

SERVICE IN SOCIETY

Service refers to the act of providing people's needs by a concerned authority. This may be done either by an individual or an organization.

Authority in this case refers to the power entrusted to an individual or organization in an effort to provide the community needs. In short, authority is the power one has because of the official position he or she is holding in the society.

IMPORTANCE OF AUTHORITY IN THE SOCIETY

Authority is an important entity in the day today running of the society. Without it, it may be very difficult to provide the community its needs. This means that for a community to achieve the desired needs or goals, authority should be in place.

It is against such a background that authority becomes a necessity in the society as explained below.

1. Decision making in society is a vital role of authority. This is because not all members of a given community can participate in designing policies governing themselves. representatives are therefore necessary in doing this.
2. Authority helps in creating links between the people and the law. For example, the judiciary interprets the law to the common man. This helps in governing the relationship among members of the society.
3. Authority helps in promoting peace and harmony in the community. This is particularly true where the authority punishes law breakers.
4. Authority helps in effective planning in allocating the scarce resources. Where there may be crisis authority may put special attention aimed at solving such crisis.
5. Authority promotes discipline among members in the society. This is because of the fear of being punished by the concerned authority.
6. Authority protects and guards against violation of human rights. In such cases, the power invested in one individual is used to bring on board the offender and punish them accordingly.
7. Through authority, members of the society are guided towards achieving their desired goals. In other words, authority directs the members towards a positive path in their business undertaking.
8. Authority creates unity and the spirit of togetherness in the society. This is because the members have one common figure to whom they are all accountable. This in the end creates a sense of belonging and identity hence bidding them together.
9. Authority also promotes respect among members of the society in their interpersonal relationship. This especially true if the authority is able to bring all the members together as one.
10. Authority helps in protecting the less fortunate in the community such as the poor, disabled, widows, women and others. The authority in this case would take an affirmative action in uplifting the status of such people.

11. Authority helps in building and developing spiritual life of members in the community. Religious leaders in this case are in the forefront of enriching people's spiritual belief.
12. Authority promotes easy running of the society. In such a situation, the members do follow a particular channel or way of life agreed upon by their representatives.

FORMS OF AUTHORITY.

Because of the nature of our society where people have different goals and visions in life and at different levels, there is also need for various forms of authority to deal with such situations. These are as summarized below.

1. Authority is divine nature if it has spiritual power that is beyond man's understanding. In other words, divine authority is supreme to all authorities and is not questionable by any individual. Among others, authorities from God, diviners and the spirits are the examples of divine authority.
2. Authority is government if it has a common known ruling body running affairs of the society. Government authority can be divided into three organs.
 - The Executive branch composing of the president and the cabinet. This is responsible for administering the policies on which the community's affairs are run. The different ministries carry out their activities where the police, the prison and the army fall.
 - The Legislature or the parliament consisting of people's representatives from different constituencies. This branch of government is responsible for debating bills (written proposals for a new law) and passing the laws to govern the country.
 - The Judiciary branch being responsible for interpreting the country's laws to the genera; public and passing judgment on the lawbreakers.
3. Authority is hereditary if it is acquired or passed from parents to their children. This may follow the death of the parents and it is acquired in accordance to the wills of the deceased parents. A son would acquire this authority in paternal societies and daughters are entitled to this authority in maternal societies.
4. Authority is symbolic if it is derived from respecting particular objects representing some powers. Such objects are known to be sacred or holy and simply call for people's respect. The Bible, the Quran, the constitution, the court of Arm and others are the examples of symbolic authority.
5. Authority is personal if an individual having a distinct knowledge and skills in a given sphere of life possesses it. Authors (writers), rainmakers, fortunetellers, divine healers, herbalists and others are the examples of people having personal authority.
6. Authority is parental if parents possess it over their children in their upbringing. Parental authority can be subdivided into two with;
 - Paternal authority where the family leadership rests entirely on the father and it is the father providing all the family needs.
 - Maternal authority where it is the mother heading the households.

SERVICE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

Specific individuals to whom people must have given them the authority effect the provision of community needs in modern times. Basing on the background, it is important to understand how leadership is obtained nowadays.

WAYS OF ACQUIRING LEADERSHIP (AUTHORITY) TODAY

As already noted above, there are various ways through which people become leaders today. Among others, the following should be taken into consideration.

1. In some societies, leadership is still acquired through right from birth. This is the case in a royal family where kingship is acquired from the father. Among others, Buganda and Bunyoro kingdoms still recognize this aspect in their political organizations.
2. Some people become leaders through elections. In this case, the general population is the one to determine who should become their leader. This is done through casting votes in a democratic institution.
3. In other instance, people become leaders through promotions. Such individuals are always rewarded in the form of promotion due to their hard work. They are given such official positions with the hope that they would even do more than they could have done.
4. Leadership is also acquired simply by virtue of age. In such cases, the old people are given the authority because of their long experiences in life. It is believed that they would use such experiences in guiding, protecting and serving the population.
5. Leadership is acquired through appointment. This is done by someone who is already been given the mandate to choose an individual into a position or a job. In Uganda, the president has the right to appoint ministers, Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) and many others.
6. Some people acquire leadership through their economic and social status. In this case, the rich, highly disciplined and well-behaved individuals are looked up on as pace setters and living examples among the general population. The masses therefore rally behind them because of holding such status.
7. People today become leaders through divine calling or ordination. This is the case with religious leaders such as Pastors, Bishops, priests, sisters and others. These people are believed to have received their positions from God.
8. Leadership is also acquired from inheritance. This is true in family administration where sons or daughters are given the headship from their parents. The parents in this case would have either grown too old or died.
9. Some individuals are using corruption and bribery to become leaders. This is common with public officers. Such individuals may either use public facilities to set up their own firms or give some gifts to the appointing officers to secure a leadership position.
10. Other individuals are using academic qualifications to become leaders. Such individuals are regarded “fit” to hold the official positions because of the knowledge

they have acquired. For example, being the head teacher, an accountant and a lawyer requires an education qualification.

11. Some individuals have become leaders through possessing charisma. Such people are able to influence others because of the special qualities and abilities they have. Among others, musicians, herbalists, rainmakers, fortunetellers, boxers are living examples of charismatic leaders.
12. In other cases, individuals have become leaders by being heroes. Such individuals become leaders after having done something great for the benefit of all members of the community. In Uganda, Yoweri Museveni Kaguta became a president for the first time after his liberation wars (1980-1986) where he fought the government of Dr. Apollo Milton Obote for the alleged rigging of the 1980 election.

THE UNDERSTANDING OF LEADERSHIP TODAY

In a simple term, leadership refers to the position of heading a group of people, a team, an organization or any other undertaking in the society.

In our modern society, different individuals have almost similar knowledge on leadership. Among others, the following are the common thinking people have about leadership.

1. Leadership today is understood as having power to control the affairs of the community. For this matter, a leader is held responsible for all community's undertaking and always consulted before decision is taken. The question of "who gave you the authority?" can best explain this point.
2. To some individuals, leadership is one's commitment in serving the needs of his or her people. People therefore expect leaders to serve the interests of the community.
3. In our modern society, leadership has to be learned. People expect leaders to undergo through some training in order to acquire skills necessary in the execution of duties. This is why qualifications are required in almost all public positions.
4. Leadership nowadays entails being morally upright. To be a leader, the society expects one to have a sounding moral background in regard to his or her behavior.
5. Some people associate leadership with wealth. Majority of people expect a leader to be richer than the subordinate. Besides this, others look at leadership as being the true source of getting rich.
6. The leadership is being regarded as a form of employment but not a service to the society. Such individuals do feel that leadership is simply an occupation for one's own benefit.
7. Some individuals associate leadership with enjoying privileges in the community. This may include respect, having an office, free transport, medical care, accommodation and many others. In such cases, people having high social class have more advantages than other people.
8. There is also a common understanding that leadership should be contested. People expect competition among them before one is officially elected, appointed or promoted to a given position.

9. Leadership is understood as ruling and giving directives to the subordinates. Such people expect leaders to just sit and watch as others are working as instructed.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEADER

A leader is someone who has the power to direct, control, mobilize and guide a group of people or an organization. The following are some of the qualities expected from a leader in carrying his or her given duties.

1. A good leader should be a God-fearing person. Such a person should be able to recognize that God is the giver of all authorities. This plays an important role of guiding one in carrying out his or her duties effectively following God's examples.
2. A good leader is one who is sociable. He or she should be able to mix freely with other people. This puts one in a position to get first-hand information concerning the interests of the subordinates.
3. A good leader should be a person who is impartial when carrying out his or her duties. This means that such a leader should not take side or favour anyone while serving basing on sex, race, tribe age, religion etc. this helps in reducing oppositions.
4. A good leader is one who is approachable. He or she should be able to receive all people irrespective of their social, political, economic and religious status. This creates an avenue for such a leader to know different needs of the subordinate.
5. A good leader should be tolerant. He or she should be able to accept, accommodate and recognize the views, beliefs and cultures of different people. This can help such a person to adjust freely and avoid misunderstandings among the members of the community.
6. A good leader is one who is able to humble himself or herself before the subordinate. Such a person should avoid being proud and putting him or herself above the others. This can help to avoid resistance from the subordinates.
7. A good leader should possess the quality of being patient. Such a person should avoid rushing while making decisions and taking actions. This can help to avoid making many mistakes.
8. A person who is a good leader should be honest. Such a fellow should always stand for the truth and avoid instances that would ruin his or her leadership.
9. A person who is a good leader should also be dedicated. Such persons should be able to work hard and keep his or her commitment towards the same cause.
10. A good leader should have genuine love for the people he or she is serving. Such a person should have the caring attitude towards his or her people. This can help to build and maintain a sense of belonging among the people. This can easily promote peace in the community.
11. A good leader should be a person who is resourceful. Such a person should be able to initiate his or her own ways of dealing with practical problems, threatening the survival of the subordinates.

12. A good leader is also a person who is optimistic (hopeful). Such a fellow should not abandon his or her duties during times of difficulties. He or she should expect that the best could still be achieved in the near future instead of giving up.
13. A good leader should be intelligent. He or she should be able to use his or her wisdom or knowledge in a meaningful way. This is important in solving problems affecting the smooth running of the community.
14. A good leader should be able delegate some of his duties to others at a lower level. This is important because he or she may not be perfect in doing everything.
15. A good leader should be exemplary in both words and actions. This can work as a driving force for other members to follow and behave in the same way. This eventually creates an atmosphere for harmonious living in the community.
16. In the modern times, a good leader should be a person who is educated. A trained leader can serve the society characterized by many tribes, races, religions, cultures etc. in a better way. This is because of the knowledge and the skills acquired.
17. A good leader should also be energetic. This is important for one to carry out the assigned duties effectively.

ROLES OF LEADERS TODAY

Anyone who exercises leadership is expected to play some significant roles in the livelihood of that given community. The roles may differ from individuals to individuals depending on their different nature of leadership. Among others, the following are some of the roles of our modern leaders.

1. Leaders do protect and guard against mistreatment of one party by another. The police and the local councils among others are on the forefront in doing this duty.
2. Leaders also play the role of building and developing the spiritual life of their subordinates. This is a function of the religious leaders such as bishops, priests, pastors, reverends, deacons, sisters and others. Such leaders engage and encourage constant prayers, baptism and bible studies among their subjects. This eventually leads to spiritual growth and maturity.
3. Leaders are also providing employment opportunities to their people. The leaders in this case may appoint and promote people into a job or position. Others are giving out loans, setting projects such that their people are self-employed.
4. Leaders in some circles are playing the role of sustaining families. This is the case with parents who are providing their families with basic needs such as food, clothing, medical care and others.
5. Some leaders are playing the role of upholding and preserving the cultural values of their people. Traditional cultures including circumcision, funeral rites, twin dancing and others have not died because there are people assigned to protect them on behalf of the people.
6. Leaders are also playing the role of providing social services such as education, medical care and others. Building schools, hospitals and others are making this possible.

