f. Leaders of synagogues bore similar titles as leaders of some local churches

35. Which one of the following is false regarding first century Graeco-Roman *Collegia*

- a. Each collegium dedicated itself to worship only one god.
- b. The building owned by the association or collegium were often in the neighbourhood where members are drawn
- c. They tended to have individuals or families who acted as their Patron
- d. The leaders were responsible for organizing the sacrifices, banquets, dues, collections and convening and chairing meetings
- e. People tended to join for mutual fellowship, networking, and mutual insurance

36. Which one of the following is false regarding the similarities and differences between New Testament Churches and Graeco-Roman Voluntary Associations

- a. Churches were more inclusive whereas associations tended to be selective with membership
- b. Churches demanded exclusive allegiance to Jesus whereas associations were polytheistic and allowed members to pay allegiance to as many gods
- c. Churches actively evangelized and welcomed new members just as Voluntary Association
- d. Churches tended to be more rigorous in the demands for moral and ethical conformity than many associations
- e. First century Christians left legacy of written materials whereas the associations tended to leave epigraphs and inscriptions

37. Which one of the following is true regarding first century Jewish funerary rites

- a. Washing was prohibited in the Preparation of the body
- b. The wrapping of the body employed red clothing made from silk
- c. Only the close family were allowed to process behind the body on the way to burial
- d. Jews forbade cremation except for law breakers
- e. The body was sometimes laid in a cave with the deceased's precious belonging

38. Which one of the following is false regarding why people joined the first century Graeco-Roman military

- a. The army tended to provide stable employment for people
- b. Some foreigners saw long term military service as a pathway to Roman citizenship
- c. Some joined for riches
- d. Some joined for the opportunity to tour various places

- e. It was widely viewed as honourable profession to be a Roman soldier

39. Which one of the following is false regarding the functions of the Roman army

- a. The Army created, expanded and sustained the Roman Empire.
- b. The Army made mobility of goods and people safe throughout empire
- c. The Army enabled collection of taxes, guarded prisoners and did some civil service
- d. The Army built the roads, but left the aqueducts to slaves
- e. The Army did policing and peacekeeping patrol

40. Which one of the following is true regarding categories of references to the Roman army in the New Testament

- a. Soldiers are never referred to on duty
- b. Centurions are prominent the New Testament
- c. Metaphors of Warfare occur in both Old and New Testaments
- d. Metaphors Related to Peace are variations of military metaphors
- e. Metaphors of Military Weapons & Attire also occur

41. Which one of the following is false regarding the New Testament's portrayal of Jesus as Divine Warrior

- a. In Mk 16:9-16 Jesus wanted believers to hold snakes and scorpions which will not hurt them
- b. In Col 2:14-25 Christ is denoted as disarming evil spiritual forces
- c. In Heb 2:14-15 Christ is said to have broken the stranglehold of Satan who held the power of death
- d. In Eph 4:8-10 the resurrected Jesus took many captives
- e. In Rev. 19:11-15 Jesus is depicted as leading the armies of heaven in spiritual war

42. Which one of the following is true regarding cautions when interpreting slavery texts in the Bible

- a. Not all societies practice(d) slavery
- b. Information on Graeco-Roman slavery are unreliable because they were from the elite non-slave circles.
- c. Graeco-Roman Slavery complicated by having wide varieties and ranges.
- d. Household slaves had as much deplorable existence as other slaves

- e. Interpreting slavery texts through the lens of recent Transatlantic Slave Trade is very beneficial

43. Which one of the following is false regarding features of slavery in the Old Testament

- a. Slavery is regulated but not condemned
- b. Israelites were not allowed to own slaves as they were once slaves themselves
- c. Debt slavery was commonest form of slavery in the Old Testament
- d. Some slaves were inherited from parents
- e. Humane treatment of slaves was legally enforced

44. Which one of the following is true regarding the constituent components of Chattel Slavery

- a. Coercion is not necessary for chattel slavery
- b. A key feature is bondage
- c. Social death does not have to occur
- d. Chattel slavery can sometimes be deemed honourable
- e. Natal alienation describes scarification of the slave

45. Which one of the following is false regarding sources of first century Graeco-Roman slaves

- a. Prisoners of war were never treated as slaves
- b. Some slaves were acquired through piracy, kidnapping & brigandage,
- c. Unwanted babies who were exposed were sometimes reared to become slaves
- d. Some law courts condemned people to slavery
- e. A person born to a slave mother was regarded as a slave

46. Which one of following is true regarding “Slave Christology” in the New Testament

- a. Jesus’ Self Characterization as Servant does not qualify
- b. Jesus as the Servant of the Lord is only an Old Testament concept
- c. Jesus’ washing of his disciples’ feet is usually not included
- d. The Christ event is seldom described in such terms
- e. Jesus is sometimes portrayed as specific exemplar to Christian slaves

47. Which one of the following is false regarding the New Testament’s use of slavery terminologies in relation to soteriology

- a. Redemption mirrors the slave's manumission
- b. Adoption may mirror the slave being adopted into the family
- c. Union with Christ mirrors the concept of the slave as extension of their master
- d. Substitution mirrors the concept of the slave being substitute for their master
- e. Redemption also mirrors slave market terminologies

48. Which one of the following is true regarding arguments offered in support of the view that Paul consistently condemned the Roman Empire

- a. Paul never ascribed Imperial Ideological terms to Jesus & His people
- b. Rulers of this age (1 Cor 2:6-8) are identified as Jesus' adversaries
- c. Exalted Christology of Phil 2:5-11 contain anti-Empire connotations
- d. Anti-empire feeling was not that widespread
- e. Christians were persecuted by the Romans only after Paul's death

49. Which one of the following is false regarding the account of conversion of Cornelius in Acts 10-11

- a. Cornelius is the first Roman military officer to be converted
- b. Peter is portrayed as an "Obedient Jonah"
- c. Cornelius' household was converted
- d. Cornelius' response to the preached Gospel mirrors that of Nineveh
- e. Cornelius was from the Italian Cohort of soldiers

50. Which one of the following is true regarding Acts 19

- a. The chapter depicts how Christians avoided encountering magicians
- b. The chapter indicates that some Christians managed to avoid persecution
- c. The chapter depicts that Paul did not have regard for local government politicians
- d. The chapter depicts that Voluntary associations had little influence
- e. The chapter depicts impact of changes in religion in Palestine on Diaspora Jews