7. The leaders are playing the role of keeping our environment clean and healthy. This is done through providing facilities such as slashers, containers for garbage and even vehicles for collecting the garbage.
8. Some leaders are acting as lawgivers. Leaders such as parliamentarians who are representing the views of the electorates are actively playing this role. This is aimed at creating an atmosphere for harmonious living.

WEAKNESSES OR FAILURES OF LEADERS TODAY

Some modern leaders have failed to realise the need of serving the interests of their people. In such cases, the leaders tend to put themselves above their subjects, mistreats them and above all, deny them the services they rightfully deserve.

The failures of some leaders therefore include the following;

1. Some of the modern leaders are corrupt. Such leaders tend to use public facilities such as funds, drugs and others to meet their selfish gains. This leaves the general population to suffer.
2. Some leaders impose heavy taxation on their subjects. To make it worse, the method of collection is always cruel and harsh even when one cannot afford to pay. Such taxes leave the people poorer. This renders them helpless to obtain the basic needs in life.
3. Other leaders practice and promote sectarianism, nepotism and tribalism. Such leaders tend to favour one group of people at the expense of the other. This is what is promoting disunity and lack of understanding among the masses.
4. Through engaging in arbitrary arrest of their subjects, some of our modern leaders are failing to play their roles as servants. In such cases, the victims are tortured for no good reasons even to the point of death.
5. In many institutions, leaders are subjecting their subordinates to corporal punishments like terrible beating, carrying heavy work without resting, blind folding. These punishments may cause permanent damage on the victim.
6. Some modern leaders are agents of murder. They may either plan for the killing or get involved in the actual killing. This is a failure because they should have been the ones to protect and preserve human life.
7. In other cases, leaders do instigate civil wars as a means of solving conflicts or disagreements within the community. During such wars, atrocities including raiding, looting property, rape and defilement are committed. This subjects the population to a lot of suffering.
8. Some modern leaders are power hungry. They feel that they are the only ones capable of running the affairs of the community. Such leaders have failed to hand over their positions to others even when they are failing in their administration.
9. Some leaders tend to oppress and exploit their subjects. Employers oppress and exploit their employees through long hours of work with low or little and delayed payments. This is selfishness in serving others.

10. In some families, parents tend to ignore their duties. Children are denied basic needs such as education, medical care and food. This is a failure on the side of the parents to serve their children and the community.
11. Some leaders deny their subjects the right to associate. For example, in political field leaders of some ruling parties are always against any opposition grouping. This means that such leaders are after serving their interests only.

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

The idea of leadership in traditional Africa was an important entity in the life of the community. Leadership was linked to the existence of God. For this reason, leaders were greatly valued and respected among the traditional Africans.

WAYS OF BECOMING A LEADER IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

In traditional Africa, there were known ways through which one could acquire leadership. Among others, the following summarized considerations were important for one to become a leader.

1. Some people became leaders by the right of birth especially in a royal family. In such a situation, the king would pass on his authority to either his first-born son or the nephew (son of his brother).
2. In other cases, people become leaders through heroism. Such individuals must have done something wonderful for the benefit of the rest of the community such as winning war, killing a lion or a leopard that could have attacked a given village.
3. Leadership in traditional Africa was linked to getting aged. Elderly people were considered physically nearer to the spirit world, respected for more experience in life and above all for promoting life. The elders were therefore considered the living wisdom and symbols of continuity with the past.
4. In some community, the marital status of an individual was considered for one to become a leader. In this case, a married man with many disciplined wives and children would stand a greater chance of becoming a leader. It was believed that such a man would use the same administrative skills and knowledge to control the affairs of the society.
5. Some people acquired leadership through a general consensus. A council of elders who would agree on one particular individual during their meetings conducted this process. This council of elders was a body responsible for appointing clan leaders, local chiefs, advisors and ritual leaders. Their decisions were therefore respected and observed by all people.
6. In some given cases, elections were held in choosing a leader. Here, the general population was given the chance to choose a leader of their own interests.
7. Material wealth such as having many cattle, goats, sheep, enough food stuff and land was also important in acquiring leadership in traditional Africa. Such people were believed to be generous and that they would be able to support the subordinates in times of difficulties such as famine and death.

8. Specialists with artistic skills such as black smith, hunter, dancer, magician, diviners and musicians would naturally become leaders in their different fields. Such people were valued and respected for their services being rendered to the community.
9. Some society considered qualities such as strength, courage, uprightness, preserving and protecting traditional community values in choosing leaders. Any individual with such qualities would be elected as a leader to represent the interests of the members.
10. Some individuals became leaders through inheritance. A son for example would be responsible for heading the family upon the death of his father.

WEAKNESSES OF AFRICAN TRADITIONAL LEADERS

In some African past, some leaders were cruel and tyrannical. They had absolute powers. This was the very reason that made the subordinates to serve them with fear. This gave room for the leaders to oppress and exploit their subjects as summarized below.

1. Leaders in the African past were dictatorial. Leaders such as kings and chiefs put themselves above their subjects. Their words were final and not to be questioned by any other known authority.
2. Leaders in traditional Africa were warmongers. Quiet often, they would drag their subjects into inter-tribal wars with the intention of conquering more states. This only served to their selfish ambitions of being regarded as powerful and respected in the society. But this was oppression on the side of the subjects who had to lose their dear lives.
3. Some leaders in African past levied heavy taxes on their subjects. Whoever could fail to fulfill this obligation was regarded as an enemy to that community. The method for tax collection was even very harsh and ruthless.
4. Some traditional African leaders practiced forced labour. This was exploitation because the subjects were pushed to do so against their will.
5. Some leaders in African past claimed the ownership of all property in the community. In Buganda, the king (the kabaka) had full authority over land, cattle and even people's wives.
6. In some community, slavery practices were recognized and officially accepted by the leaders. This was even made worse when the masses looked upon it as being their services to the leaders such as kings and the chiefs. This instead subjected the subordinates to suffering.
7. The traditional African oppressed their subjects through forceful military recruitment. The male youth in particular were made to serve in the army even when they were not interested.
8. Some African traditional leaders engaged in forced marriages. In such cases, leaders like parents would push their children especially the girls to get married because of the desire for wealth such as cows.

SERVICE IN CHURCH HISTORY

The Christian ideal of service and leadership in church history is based on the life and the teaching of Jesus Christ. He is presented as the suffering servant and taught his followers how they had to serve others. When he was about to die, he instructed the apostles to continue with the service he had already started.

SERVICES OF THE APOSTLES

Apostles were the people appointed by Christ to carry out the mission of spreading the good news. They include Matthew, Andrew, Mark, Simon, Peter (Rock), Judas Iscariot, Philip, Jude Taddeo, James, John, Bartholomew, Thomas and Simon the patriot. These men rendered the following services in their communities.

1. The apostles preached the gospel (Acts 8:12 and 19:8). Christ prior to his ascension had instructed the apostles to make all men and women his followers before the Parousia (the second coming of Jesus). This was the reason why the apostles had the duty of preaching the good news. (Matthew 28:16-19).
2. The apostles carried out water baptism. This became symbolical expression for one's acceptance of Christ intended to cleanse one off his or her sins (Acts 19:5-6).
3. The apostles played the role of healing through performing miracles. This saved people from suffering and proved that God was present among them. (Act 5:12-16).
4. The apostles wrote epistles (letters) to the various Christian communities. These included Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus and others. These letters encouraged the Christians in their faith and answered some questions that had puzzled them. Peter, John, James and Paul were among the apostles who wrote theses epistles.
5. The apostles also laid hands on new converts and confirmed many Christians. This helped them to get many soldiers to defend the church (Acts 6:5-6).
6. The apostle carried out charitable work. They distributed food relief to the needy such as the poor, widows and orphans (Acts 6:1-4).
7. The apostles carried out missionary journey to various Christian communities. St. Paul was among the apostles who travelled to far distant places to meet other Christians. Paul went to places like Rome, Corinth and Ephesus.
8. The apostles formulated prayers. For example, the apostles' creed of "I believe in God the Almighty ...". They encouraged believers to constantly engage in saying this prayer. This strengthened the faith and trust of Christians in God.
9. The apostles formed churches in various Christian communities. This was as a result of the ever-increasing number of converts. The apostles there after found it necessary to put up some structures where these converts could gather and pray.
10. The apostles played the role of training leaders to become agents in the spread of Christianity. St. Paul for example trained Timothy and Titus to help in going to other distant places (Acts 16:1-5).
11. The apostles set up catechetical centres in places such as Antioch (Acts 16:1-5). These centres became an avenue through Christians could and share their experiences even when the apostles were not physically present.

12. The apostles carried and encouraged fellowship among the Christian believers. The believers came to the temple and shared their Christian experiences. This gave them more courage and strengthened their faith (Acts 2:42-47).
13. The apostles conducted fund raising for the work of the church. This was carried out during ceremonies. This contributed towards the rapid growth of the church.
14. The apostles shared Holy Communion with the believers. This was done in memory of the Lord's supper.

SERVICES OF THE MISSIONARIES IN AFRICAN CHURCHES

The Christian missionaries were groups of Europeans who came to Africa with the aim of spreading the good news of Christ. They started their activities between the 18th and 19th century. The missionaries rendered the following services in Africa.

1. The missionaries introduced formal education by building schools like St. Mary's college Kisubi, St. Mary's college Namagunga, Kings college Buddo and Namilyango S.S in Uganda and Alliance high School in Kenya.
2. The missionaries preached and spread the gospel of Christ. This was with the aim of bringing salvation to Africans who were regarded to be in "darkness" spiritually.
3. The missionaries introduced modern transport and communication network in Africa. They constructed roads and even supported the construction of some railway lines like the Uganda railway.
4. The missionaries introduced cash crops such as coffee, cotton and tea. This improved the standards of living of the Africans.
5. The missionaries trained Africans skills in life such as carpentry and building.
6. The missionaries stopped the evil of slavery and slave trade. This brought to end the long-term suffering such as famine, family breakages, death etc. inflicted upon the Africans.
7. The missionaries up lifted the status of Africans women. They preached equality between men and women as opposed to a situation where the men were considered superior.
8. The missionaries introduced new languages in African including English, French, Germans and others. This eased communication among the Africans themselves who could understand each other because of the many tribes having different languages.
9. The missionaries built churches including Namirembe and Rubaga cathedrals. This centralized worshiping among the Africans as opposed to the existence of many shrines.
10. The missionaries improved the health status of Africans by constructing hospitals including Mengo, Rubaga, Nsambya (all in Kampala) and St. Mary's hospital Lacor in Gulu.
11. The missionaries brought new methods of farming by introducing facilities like tractors, hoes and even the idea of crop rotation.

PROBLEMS THE MISSIONARIES FACED IN RENDERING SERVICES TO AFRICAN CHURCHES

1. There was poor transport and communication network. This was because Africa had no proper roads and was covered by tall grasses and thick forests that were impenetrable.
2. There was also language barrier. Both the missionaries and the Africans could not understand each other's language. The missionaries were forced to train interpreters but this caused delay in their work.
3. The missionaries faced the problem of tropical diseases such as malaria, small pox and jiggers. This claimed the lives of so many and forced some missionaries to go back to home countries.
4. The missionaries had inter-religious conflicts. They clashed basing on religious denominations and with other religions. For example, in Buganda, the Protestants and the Catholics fought in settling their differences.
5. Hostile tribes including the Nandi and the Masai of Kenya often attacked the missionaries. These tribes looted property and even killed some missionaries.
6. Besides, there were also wild animals like the lions that killed so many missionaries at Tsavo in Kenya.
7. The African climate was too harsh to the missionaries. Whereas there was heavy rainfall in some places, other places were too dry and hot.
8. There was inadequate manpower. The missionaries were too few compared to the vast areas of Africa they had to serve.
9. There was also inadequate funding from their home countries. This blocked the missionaries from delivering some services that needed funds.
10. The inter-tribal wars prevented the missionaries from rendering their services effectively. because of this, there was no unity among the Africans themselves. This made it difficult for the missionaries to forge unity.

GREAT PERSONALITIES WHO SERVED AFRICAN CHURCHES

1. St. Francis of Assisi.

- He was one of the greatest church reformers.
- His followers were called Friars (brothers). They were not to live in fine buildings but simple houses like the ordinary poor.
- He called his followers back to a fresh understanding of the vow of poverty. This was when they had started living luxurious lives.
- He inspired other people to follow his exemplary life.
- He lived a self-denial life and was always joyful because of being poor.
- He spread the gospel as started by Christ more especially among the Monks and the Nuns.
- He wrote down some rules of life to guide his followers in his many Christian literatures.

- He encouraged education and learning among the poor and even taught in many universities.

2. Bishop Shanahan of southern Nigeria

- He was an Irish man who arrived in southern Nigeria in 1902.
- Three years later, he was in charge of the Catholic church among the Ibo where he preached the gospel of Christ.
- He encouraged education of children in schools by emphasizing that education was very valuable.
- He travelled hundreds of miles visiting towns, chiefs and seeing schools.
- He conducted catechism classes for both adult and children beginning from 1912.
- He advocated for equality between men and women. He did this by giving special instructions to sisters to train women some skills in life.
- He ordained the first Ibo Catholic priest in the help spread of the gospel.
- He made parents take school leadership through involving them in the committees.
- He encouraged Africans to preserve their good cultures and even called for reforms where necessary.
- He was a good organizer who travelled hundreds of miles visiting towns, chiefs and seeing the schools were progressing.

3. Arthur Sherley Cripps of Rhodesia

- He was an Anglican missionary in Rhodesia (today's Zimbabwe) from 1901 until his death in 1953.
- He lived a self-denial and exemplary life by practicing poverty.
- He campaigned for African's rights helping them retain their land that was being given to the white fathers.
- He was a poet and a writer. He wrote many literatures explaining and interpreting biblical teachings in the missions where he worked.
- As a parish priest, he preached the good news among the people.
- He genuinely contributed money to run the mission on which he worked.
- He never discriminated between the blacks and the whites, but treated them equally.
- He made missionary journeys travelling on foot to different places he preached the good news.

4. Brother Toby Kiiza of Uganda

- He was born in 1872 and was baptized by the white fathers in 1890.
- He was later trained as a Catholic brother in Algeria and returned to Uganda in 1896.
- He founded many missions in many parts of Uganda where he could preach the gospel.

- He did and trained many people with vocational skills such as carpentry and masonry.
- He showed concern and helped the sick. This was what earned him admiration from all people especially the sick.
- He lived exemplary life and never put himself above others e.g. he sat at the back of the lorry while travelling to Rwera.
- He died at the age of 89 in 1961.

5. Reverend Ezekiel Apindi of Kenya

- Apindi was born of wealthy parents in 1885 in western Kenya.
- He became a Christian in 1905 while working in Nairobi and Mombasa.
- He returned home in 1913 where he started preaching the good news and converting his people.
- He later became a member of a delegation chosen to voice the grievances of Africans about colonial rule in London.
- He founded schools and missions in places including Mara in Tanzania and was a teacher in these schools.
- He was ordained as a reverend and became the rural dean of Kisumu. This is where he founded the union school for children of all religions.
- He lived a prayerful life and encouraged his followers to do the same.

THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING ON SERVICE

The biblical writers of the Old Testament explained God's authority over creatures. Man is presented struggling to understand the nature of God's authority in relation to their co-existence with one another and with God.

The Old Testament teaches the following on authority.

1. God's authority is acknowledged as supreme. This means that no any other authority is above. This means that God is the complete master of all situations.
2. God's authority is creative. God used his authority to create the world, man and other creatures with love (Genesis 1:1ff).
3. God freely entrusted man with a share in His life-giving authority (Genesis 1:26-31, 2:8-15). God called on man to be a co-creator in exercising this authority and work to bring out the best in early beings.
4. Rejection of God's authority brings trouble to man. Adam and Eve rejected God's command of controlling the earth but ended up suffering. (Genesis 3:1ff).
5. God hates the misuse of authority. In Genesis 4:1 ff, God punished Cain for killing his brother Abel. Even the builders of the tower of babel were punished for their lack of faith in God and false wisdom in using authority (Genesis 11:1ff). in 1 Samuel 15:22, God rejected the leadership of Saul as a king of the Israelites because of misusing authority.

6. God gives authority to man to serve his own needs and the needs of the human community. For example, God commanded Moses to go and liberate the Israelites from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 3:9-10).
7. God's authority is saving. Among others, God used his authority to save the Israelites from the bondage of the Egyptian slavery (Exodus 6:11, 9:27).
8. God's authority is protective. God protected Abraham and his wife Sarah and the Israelites while moving to the promised land (Exodus 23:20ff).
9. People are called to praise God's supreme authority and thank Him for the wonderful things in the world. God did all these for man's benefits (Psalm 136:1ff).
10. God in the Old Testament is presented reminding people about His authority through the prophets such as Jeremiah, Amos, and Isaiah. These were in cases where the Israelites could have gone astray like worshipping idols.

MISUSE OF AUTHORITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

God from the very beginning had shown His willingness to serve the needs of man through His authority. God had also given man a share of authority as co-creators. Unfortunately, man overlooked and neglected the true purpose and instead registered failures. Such instances are as summarized below;

1. In Genesis 3:1ff, man failed to perform the duties of controlling the creation and conquering it as God had instructed. In this biblical text, Adam and Eve are said to have eaten the forbidden fruit. This failure in using authority was sin that consequently led to their suffering.
2. The story of Cain and Abel is an example of a man misusing power. (Genesis 4:1ff). Cain killed his brother Abel for his selfish needs but this was an injury to the needs of human community.
3. The builders of the tower of Babel also failed to acknowledge God's authority. They used their false wisdom based on greediness to begin a building programme that would reach God. (Genesis 11:1ff). This explains why God punished them by mixing their languages and destroying the tower itself.
4. The drunkenness of Noah that resulted in him cursing one of his sons appears to be a misuse of power. Noah would have used his authority to serve the needs of his family but he chose to make his son suffer following the curse. (Genesis 9:20-27).
5. The enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt was authority. The Pharaoh subjected the Israelites to heavy work in fulfilling his political ambition of building his new great capital. He could not allow their departure even if God had intervened because he would lose his man power. (Exodus 1:9-15, 5:1ff).
6. There was forced labour during the time of kings. Among others, King Solomon subjected his people to forced labour in promoting his building programme. This was not so different from the slavery situation in Egypt that was against. (1 Kings 5:13-18).

7. Some leaders among the Israelites committed murder. Among others, king David was behind the death of Uriah who was his faithful soldier (2 Samuel 11:14-17). King Ahab was also responsible for the murder of Naboth (1 Kings 21:1ff).
8. The various kings of the Israelites over taxed their people. King Solomon taxed the Israelites in such a way that the rich became richer and the poor became poorer.
9. The two sons of Eli misused their position as sons of the priest. Through their greediness, they ate God's sacrifices and even slept with women at God's alters. (1 Samuel 2:12-17).
10. The demand for the physical king by the Israelites was a misuse of authority. God had given them freedom to the Israelites as the Holy people. Instead, they misused this freedom and rejected him asking for a king they could see (1 Samuel 8:1-10).

SERVICES OF MOSES TO THE ISRAELITES

Moses received his call from God through the burning bush event. God later commissioned him to go and lead the Israelites out of their Egyptian slavery (Exodus 3:1ff). his services included the following;

1. Moses liberated the Israelites from the Egyptian slavery where they had been suffering for quite a long period of time (Exodus 12:40-41).
2. Moses recruited people for military services. He physically led his soldiers into battlefields in fighting the Canaanites and the Amalekites while on their way to the promised land (Numbers 1:22ff and Exodus 17:8ff).
3. Moses settled disputes among the Israelites over various issues. This maintained peace and harmony among the Israelites (Exodus 18:13-16).
4. Moses performed miracles on behalf of the Israelites. For example, he announced plagues in Egypt and dividing of water at the Red sea. These miracles were performed for the benefits of the Israelites (Exodus 7-11, 13:21-22).
5. Moses called the Israelites back to God. For example, he called the Israelites back to God when they had made a golden calf to be worshipped instead of God. (Exodus 32:1ff).
6. Moses prayed on behalf of the Israelites both in times of peace and difficulties. In Exodus 32:11-14, Moses prayed to God not to punish the Israelites for their sin of worshiping the golden calf.
7. Moses received the God's commandment (laws) on behalf of the Israelites. He later on passed on these laws to the Israelites in order to guard their relationship with God and among themselves. (Exodus 19-20).
8. Moses offered sacrifices to God on behalf of the Israelites. This helped the Israelites to realize God's presence among them (Leviticus 9:1ff).
9. Moses mediated between God and the Israelites. It was Moses who went to the Pharaoh of Egypt to announce the release of the Israelites (Exodus 4:21). God also gave his laws to the Israelites through Moses.
10. Moses prophesized on behalf of the Israelites. He had visions and guided the Israelites from the time of liberation up to when he died.

QUALITIES OF MOSES AS A LEADER

1. Moses was a courageous leader. For example, he did not fear to go back to Egypt yet he had killed the Egyptian slave master before taking refuge at Midian. (Exodus 4:18-20). He also led the Israelites into the battle fields when attacking the Amalekites and even showed courage before crossing the Red sea and did not fear when the Egyptian soldiers were pursuing them. (Exodus 14:13).
2. Moses was God-fearing. He obeyed all the instructions God had given him like going back to Egypt to deliver the Israelites from the slavery (Exodus 17:5-6ff).
3. Moses was a tolerant leader. For example, he tolerated the behavior of the Israelites who had gone astray and worshipped other gods (Exodus 32:1ff).
4. Moses was a patient leader. He could wait for the Lord to act during both peace and difficulties. For example, he showed patience during the liberation of the Israelites from the Egyptian slavery. When the Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites, he waited for God to do His part. (Exodus 5:1ff).
5. Moses was an optimistic (hopeful) leader. He never gave up in difficult situations. For example, when crossing the Red sea, he did not give up ye the Egyptian soldiers were pursuing them (Exodus 14:13).
6. Moses as a leader was approachable. He was always there to be consulted by the Israelites. For example, the Israelites approached him when they wanted water (Exodus 17:1ff).
7. Moses was a good leader. For example, he listened to the Israelites when they wanted food and prayed to God responded positively and gave food in the form of manna and quails (Exodus 16:1ff).
8. Moses was a dedicated leader. He whole-heartedly served the Israelites right from liberation up to the time he died.
9. Moses had genuine love for his people. For example, killed the Egyptian slave master who was beating the Hebrew (Exodus 2:11-12).
10. Moses was an intelligent leader. He used his intelligence to settle disputes among the Israelites and left both parties satisfied (Exodus 18:13-14).
11. Moses was a unifying factor among the Israelites. During the course of their movement to the promised land, he rallied all the Israelites behind him.
12. Moses was also non-discriminative. He served all the Israelites equally without favoring any.

SERVICES OF KING DAVID TO THE ISRAELITES

King David was the youngest son of Jesse who became the second king of Israel. He took over from Saul (Israel's first king) whom God had rejected for the blunders he made during his administration.

During his reign, king David offered various services to the Israelites. These include the following;

1. David's greatest service was his defeat and killing of giant Goliath. This was because Goliath had become a threat to the Israelites that not even king Saul could stand up against him. But, David though at a tender age eliminated this giant using a stone. (1 Samuel 17:48-51).
2. David also promoted unity in Israel. He made the tribes of the South and the North to recognize him as their only king yet they divided during the time of king Saul. (2 Samuel 5:1-3).
3. David promoted religion among the Israelites. This was in his efforts to rule his people with God's assistance. He did this by centralizing worship at Jerusalem as opposed to the existence of various worshipping places like Gilgal and Bethel among others.
4. David captured Jerusalem from the philistine through his various military victories. He later established Jerusalem as the capital city (David's city) of Israel (2 Samuel 5:6ff). this greatly contributed to the growth and prosperity of Jerusalem as a city.
5. David promoted diplomatic relations with the neighboring countries like Egypt and Tyra. This became an important service because Israel had been involved in wars with its neighbors. This brought stability and peace. (2 Samuel 5:11-12).
6. David brought back the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem from the philistines after a long period of absence. The absence ark of covenant which was captured during wars implied that God of Israel had been hijacked and the covenant relationship broken. Its return was therefore a restoration of the covenant relationship. (2 Samuel 6:1ff).
7. King David also promoted music among the Israelites. He used to entertain king Saul in his palace and also went ahead to compose the Psalms.
8. King David expanded the boundaries of the kingdom of Israel. This was through military defeats, where he was able to annex the conquered territories on to Israel.
9. King David built and maintained a strong standing army. This army maintained peace and stability in the kingdom.
10. King David was a repentant king. This opposed the character of king Saul who could feel sorry after committing an offense. For example, when David committed the double sins (the sin of adultery and murder), he repented and even fasted. He also begged for after carrying out an illegal census aimed at military conscription. (2 Samuel 24:10).

11. Kind David promoted the spirit of forgiveness among the Israelites. David forgave his enemy Saul who had many occasions wanted to kill him. This was an inspiration to his followers (1 Samuel 24:1ff and 26:1ff).
12. King David also promoted justice during his reign. As a servant, David made sure that all cases were judged fairly following the covenant law (2 Samuel 8:15, 9:1ff).
13. David is credited for having brought a plan of building a temple for God in Jerusalem. This was to be a palace for worshiping and keeping the ark of the covenant after securing it from the Philistines. (2 Samuel 7:1-4).

FAILURES OF KING DAVID AS A LEADER

Despite the above services, David's reign like any other leader had mistakes. His reign developed black spots and came to a tragic turn point. This made him to fail in delivering services to the Israelites. David's failures include the following;

1. David committed adultery with Bathsheba who was a wife of Uriah, his faithful soldier. (2 Samuel 11:4-5). By doing this, David violated the covenant law, which was against adultery (Exodus 20:14).
2. David also committed murder. First, under disguise of revenge David killed the wives of Saul. At a later stage, David personally plotted for the murder of Uriah at the battle field for his failure to come back home and have time with his wife Bathsheba whom he had already impregnated (2 Samuel 1:14-17). This was also violation of law, which was against murder (Exodus 20:13).
3. David introduced forced labour as he embarked on his building programme. This was a doctorial practice that was not different from those slavery situations in Egypt, which God denounced through Moses.
4. King David married a number of foreign wives who came into Israel with their own cultures, ideas and religion. Because of this, David failed to control his family. There were cases of incest (2 Samuel 13:1ff), rape and murder in David's family (2 Samuel 13:29). Above all the Israelites were not to marry from external nation.
5. David also became tribalistic with his decentralization policy. He delegated powers to only his tribe mates. This eventually brought instability to the whole of Israel.
6. King David carried out illegal census without consulting God. This census had a bad motive because it aimed at knowing the number of people whom David would exploit through taxation and forced labour (2 Samuel 24:1ff).
7. In his last year of reign, David embarked on forceful military recruitment. This caused wide spread resentment in the whole kingdom. Even prophets including Nathan stood up and condemned such a practice.
8. David also levied taxation on his people. This was aimed at fulfilling his selfish ambitions of building programmes.

THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON AUTHORITY

The coming of Jesus Christ into being was a manifestation of God's authority in work as prophesied in Isaiah 11:1-12. He is presented as a good shepherd as foretold by prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 34:11).

The New Testament therefore teaches the following about authority:

1. Authority in the New Testament is meant to reconcile man with each other and lead them to the almighty father (John 10:16). In this text, Jesus is presented as having come to reconcile people but not the Jews only. This is later fulfilled through His death that brought salvation to mankind.
2. According to the new Testament, authority means service and leading by example (John 13:5). Here Jesus bent so low and performed tasks usually done by slaves. For example, he washed the feet of his disciples.
3. Leaders according to Jesus Christ are to perform their duties even in times of difficulties. (John 10:11-13). He emphasized the need for leaders to lay down their lives and suffer just for the sake of their people. For example, at the time of His crucifixion, Jesus did not give up because he knew he had come to serve.
4. Jesus emphasized that authority is meant liberate man from the bondage of sins (John 10:7-10). This text presents Jesus having the authority to liberate man from the power of sins. Through Him men received purification and were forgiven.
5. Authority according to Jesus is meant to protect, sustain and guide others. In John 10:11, Jesus is presented as a good shepherd foretold by Ezekiel and being ready to sacrifice himself just for the sake of helping mankind.
6. Jesus emphasized that the greatest in the heavenly kingdom is one who is a servant to everyone. (Mark 10:43-44). He points out that this is the only way of being known in the father's kingdom.
7. Authority according to Jesus means being able to forgive and clean the life of any repentant sinner. For example, he forgave his betrayer Judas Iscariot and even those who crucified Him.
8. According to Jesus, authority is having love for each other. (John 13:1). His suffering and death was a proof that his authority was basically service with love.
9. According to Jesus, serving one another goes beyond mere observance of petty regulations. He emphasized that the laws are there to serve the needs of man. (Luke 6:1-10).
10. Jesus showed the need for leaders to overcome temptation in serving the needs of others (Matthew 4:1-11), Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13). This is a call for those in official positions to use their authority for the enrichment and liberation of men.
11. Jesus taught that authority is carrying the burdens of others. In Mark 10:38-40, Jesus is presented using his authority to share the suffering of his people in building the heavenly kingdom.

12. Jesus commemorated the feast of the Passover (Sabbath day). This was an act of his authority at work in saving his people. He chooses this occasion to demonstrate how his followers must be ready to serve others (John 13:1ff).
13. Jesus delegated the share of his authority to his disciples as servants of the word of God (2 Corinthians 10:8). The apostles came to realise that the gift each member had in the community had to be used for the service of the whole community (Ephesians 4:11-13).

How did Jesus prove His servanthood during His ministry?

- Performed miracles like changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana.
- Fed His followers like the 4000 and 5000 people respectively.
- Defended the weak like the woman caught in adultery.
- Wept when he fore saw the destruction of the Jerusalem city.
- Preached the good news of salvation.
- Identified Himself with His followers.
- He knew His followers by names.
- Washed the feet of His disciples.
- Looked for sinners and forgave them.
- Endured the pain of being beaten for sins of His followers.
- Associated with everyone.
- Challenged the Jewish about their legalistic attitude.
- Forgave those who were against Him.
- Resisted temptation by the satan.
- Gave up His life on the cross in order to bring salvation to mankind.
- He sent the holy spirit to His disciples as He had promised.

LOYALTY TO SOCIETY

Loyalty refers to the quality of being faithful to one's commitment in life. In other words, loyalty means strong feeling one has in support of another or something.

Loyalty demands one to be truthful, devoted and to have the love and the obligation to obey that state of allegiance where one is showing the commitment.

TYPES OF LOYALTY

There are various types of loyalty. This depends on the individual and the dimension of life such as family or clans, clubs, marriages and nations. Loyalty may therefore fall under the following categories;

1. Devine loyalty.

This refers to the commitment one has towards his or her religion. In other words, it is the commitment one has in seeking for the understanding of God through the different beliefs such as Christianity, Islam and others.

2. Cultural loyalty.

This is one's commitment to his or her cultural values and norms. Being obedient to a given way of life in a given society shows this kind of commitment. It depends on the clan, language, customs and the tribe.

3. Social loyalty.

This is a commitment one has to his or her responsibilities in life. It may be work, leisure and education among others.

4. Group loyalty.

This is one's commitment to a given group of people having the same interests for the benefits of all such as parents and their children to families, leaders to their subjects and others. It concerns the life of an individual in relation to another.

5. Personal loyalty.

This is one's commitment to another for peaceful and harmonious living. Such a commitment and faithfulness may include husband and wife, parents and children and others.

LOYALTY IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

The concept to loyalty does not differ much from what used to be in the traditional Africa. People have commitments and acts upon them for different purposes depending on their needs. Loyalty is therefore being expressed in different ways including the following;

1. People today are loyal to their different religions. This is done in search for a deeper understanding of God through constant prayers, repentance and bible study among others.
2. Parents today are showing loyalty to their children. They provide them with the basic needs such as food, shelter and education among others.
3. Different individuals are committed to their jobs. They serve the community in different ways as teachers, doctors, engineers, nurses, lawyers and others.

4. Children also express their loyalty to their parents. They respect, love, listen and support them in any possible ways like cooking food, buying food, clothes, cleaning the compound and others.
5. People are loyal to formal education. Many schools, colleges and universities are being opened with many people joining them. This is in search of enough skills and knowledge and a way of fighting illiteracy in the school.
6. Up to date, people are still loyal to their cultures. They respect and observe the customs, norms and the rituals. These cultural aspects are a way of creating the sense of belonging and identity.
7. Quite a great number of people are loyal to leisure activities such as playing and watching football, netball, attending parties, dancing and others. These activities are important in refreshing one's mind and creating good relationship among people.
8. People today are loyal to their leaders. They respect and follow their leadership obediently. Such leaders may include the president, chiefs, kings, local councils and others.
9. Some couples are loyal to their marriages. They love, respect and accept their status as husbands and wives as a way of keeping their marital vows.

DISLOYALTIES IN UGANDA TODAY

Disloyalty refers to a situation where an individual fails to give support to his or her friends, family or country. In such a case one is not committed and is unfaithful to the welfare of others. Such cases include the following;

1. There is an increasing level of corruption today. This is disloyalty because the individual uses public facilities for his or her gains leaving the rest of the population to suffer.
2. Some married couples are disloyal by engaging in adultery. This is lack of faithfulness and commitment to the marital vows, which are against the couples having sexual intercourse outside the marriage circle.
3. Some youth despise their cultures. They argue that such cultures are outdated in the preference for the western cultures. This has left most youth out of touch with their true identities.
4. The various cases of mob justice are a disloyalty. The victims of mob justice are at times punished innocently. This is also lack of commitment in following the right course of judicial system.
5. Rape is also a disloyalty common today. In such cases, the consent of the victim is not sought, but one chooses to use force in order to achieve sexual satisfaction.
6. Abortion is another example of disloyalty today. In such a case, the expectant mother deliberately removes the unborn child from the womb before it is capable of independent living. This denies such a child the right to live. It is also a sin before God.

7. Some parents have always been disloyal to their children by abusing their rights. Children under this category are denied education, medical care and clothing and at times subjected to child labour. This affects the growth of children negatively.
8. Defilement is an example of disloyalty. This is disrespect to the victim who is not yet ready for sexual intercourse.
9. The oppression and exploitation of women today shows lack of commitment in life. Women are continuously beaten, divorced, looked at as sex objects and are subjected to all sorts of tortures. This is a failure to recognize that all human beings are created in God's image and therefore equal.
10. Some individuals are disloyal by carrying out strikes as a way of solving disagreement. These strikes common in institutions and different premises of work indicate that individual are not faithful to the rules and regulations governing them.
11. Carrying out arbitrary arrest is an example of disloyalty in life. In such a case, the victim may be detained without having committed any crime. This is therefore lack of commitment in serving others.

CONFLICTING LOYALTY

Conflicting loyalty refers to a situation where an individual is faced with two or more contrasting areas where to show commitment. This makes it difficult for one to make a choice in the process of showing loyalty. For Christians, such conflicts in loyalty may include the following;

1. Loyalty to one's job besides God. Man is always pre-occupied with work because of the need for survival. But a Christian should also spare some time for God.
2. It is difficult to pay loyalty to God in times of difficulties or tragedies such as death, earthquakes, accidents and wars. In such cases, Christians tend to question where God is for them or against them.
3. A Christian would face conflicting loyalty when it comes to choosing between his or her families and the public service. Some jobs which are highly paid keeps the parents away from home and yet the children need parental guidance.
4. A Christian judge would face conflicting loyalty when it comes to passing death sentence. As a Christian, no one is to pronounce judgement on the other hand yet he or she should execute the duty if he or she is to abide by the country's laws.
5. African Christian couples face conflicting loyalty in case of childlessness in marriage. For each partner, it becomes difficult to choose between being loyal to the marriage vows or doing without it to get children.
6. African Christians also face conflicting loyalty in reconciling the cultural rituals and the Christian faith. It is important for Africans to observe these rituals representing their origins. But at the same time observe the Christian faith that unfortunately do not agree with each other.
7. Christians face conflict in loyalty when someone has caused pain on him or her or their relatives. In this case, it becomes difficult for a Christian to choose between revenge and forgiveness.

8. Christians can also experience conflict in loyalty when looking for jobs. Which are nowadays associated with bribery, witchcraft and sexual exchange. In such a case, a Christian is to choose to remain loyal to God and being jobless.
9. Christians of nowadays are facing conflict in loyalty whether to engage in political activities fully or concentrate on the pastoral service only. In politics, there are injustices, which demand the Christians to condemn, but such activities are again divisive in nature.
10. Christians working under corrupt bosses are always faced with conflict in loyalty. In such a case, a Christian must choose between doing what he or she is told by the boss like telling lies, such that he or she retains the job or remain loyal to God and losses the job.
11. Some Christians because of their academic knowledge and technology question the existence of God. Such a Christian feels that he or she is capable of answering questions that defeat others and therefore sees no need of God. At the same time, some forces of nature including death and others may defeat him or her.

CAUSES OF CONFLICTING LOYALTY

A number of factors are responsible for the existing cases of conflict in loyalty today. In such cases, one is caught up between two or more contrasting and interesting aspects of life occurring at the same time with each the good and the bad sides. This makes it difficult for an individual to take a stand because of the fear losing on the other side. The causes of such conflict in loyalty include the following;

1. Some loyalties today require a lot of time than others. For example, parents working in public offices always busy from morning to sunset because they need money to sustain the family. This is done at the expense of the family members who are not attended to. This makes it difficult for one to divide time equally.
2. There are too many areas that call for people's loyalty today. This include one's culture, family, job, leisure and religion. To make it worse, such loyalties call for one's attention almost at the same time. One is therefore placed in a situation where he or she cannot make a proper choice.
3. Conflict in loyalty is caused by the existence of African cultures besides western cultures. Some consider African cultures as outdated, but the others still emphasize the need for observing them. This leaves an individual in a state of confusion making it difficult for one to choose.
4. Bad examples shown by the leaders are also causing conflicting loyalty. Tis may include parents, priests or pastors and others. This is made when leaders behave contrary to their words. This ends up confusing the followers as to which way to take.
5. Economic hardships more especially poverty amidst the need of survival is also responsible for conflict in loyalty today. One may be disloyal by engaging in corruption, strikes and robbery because one wants to survive. This means that if one

- is to be loyal, one must suffer. If one were to be disloyal, one would save himself or herself from suffering.
6. Too much permissiveness is another factor causing conflicting loyalty. In this case, having too much freedom of doing whatever one wants may make an individual loose track and fail to comply with the various commitments.
 7. The existing generation gap today has ended up causing conflicting loyalty. This is particularly true with the youth having the feeling that the ideas or ways of life in the olden days are outdated and yet they have to follow them if they are to show commitment to their elders.
 8. The influence of the peers can also cause conflict in loyalty. This is especially true in cases where the group mates give advices different from what is required by the rest of the community. In such a case, one is confused whether to follow the ideas of the peers or remain loyal to the demands of the community and loses the company of his or her peers.
 9. Being in contact with different people having different ideas or views in life causes conflicting loyalty. The various ideas may confuse an individual to a point where he or she can fail to take side.
 10. Modern education is also causing conflicting loyalty. The education is creating social class of the literates and the illiterates. The education system also tends to detach people from the reality on ground. This contributes to the failure of people to show faithfulness to one another.
 11. Conflicting loyalty is being brought by the different goals and visions people have in life. For example, parent who is a doctor may force his or her child to take science subjects, yet such a child has the vision of becoming a lawyer. This ends up confusing the child who must obey the parent at the expense of his or her ambition.
 12. Lack of religious morals or teachings is another factor responsible for conflicting loyalty. Religion teachings such as patience, hope, prayers, calmness, respect for one self and others are not always put into practice. Because of this, people tend to lose their senses and fail to act on their various commitment in life.

SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICTING LOYALTY

The conflicts in oneself created by different disloyalties in life can be solved in the following ways;

1. One should have respect for oneself, others and above all respect for the society values.
2. One should seek and accept advice from other members of the community.
3. One should be guided by a well-informed and developed conscience that is based on values and principles.
4. One should first be faithful to oneself so as to avoid getting confused.
5. One should go for counselling and guidance such that he or she is given sense of direction.
6. One should constantly pray to God. With God everything is possible.

7. One should be patient in his or her daily activities. This puts one in a position accepting things as they are.
8. One should have the spirit of tolerance or perseverance in dealing with any situation.
9. One should obey his or her self-conscious and stick to what he or she believes is right.
10. One should control his or her speeches while relating with others. This helps in avoiding making statements that are contradictory.
11. One should have the heart of forgiveness. Even if some wrong has been done onto him or her, one must be able to reconcile.

AFRICAN TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE TO LOYALTY

1. Loyalty in traditional Africa meant having a sense of duty, being eager and ready to defend one's community. Each individual was expected to respond positively and fulfil his or her legal duties.
2. Loyalty to the traditional Africans meant being faithful, trustworthy and dependable. This was reflected in the communal way where each individual had to rely on one another in the daily life activities.
3. Loyalty in traditional Africa was understood as taking the side of another member in dispute even if it involved suffering and hardship. This meant that even when one had committed an offense, he or she had to be supported through revenging on the wrong done to him or her.
4. To the traditional Africans, loyalty meant sharing all the obligations (moral or legal duty to do something) and privileges of the group. They had to help one another in an effort to realise peaceful living.
5. Loyalty in traditional Africa was used in the context of one's group like the family, clan or wider community. Individuals had to show total submission, faithfulness and commitment to all the affairs of the group without fear.
6. Loyalty in African traditional was understood as having respect for one's leaders. Leaders were regarded to be God's representatives on earth. This demanded their absolute loyalty.
7. Loyalty in traditional Africa meant keeping the agreement such as blood pact. Breaking an oath (or agreement) was a taboo and was highly punishable. Therefore, all members had to keep such agreements as a sign of showing commitment in life.
8. In traditional Africa, loyalty was working for the good or benefits of the community. Individualism was discouraged and each member had to contribute towards the welfare of all.
9. In traditional Africa, loyalty meant promoting one's cultural values. Cultures reflected the identity of the society to which one belonged. It was therefore the duty of each individual to show commitment to the existing cultures. This was aimed at creating the sense of belonging.

10. Loyalty in African traditional society was understood as giving respect to the religious values and the spirits of the dead. This was considered a direct way of seeking blessings.

HOW LOYALTY WAS SHOWN IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

1. Traditional Africans were loyal to their leaders such as kings, chiefs, clan leaders and others. Leadership was linked to the existence of God and the leaders were considered God's representations on earth.
2. The traditional Africans were loyal to sacred places like mountains, forests and rocks among others. They offered sacrifices in such places either to thank or seek blessings from God.
3. The traditional Africans were loyal to sacred objects such as beads, stones, bones, herbs, royal albums and stools. Such objects were believed to provide protection and guidance more especially during difficulties like wars, famine, sicknesses, etc.
4. The traditional Africans showed loyalty to the spirits of the living dead who were considered nearer to God. They offered sacrifices and even named places and children after them.
5. The traditional Africans showed loyalty to friendship more especially blood brotherhood. Each member in such friendship was meant to defend one another at all times.
6. Loyalty in African traditional society was shown to the supreme God and gods. They believed that these divine beings were behind the existence of everything in the universe. Therefore, they had to be loyal to them by praying, offering sacrifices and building shrines among others.
7. The traditional Africans showed loyalty to marriage relationship. Marriage was a compulsory social aspect of life. Each member of the to fulfil this obligation as sign of commitment.
8. The traditional Africans were loyal to religious leaders such as diviners, rainmakers and fortunetellers. Such individuals were regarded to be the light of the society because of having supernatural powers and their services to society.
9. The traditional Africans were loyal to parenthood. All married partners had the responsibility of producing and raising children in the a way accepted in the community.
10. The traditional Africans showed loyalty to customs and norms of the society. This created the spirit of togetherness and guided them in relating to one another.
11. Loyalty in traditional Africa was shown to informal education. Every member participated in the upbringing of children. Because of this collective responsibility, discipline was highly maintained.
12. The traditional Africans constantly prayed and worshipped God or gods in showing loyalty. This formed the basis of their lives in thanking and seeking blessings.

IMPORTANCE OF LOYALTY IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

1. Loyalty in traditional Africa created unity and a strong sense of belonging. This was because all members in the community were bound to specific cultures or way of life.
2. Loyalty in traditional Africa discouraged individualism. All resources were owned communally for the benefits of all. This provided solution to problems such as famine, stealing etc.
3. Loyalty installed a sense of duty and responsibility among the traditional Africans. Each member was therefore faithful to any undertaking of the community.
4. Loyalty in traditional Africa promoted peace and harmony. This was because each member observed and preserved the customs and norms of the community. This ruled out misunderstandings among the members.
5. Loyalty guaranteed security against threats or attacks on one member by another. This was because each member had to defend another even when one was wrong.
6. Loyalty in traditional Africa helped to preserve the cultural set up. Disloyalty to the community's affairs was highly punishable. Each member therefore showed loyalty to the existing cultures.
7. Loyalty promoted easy running of the community's affairs. This was because all the members were faithful and obedient to the set norms.
8. Loyalty helped promote the moral behavior of the traditional Africans. Any member misbehaving could easily be ex-communicated or disowned by the society. This made all the members to strive towards loyalty.
9. Loyalty ensured stability in traditional Africa. This was made possible by each member defending a personal loyalty to parent, husband, wife, children, blood pact, relatives, etc.
10. Loyalty prevented unnecessary competition among the traditional Africans. Members lived as a group and shared basic needs of life in almost an equal proportion.
11. Loyalty created a strong sense of justice in African traditional society. Their faithfulness and devotion made them to respect one another in all ways.

LOYALTY IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Christians in the history of the church had to be loyal to the government of the Roman Empire and the work of Jesus Christ had started. This was because Christ himself recognized the Roman authorities and because the Roman government had also created peace and constructed good roads which the work of the apostles or disciples easier.

The apostles (disciples) showed their loyalties more especially after the Pentecost (the day of the apostles received the holy spirit) as seen below;

1. The apostles were loyal to preaching the gospel that Christ had already started. They preached with joy and encouraged in an effort to extend to the God's kingdom.
2. The Christians were also loyal to prayers. They prayed for those governing them and even for the work they were doing.
3. The early Christians showed loyalty to the rule of the Roman government. They paid taxes promptly following Jesus' teaching "give to Caesar what is Caesar and God what is God's" (Mark 12:13-17).
4. Some Christians were committed to writing Christian literature. For example, the apostles like Paul and Mark wrote the New Testament explaining the life, teaching of Christ, and encouraged fellow Christians in their faith.
5. Christians showed loyalty to God as their only father. They suffered persecution and refused to sacrifice to the Pegan gods of the Roman Empire because of their loyalty to Christ and the oneness of God.
6. Some Christians carried out charitable work in showing loyalty. They helped the needy such as the sick, widows, disabled and others with material things like food and shelter.
7. Christians were also loyal to the practice of baptism. This was a symbolical expression one accepting Christ as the personal savior. This was done following the instruction of Jesus of making all people children of God.
8. Some Christians carried fellowships in showing loyalty. They could gather together, share their experiences and encourage one to remain firm in their faith.
9. Other Christians were loyal to missionary journey. Christians such as St. Paul and Titus moved to distant places while preaching the good news.
10. Some Christians performed miracles in showing loyalty. They healed the sick. This made people believe in the reality of the gospel started by Christ.
11. Christians were also loyal to founding churches. They established permanent structures to accommodate the ever-increasing number of Christian converts.
12. Other Christians were loyal to sharing their belongings with others. This was an effort aimed at preventing the suffering of the people.

THE LOYALTY OF UGANDA MARTYRS

Uganda recorded the idea of martyrdom beginning with the killing of Muslims by the Kabaka of Buganda for their failure to respect his authority. Ten years later in 1886, a large group of Christians were executed on the order of kabaka Mwanga when they decided to obey God other than the rule of the kabaka.

1. The Uganda martyrs accepted to be baptized. This was the first step they took to show that they were committed in the newly acquired faith.
2. The Uganda martyrs expressed loyalty by abandoning other gods and believing the one true God. This meant that they had also disassociated themselves with their cultures since it was a tradition to believe in many gods.
3. The Uganda martyrs expressed loyalty by suffering to the point of giving their lives for the sake of Christ. They allowed to be burnt without fear.
4. The Uganda martyrs praised God at the time they were put to death. This was the highest level of loyalty to the newly acquired faith.
5. The Uganda martyrs expressed loyalty by leading a prayerful life. They prayed to God to help them in all situations and even prayed for those executing them.
6. The Uganda martyr expressed loyalty by refusing to take the orders of kabaka. They refused to engage in homosexuality as demanded by the kabaka and even refused to abandon their Christian faith before they met their faith.
7. The Uganda martyrs showed loyalty by preaching the good news continuously despite the oppositions from the traditionalists and the Muslims.
8. The Uganda martyrs were loyal to the helping of the needy such as the poor, widows, disabled and others. This was contrary to what used to be the case where such people were under looked at.
9. The Uganda martyrs lived exemplary lives in showing their loyalty. This helped to shape the behaviors of others who copied their examples.
10. The Ugandan martyrs played great roles in establishing the Catholic and Protestant church. They laid a strong foundation of the church, which later served many devoted Christians.
11. The Uganda martyrs expressed loyalty by fellowshiping. They would gather together and share their Christian experiences and encourage one another to remain faithful to new faith.

THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING ON LOYALTY

As already noted, loyalty means being faithful to what one considers important in life. This may include families, schools, friends, churches, nations and others. In other words, one has to be faithful to existing relationship and be ready to devote oneself to the good of another. This should involve commitment and giving oneself in support of the other.

In the Old Testament, one should look at the relationship between God and the Israelites in order to understand the concept of loyalty. For the Israelites, loyalty meant being faithful

to God and each other. The covenant relationship was the basis of living with God and among them.

GOD'S LOYALTY TO THE ISRAELITES

1. The call of Abraham was God's loyalty to the Israelites. It was through this call that the Israelites became the chosen nation. God even signed an agreement with Abraham, guided and protected him in the course of establishing Israel as a holy name. (Genesis 12-15).
2. God showed his loyalty to the Israelites through the call of Moses. In this call, God commanded Moses to go and liberate the Israelites from their suffering under the Egyptian slavery (Exodus 3:16-17). This was also a fulfilment of the promises made to Abraham Israel's grandfather (Genesis 12:3).
3. God showed his loyalty to the Israelites through the Passover event. This was a new initiative on the part of Yahweh to show the Israelites that he loved them and had their welfare at heart. God killed all the Egyptian's first born babies and spared the Israelites children. This made the pharaoh to release the Israelites and ended their suffering (Exodus 12:1ff).
4. God showed his loyalty by providing food in the form of water, manna and quails to the Israelites. This happened as the Israelites moved to the promised land though the wilderness (Exodus 16:4ff, 17:1-7).
5. God demonstrated his loyalty to the Israelites at the crossing of the red sea. He divided the red sea into parts and allowed the Israelites to pass through, but the Egyptians were drowned as they passed. (Exodus 14:1ff).
6. In his loyalty to the Israelites, God signed a covenant at the foot of Mt. Sinai. In this agreement, God gave the Israelites laws to guide them and promised to remain their father if they would be obedient (Exodus 19:1ff and 20-23).
7. God demonstrated his loyalty by giving victories to the Israelites over hostile tribes and nations. This included the Canaanites, Amalekites, Amorites, Jebusites and others (Exodus 17:8ff and Deuteronomy 7:1ff).
8. God gave the Israelites king as their physical leaders as a way of expressing His loyalty. The kings like Saul, David and Solomon were to rule on behalf of God (1 Samuel 8:1ff).
9. Related to the above, God punished the kings who were misleading the Israelites. For example, God rejected king Saul for committing crimes against the Israelites. (1 Samuel 15:10ff). God also punished king Solomon for worshipping idols and influencing the Israelites to do the same (1 Kings 11:9-11).
10. God demonstrated loyalty by sending prophets to guide the Israelites against sinning. These prophets like Jeremiah, Amos and Isaiah helped the Israelites to understand the true meaning of commitment to God (Jeremiah 7:1-11 and Micah 6:6-8).
11. In His loyalty, God promised the Israelites the messiah through the line of David. This was intended to bring salvation to mankind (Isaiah 9:6ff, 11:1-12, and 2 Samuel

7:12-16). This was later fulfilled through the birth of Jesus Christ. (Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-11).

12. God expressed loyalty by giving king Solomon great wisdom with which he ruled the Israelites. This was after the predecessors such as Saul and David had already blundered by mistreating the Israelites (1 kings 4:30).

HOW THE ISREALITES SHOWED LOYALTY TO GOD

The covenant relationship, which God had initiated and made with the Israelites, demanded their total commitment. It was their obligation to maintain this relationship if Yahweh was to remain their father. The Israelites therefore fulfilled this in the following ways;

1. The Israelites circumcised their baby boys in expressing loyalty to God. This was God's command to their grandfather Abraham to act as a physical sign of their relationship for being chosen as the holy nation (Genesis 17:12). Following the ritual of circumcision therefore signified their loyalty to Abrahamic covenant.
2. To show their loyalty, the Israelites observed and respected the Passover event. They celebrated it annually by slaughtering and eating of lamb with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. This was done in commemoration of God's effort of their deliverance from the Egyptian slavery (Leviticus 23:4-5 and Numbers 28:19-25).
3. The Israelites through observing the Sabbath expressed their loyalty to God. This was because God in Exodus 31:12 commanded them to observe this day and keep it holy (Numbers 28:9-10).
4. The Israelites offered sacrifices in showing their commitment to God. They sacrificed male animals without defects and deformations such as lameness, blindness, and injury or sickly as God had instructed them (Exodus 12:5).
5. The Israelites followed the Decalogue (ten Commandments) to show their loyalty to God. Observing these laws, which were given to them through Moses, was an obligation if they were to remain God's chosen people.
6. The Israelites believed in one true God to express loyalty. Much as this was contained in the ten Commandments, it had special emphasis as recorded in Deuteronomy 8-13.
7. The Israelites obeyed the kings appointed by God in trying to be loyal. The appointment of kings such as Saul and David had followed their demand for a physical ruler. Since God responded positively, the Israelites also submitted themselves to the kings.
8. The Israelites respected religious leaders such as priests, judges and prophets including Moses, Joshua, Eli, and Nathan respectively. It was God who appointed these leaders. Therefore, it was obligatory for the Israelites to respect them since they were representing God.
9. The Israelites made pilgrimages to express their loyalty to God. They visited sacred (holy) places annually like Jerusalem temple where they prayed and offered sacrifices.

10. The Israelites fasted as a physical expression of their loyalty to God. They dedicated themselves to God by doing without worldly pleasures such as food and sexual intercourse for an agreed period of time.
11. The Israelites made covenant renewal in showing loyalty to God. This was conducted on every tenth day of the seventh month. On this day, they gathered in sacred places and represented their sins by offering sacrifices.
12. The Israelites observed the feast of tabernacles to express loyalty to God. This was conducted on the fifteenth day. On this day, the Israelites celebrated after gathering the crops of the land. It was done in thanking God for his provisions like the Canaan land, good harvest, etc. (Leviticus 23:29).
13. The good leadership of some rulers among the Israelites indicated their loyalty to God. Moses, Joshua and king David were outstanding leaders who led the chosen people as God had commanded. In Deuteronomy 17:18-20, no one was above the law and in Exodus 22:21-27, no one was to be oppressed or exploited.

HOW THE ISRAELITES SHOWED DISLOYALTY TO GOD

The whole history of the Israelites was a continuous struggle to understand the true meaning of commitment (loyalty) to God and persons. Quite often, the Israelites were tempted to turn away from Yahweh to serve other gods. Many even thought that loyalty meant only keeping the letter of the law without caring of others. This was a failure in their relationship as seen below;

1. The Israelites complained to Moses about their welfare like during the crossing of the Red sea and while in the wilderness about food. Even when they were thirsty and hungry, it reflected their lack of faith in God. They had forgotten that the very God that delivered them from the Egyptian slavery could come for their rescue. They simply needed prayer and patience, which they failed to do so. (Exodus 14:1ff, 15:22-27, 17:1-7).
2. The Israelites' demand for a physical king showed disloyalty on their part (1 Sam 8:1-10). This was against the Sinai covenant and it was a direct rejection of God's authority as their leader. God had promised to be their father only if they had remained loyal. (Exodus 19:5).
3. The making and worshipping of the golden calf by the Israelites was a failure in their loyalty to God. They made this golden calf to represent Yahweh when Moses had delayed to come back from the mountain where he was meeting God. (Exodus 31:1ff). this was against the covenant relationship, which stopped them from worshipping other gods. (Exodus 20:3-5).
4. The Israelites failed in their relationship with God when they married foreign wives. King Solomon among others, married many foreign wives. (1kings 11:1-4). This was God's will, which forbade the Israelites from intermarriage (Exodus 23:32-33).
5. The Israelites were disloyal to God by worshipping of the idols and Baals, which became so strong during the time of judges and Kings (Judges 2:11ff). this was also the covenant, which forbade them from worshipping other gods (Exodus 20:3-5).

6. The Israelites were disloyal to God by practicing sexual immorality such as adultery and prostitution. For example, king David committed adultery with Bathsheba who was the wife of Uriah (1 Samuel 11:1ff).
7. Some Israelites particularly the leaders mistreated one another. King David and Solomon oppressed and exploited God's people through military recruitment, heavy taxation and forced labour (1 Kings 5:13ff, 2 Samuel 23:9). This was disloyalty because it was not different form of slavery situation in Egypt, which God was even against as reflected in the Sinai covenant.
8. The Israelites failed to relate to God when they engaged in power struggle. King Saul wanted to kill David when he got to know that David would replace him as the king. (1 Samuel: 1-4, 11-14). In 1 Kings 11:26-41, Jeroboam turned against king Solomon. By doing this, the Israelites had forgotten God as being the giver of authority.
9. The Israelites were disloyal to God through listening to false prophets such as Hananiah. This was lack of faithfulness because they disobeyed the true prophets such as Jeremiah, Amos, Isaiah, etc. who were God's spokes men. (Jeremiah 28:1ff).
10. The Israelites were disloyal through dividing the Canaan land God had given. This was greediness based on tribal differences. (Joshua 18:1-10).
11. The Israelites failed their relationship with God by practicing religious syncretism. They worshipped Yahweh besides other gods. This was religious hypocrisy contrary to the covenant faith which demanded them to worship only one true God (Yahweh) (1 Kings 11:1ff).
12. The Israelites failed to relate with God by not only offering bad sacrifices, but also giving sacrifices for the sake of fulfilling God's requirement. This was the reason why behind God refused to recognize and accept their sacrifices. (1 Kings 13:1ff).

LOYALTY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

According to the New Testament, loyalty means a personal commitment to God and His people through His son Jesus Christ. He presented as the new covenant that united man in fellowship with the Father (God) and each other. In doing this, Jesus remained loyal to the will of God who had sent him to bring salvation to the people and the people he was serving.

JESUS' LOYALTY IN SERVING THE WILL OF GOD

1. Jesus accepted to be born as a human being (John 1:1-5). Jesus was with God and he was God, but allowed to become a human being so as to fulfill the Father's will of bringing salvation to mankind.
2. Jesus Christ accepted to be baptized. Although he was not a sinner, he humbled himself and joined other sinners to take a requirement necessary to build the kingdom of God (Mark 1:9).

3. Jesus also resisted the temptations he underwent through to demonstrate his loyalty to God. He knew he was serving only the father's will and therefore remained firm even when he was tempted during difficult situation such as changing the stone into bread after spending forty days and nights without food. (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13).
4. Jesus demonstrated his loyalty to God by preaching the good news in spite of the oppositions. He never gave up the preaching even at the time he was being accused by the religious leaders who were looking for any slight mistake to persecute him. He did not fear persecution because knew he had to bring people closer to God (John 15:1-2).
5. Jesus Christ was loyal to God by giving himself to be arrested. He had earlier known the plot of arresting him by Judas Iscariot but allowed it to happen so as to fulfill God's will of redeeming mankind from the bondage of sins (Mark 14:18-21, 48-49).
6. Jesus demonstrated his loyalty to God by accepting to undergo severe suffering. In Mark 14:34, Christ was overwhelmed by sorrows. He had weak body, but his soul was willing to fulfill God's purpose of bringing salvation to mankind. He even knew that there was more hardship of him but did not give up.
7. Christ showed loyalty by declaring himself publicly as the true son of God who had come to do the father's will. This happened at the time when the Pharisees were looking for any reason to kill him. In spite of this, he had no fear and called himself the son of God even when it appeared to be blasphemy to the Pharisees. (Luke 6:1-5, John 5:18ff, 8:28-29).
8. Christ attacked the religious leaders for over emphasizing the observation of the petty laws that had led them to neglect the urgent need of man (Mark 2:27, 3:4). On this occasion, Jesus made it clear that the Sabbath was made for man but not man for it. He even condemned purification rites that restricted people from doing their normal activities. (Mark 7:1-7).
9. Christ attacked traders in the temple to show his loyalty to God. On this occasion, Jesus chased the traders away, over turned their tables and ordered them to stop making his Father's house a market place. (John 2:13-30).
10. Jesus also showed his loyalty to God by staying hungry while attending to the people. He pointed out that man does not only live on bread alone but also on the word of God (Mark 3:20ff, John 4:31).
11. Christ performed many miracles to express his loyalty to God. He healed the sick, raised the dead like the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:36ff). all these miracles proved the reality of his preaching that later on brought glory to the kingdom of God.
12. Christ led a prayerful life to show his loyalty to God. In his prayers, he recognized that nothing was above the authority of God (Mark 1:35).
13. In his loyalty to God, Christ called upon his disciples to follow him and to be ready to die for the sake of the heavenly kingdom. This was a call for the building and defending the kingdom of God (Mark 1:16-20, Luke 9:23-24).

14. Christ showed his loyalty to God by putting the will of God first after the demands of his family and self. He pointed out clearly that he had to be his father's house when the parents had been looking for him (Luke 2:4ff, Mark 3:34-35).

JESUS' LOYALTY IN SERVING MAN

1. Jesus Christ reconciled man with God. He identified and gave himself as the right way through which man could reach God (John 14:1ff).
2. Christ performed many miracles that redeemed people from their suffering. Through miracles, the lame walked, the blind gained sight, the hungry fed and others. This showed his genuine love for the people he was serving. (John 6:1ff, Luke 13:6ff).
3. Christ offered his life and died on the cross for the sins of man. It was through his death that man finally achieved salvation. (Mark 15:21-32, John 19:17ff, Matthew 27:32-44, Luke 23:26-43).
4. Christ showed loyalty to man by loving and forgiving his enemies. He prayed to his father to forgive those who plotted for his arrest and crucifixion. He pointed out that this was a fulfillment of what was written in the scripture. (Luke 6:12-16, 23:33-34).
5. Jesus uplifted the status of the children to serve the needs of man. He mixed and played with them freely. But this was not allowed in the Jewish cultures. (Luke 18:15-17).
6. Christ also uplifted the status of women to serve the needs of man. Women were marginalized and considered dirty and evil in the Jewish society. Christ recognized their rights by accepting the woman's anointment and even appreciating the widow's offer of a coin to the temple as being special (Mark 14:9 and Luke 10 :39).
7. In serving the needs of man, Christ explained the parables to his disciples who had failed to understand. Despite the disciples being too slow to understand him, he never got annoyed but gave them time necessary for proper knowledge of him and building the kingdom of God. (Mark 8:21ff).
8. Christ showed his loyalty to serve the needs of man by calling himself a servant. He emphasized that he had come to serve but not to be served. (Matthew 20:26-28).
9. To show his loyalty to the needs of man, Christ preached the good news faithfully even when he was being opposed. He did not give up because he knew it was the only way through which man could achieve salvation. (Mark 3:5).
10. Christ was obedient to the Jewish rule. For example, he supported the payment of tax, he quoted as saying "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and tot God what is God's" (Matthew 22:15-22, Mark 12:13-17, Luke 20:20-26).
11. Christ lived a non-discriminative life. For example, associated with the Samaritan woman even when the Jews and the Samaritans were enemies (John 4:1ff).
12. Christ protected marriage relationship as a way of demonstrating his loyalty to the needs of man. He condemned adultery, polygamy and divorce and referred to them as poisons in marriage that could only ruin the relationship. (Matthew 5:27ff, Mark 10:1ff).

THE MEANING OF LOYALTY FOR A CHRISTIAN

1. For a Christian, loyalty means loving God and neighbors as oneself. In doing this, one must be committed and dedicated. Christ loved God and man to the extent of giving his own life.
2. To Christians, loyalty means being faithful to the call of God. One must have a clear understanding of his or her role as a Christian to which he or she must be committed to just as Christ did so.
3. Loyalty to Christians means being ready to serve others. Christ served others by performing many miracles for the benefit of mankind. He even washed the feet of his disciples. A Christian should therefore be a servant of others.
4. Loyalty for a Christian means being ready to accept suffering just as Jesus Christ suffered from torture, abuses, persecution, etc. during his ministry. (2 Corinthians 6:33f, Philippians 3:10ff).
5. Loyalty for a Christian means obeying the state unless the demands of the state conflict with those of God. Christ encouraged the payment of tax when he said “give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God that is God’s” (Mark 12:13-17).
6. Loyalty for a Christian means resisting temptations in one’s daily life. Christ resisted temptations and remained faithful to the will of God.
7. Loyalty for a Christian means being ready to die for one’s faith. Christ showed his commitment and did everything possible to the extent of dying.
8. Loyalty for a Christian means acknowledging that all authority comes from God. One should submit himself or herself to the authority when it means suffering for the righteous (1 Peter 2:13ff and Romans 13:1-7).
9. Loyalty for a Christian means serving all people equally without fear and discrimination. This should be through the help of the holy spirit given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
10. Loyalty for a Christian means forgiving one’s enemies. Christ prayed to God to forgive those who persecuted, betrayed and killed him. (Luke 23:32-34).

HAPPINESS

Happiness is the feeling of joy, pleasure, excitement and satisfaction by a person or a group of individuals.

Happiness can be expressed in the following ways:

- Singing
- Screaming
- Crying
- Hugging
- Kissing
- Laughing
- Smiling
- Dancing

Happiness differs from age to age, person to person and from situation to situation. Therefore, this means that what makes a child or a youth happy may not make an elderly person or an adult happy.

In the same way, people can be happy depending on the opportunities available to them and this differs from chances that they have.

Happiness is also based on the personality or the character of an individual.

HAPPINESS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

The following are the general ideas and views people think about as sources of happiness;

1. Many people when they are in a good relationship with God they share their spiritual life with God through religious activities like praying, fasting, praise and worship because God is the source of everything.
2. People in a good marriage relationship makes people happy especially where there is love, faithfulness and understanding others. In such a case their emotional feelings are well catered for.
3. Giving birth in a marriage relationship makes people happy. Children is a blessing from God and it shows that there is a continuity of the lives of the parents.
4. Attaining and attending a good formal education are sources of happiness of people. Educational qualifications like diploma, degree and masters among others make people happy as they lead to employment and better living standards.
5. To most people having material wealth like land, houses and huge sums of money take them are sources of happiness. Apart from giving them prestige, it makes their lives easier as they as they are in better condition to support themselves and others.
6. Employment especially in popular jobs with attractive income like managers, lawyers and accountancy make some people happy. The income they get from their jobs help them to solve their immediate needs and even invest.
7. To some people, happiness is all about being popular in the community. The musicians and footballers find joy in pulling huge crowds around them. Because of their popularity, they feel great and respected and this gives them joy.
8. Enjoying leisure activities like singing, touring, listening to music brings joy to almost everyone. Such activities refresh minds and promote a good inter-person relationship among them.

9. Being in a good health is a source of joy. It is an avenue through which a person can live longer. Besides, it makes possible for individuals to engage in productive activities in order to better their lives.
10. Coming out victorious in stiff competitions makes people happy. For example, winning a highly-contested election or a difficult game makes the individuals to feel loved.
11. Political stability or good governance is a source of joy to many people. It ensures that there is peace and harmony among people.
12. Observing culture is a source of joy among some people. It helps to give them identity as a particular group of people.
13. Having a good relationship with the community members makes the people happy. The people feel secure because of this.
14. Attaining economic development is an aspect of happiness today. Economic development such as industrial growth, improved education, health and roads help to ease life in the community through offering employment and income.

UNHAPPINESS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

Unhappiness is the feeling or expression of sorrow, sadness, disappointment or misery by a person or a group of individuals.

Unhappiness can be expressed in the following ways:

- Becoming gloomy or moody.
- Fighting.
- Crying.
- Remaining silent.
- Refusing to eat.
- Fainting.
- Quarreling.
- Sleeping.
- Jeering.
- Committing suicide.

Therefore, unhappiness in the present situation is associated with the following:

1. Unemployment despite one's qualifications. This makes it difficult for the person to earn a living especially after spending a lot to attain the qualification.
2. Death of a family member or a friend causes sadness brought about by the physical separation and the loss of the contribution of the departed.
3. Marital unfaithfulness especially adultery causes sorrow. It shows lack of commitment in one's relationship. It is an act of betrayal.
4. Domestic violence makes people unhappy. it has always let to bodily injuries and death among others.
5. Political instability is the cause of unhappiness. It is always associated with the loss of lives, destruction of property and the feeling of insecurity.
6. People are unhappy because of discrimination basing on sex, tribe, religion and status among others. This becomes the source of insecurity and makes people to feel unwanted and useless in the society.

7. Barrenness or infertility in marriage causes unhappiness in many families. This is especially if one partner desires to have children.
8. Poverty causes unhappiness today. The poor people may fail to provide basic needs for themselves and this leads to misery.
9. Exploitation of workers makes so many people unhappy. In some work places, there is low payment, delayed payment and over working among others.
10. Cultural rigidity causes unhappiness to many people. Some cultures deny the individuals their freedom and lead to suffering in different forms like the circumcision of the female among the Sebei people.
11. Divorce causes unhappiness. It comes with the feeling of being rejected thereby causing shame and discomfort.
12. Mob justice causes sadness. It publicly humiliates the suspected criminal including his or her family members. This means that such people become a laughing stock before the public hence leading to unhappiness.
13. The existing level of poverty in Uganda today is a major factor causing unhappiness. It renders an individual helpless to acquire basic needs such as food, education, medical care, clothing and others.
14. Corruption is also causing unhappiness today. This is a practice where some civil servants misuse facilities meant to benefit the public for their own gains. This is selfishness and greediness that causes suffering to others.
15. Unwanted pregnancies are responsible for unhappiness today. The girl or the woman and the man may not be ready to bear the child for one reason or another. It is even made worse on the side of the woman who may not know the man responsible for the pregnancy or when the man denies the responsibility.
16. Diseases including AIDS, malaria, cholera and others today are causing unhappiness. This is as a result of continuous body weaknesses that render an individual helpless to do anything.

HAPPINESS IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

In African traditional society, there were commonly accepted values that guided people's life. Therefore, everybody knew and understood what it was meant to be happy. The main ideas of about happiness include the following.

1. According to the traditional Africans, happiness meant a state of being contented with what one had or what one was.
2. Happiness in traditional Africa was being in harmony or good relationship with the spirits (goods), deceased ancestors, neighbors, and tribes. It was believed that one would receive blessings through this kind of relationship.
3. Happiness in traditional Africa laid in having good harvest and plenty of food. This was an insurance against famine within the homestead.
4. Happiness in traditional Africa was being in possession of material wealth such as land, cattle, sheep, goat and others. People with such materials were highly respected in the community.

5. Happiness in traditional Africa meant being faithful to customs or the traditions of the society. Such traditions created a sense of belonging.
6. Being elderly and wise was considered happiness in traditional African society. The wise elderly held status in the community because of using their wisdom to guide other members. They were therefore considered the light of the society and given much respect.
7. Happiness in traditional Africa was understood as having power and prestige. Leaders such as Kings, chiefs, clan leaders and others were given much respect and were therefore happy.
8. Happy in traditional Africa was linked to having many children. Children were considered God's blessings to the marriages, source of labour and insurance against old age among others. People with children were therefore happy basing on this ground.
9. In traditional Africa, happiness meant being married. Marriage was compulsory aspect of social life. Being married therefore meant being loyal to the existing culture.
10. In traditional Africa, happiness also meant being faithful to one's role in society. This was because fulfilling one's duties like being a mother, a father, and a son etc. created unity and the sense of belonging among the members.
11. Being healthy was considered happiness in traditional Africa. This was an indication that one was in good terms with the ancestral spirits. It is meant that one could live for a longer period.
12. Marrying many wives was a source of happiness for men in traditional Africa. Such men were respected because of the responsibility they had like feeding the many wives and their children. The respect given to such a man brought them happiness.
13. Happiness I traditional Africa was understood as sharing all the resources within the community like land. This explains why the poor and the disabled were not considered failures in life. This prevented selfishness and eliminated suffering among the people hence creating joy.
14. Having talents was considered happiness. Such talents like being a medicine man or woman, diviners and pottery among others that served the needs of others in various ways created happiness.
15. In traditional Africa, happiness was being prosperous but not at the expense of others. The prosperity of an individual was for the benefits of all members in the community.

Revision questions

- Qn.1. Explain the traditional African understanding of happiness.**
- Qn.2. What was meant to be happy in African Traditional Society?**
- Qn.3. Explain the main ideas about happiness in the African past?**

OCCASIONS OF HAPPINESS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

They were popular moments when people in African tradition could come together and express their joy. Such moments were characterized by celebrations or feasting; slaughtering of animals and birds, drinking, singing and dancing formed part of the occasions. These events include the following;

1. Child birth was an important social event that the traditional Africans celebrated together. Goats and chicken were slaughtered to welcome the new member of the family.
2. Initiation ceremonies such as circumcision and puberty rites were also occasions of happiness in traditional Africa. In such ceremonies, the Africans celebrated one's passage from one stage of life to another like a boy becoming an adult man.
3. The traditional Africans celebrated marriage or introduction ceremonies. Animals and birds such as cow, goat and chicken respectively were slaughtered accompanied with drinking beer, singing and dancing. This was done in bidding farewell to the outgoing member of the family and to recognize the newly acquired status of the two partners.
4. The traditional Africans also celebrated the beginning of a good harvest season. They could offer sacrifices as a way of appreciating God for the blessings in the form of good harvest. This called for celebration because it guaranteed security against famine.
5. Victories in wars were also celebrated in traditional Africa. Victory in wars meant security against loss of lives, property and foreign domination by other tribes.
6. In some societies, the enthronement of a king was an occasion that brought joy among the traditional Africans. The enthronement was associated with a series of rituals and feastings. This was because it was a fulfillment of their cultural set up.
7. House warming was also an occasion of happiness in traditional Africa. This was a day when the traditional Africans could celebrate the entrance into a new house. It was associated with eating, singing and dancing.
8. Official traditional welcome of twins was an occasion of happiness. The coming of twins in some African understanding signified misfortune to happen in the near future. Because of this they sacrifice and feasted as a way of trying to cleanse or "wash away" the would-be misfortune.
9. Beer party was also an occasion of happiness in traditional Africa. This was usually organized after a particular task or work had been completed. In such a party, people could eat, drink, sing and dance.
10. Acquiring land was another occasion of happiness in traditional Africa. This was because land was the most valuable resource in the community's life.
11. Successful hunting expedition contributed to happiness among the traditional Africans. This was because they believed that the ancestral spirits blessed the successful hunting.

12. Children naming called for celebrations among the traditional African. Some names were given basing on the circumstances surrounding the birth. Such names helped the Africans to identify themselves and describe the condition they living.
13. Some African people were happy on seeing a new moon appearing. For example, among the Khoi-Khoi of South Africa, the appearance of a new moon showed the presence of their god and therefore they were happy.

Revision Questions.

- Qn.1. On what occasion were the people of African Traditional Society happy?**
- Qn.2. Explain the particular moments in African tradition where the people expressed joy.**

CAUSES OF UNHAPPINESS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. Having bad relationship with the ancestral spirits caused unhappiness. They believed that this could result into curses.
2. Having poor harvest caused unhappiness in traditional Africa. This was because of the expected famine that could befall the population.
3. Lacking material possessions such as land, cattle and goats among others caused unhappiness in traditional Africa. This was a sign of poverty and suffering.
4. Unhappiness in African traditional was caused by lack of faithfulness or failure to follow the customs or the traditions. In such a case, other members of the community isolated such individuals.
5. Losing wars also resulted into unhappiness in traditional Africa. This was because of its consequences such as loss of lives, foreign domination and loss of property.
6. Failure to produce children in a marriage caused unhappiness in traditional African. This was because of the belief that the ancestral spirits could have cursed the couple.
7. Failure to get married brought about unhappiness to traditional Africans. Single life was never accepted and was considered as going against the culture where marriage was compulsory. The unmarried people were considered social misfits and were always isolated.
8. Death of human beings and even animals caused unhappiness in traditional Africa. This was because death was taken to be unusual, a curse and a misfortune.
9. Being sickly caused unhappiness in traditional Africa. Sick people were believed to be in bad terms with the ancestral spirits.
10. Failure to show commitment to one's social roles like being a father, a mother and others caused unhappiness in traditional Africa. This was a disgrace in the life of the community.
11. Anti-social behavior such as witchcraft, theft and murder also caused unhappiness in traditional Africa. This was a sign of one's disloyalty in serving the needs of the community.

HAPPINESS IN CHURCH HISTORY

1. Happiness in the early history of the church came from the belief in the gospel Jesus Christ had started. People found joy in being Christians because it was a way of serving others and obtaining salvation.
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was a source of happiness to Christians. The Christians saw this resurrection as their source of strength and their own resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15).
3. Christians also obtained happiness when being persecuted for the sake of the gospel. They felt happy when they suffered because of their religion and some even accepted to be martyred following the example of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:24-27, Romans 8:9-20).
4. At a later history, Christians found happiness by believing in renunciation. The Monks and the Nuns who lived in the North Africa initiated this and urged that true happiness could only be achieved by doing without the pleasures of the world such as eating food, sexual intercourse and others.
5. Christians found happiness through praying constantly. This was a direct way of communicating with God. In their prayers, they thanked and requested God for the provision of their daily needs.
6. Some Christians achieved happiness by helping the needy such as the poor, widows, disabled and others. They believed that they were doing it for Christ himself who also did the same during His ministry. (Matthew 25:45).
7. The early Christians found joy through performing miracles. Such miracles like healing the sick, the lame and others brought glory to God's name and His kingdom.
8. Carrying out water baptism brought happiness among the Christians. This signified the growing number of God's children and the good preaching being carried out.
9. Some Christians, especially the Monks and the Nuns, found joy in providing educational services. They built schools and health centres to deliver God's people from their various suffering like diseases and illiteracy.
10. The Monks and the Nuns found joy through engaging in productive work such as agriculture. They cultivated crops and distributed the output to the needy.
11. Easy spread of the gospel brought joy to Christians. This meant that the kingdom of God was growing and a sign of salvation.
12. The Christians found joy while celebrating important religious days such as the Pentecost, Easter and others. Such days reminded them particular events in the growth of Christian faith.
13. Building church structures also brought joy to the Christians. This was because it signified the growing number of God's children.
14. Fasting made some Christians happy. It was through which they could dedicate themselves and mediate on God's provision for them. This denied themselves food, drink and even sexual intercourse for a given period of time.

15. Some Christians found joy by writing inspiring letters to others. This was a way of sharing their Christian faith. St. Paul wrote so many epistles to various Christian communities like Corinth, Galatia, Rome and others.

HAPPINESS INSPITE OF DIVERSITY (SUFFERING)

Some Christians in the history of the church remained happy when they were suffering. Such personalities and groups of people included;

Ignatius.

- He was the first Christian slave but he did his slavery work with joy because he was a believer in Christ.
- He found more joy when he was ordained as a bishop of Antioch in Syria.
- He remained happy when he was imprisoned for his belief in the gospel of Christ.
- Ignatius was always joyful when writing thanks giving letters to the Christians who were visiting him while he was in prison.
- He was joyful when being murdered by a gang of brutal soldiers for the sake of believing in Christ.
- He used to sing songs of praises while he was in his slavery conditions.
- He continued the preaching of the good news of salvation at the climax of his suffering.
- He endured a lot of suffering for Christ with a lot of joy. He knew that he would be rewarded in the heavenly kingdom.
- Ignatius was happy when he attained freedom from spiritual slavery. (slavery of sin through repentance).
- He continued praying for the unity of the church while he was in deep suffering.

Bishop Cyprian.

- He was a bishop of Carthage in North Africa. He did not experience suffering in his life but found happiness in the following ways.
- He was happy when he got converted to Christianity because this was the beginning of understanding of gospel truth that later inspired him to become a bishop.
- He was a man filled with happiness on the day of his baptism. The knowledge that had joined the family of God brought joy to him.
- He found joy through repentance which made him right with God.
- He preached the good news of salvation to many of his followers with a lot of joy.
- Reading the scriptures gave him a lot of joy for it was important in keeping him strong in his faith.
- Having numerous believers made him so happy. He had thought that was something impossible because of his sinful background.
- He was happy when he felt that the Holy Spirit had filled him up. This gave him courage to do his work even in times of difficulties.

St. Augustine of Hippo.

- Augustine praised God at a time he lost his beloved mother. He therefore thanked God for having taken his mother's life.
- He was joyful because of his belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Monks and the Nuns.

- They enjoyed living in harsh conditions in the desert but continued to be happy because they were living with life of Christ.
- They lived in isolation as they looked true happiness. This made them to appear to be anti-social.
- By renunciation, they gave up all the pleasures of the world including smiling, sexual intercourse and sometimes doing without food.
- They chose to be poor and yet they remained happy in that kind of life.
- They enjoyed working on their own despite the difficult agricultural work in their gardens.
- They joyfully provided for the needy like widows and orphans even when they were also poor.
- They were happy when they were insulted by the non-believers because of following the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- They praised God when they were faced with persecution from their own people.
- They accepted to be put to death with happiness and joy because they believed they would come back to life like their savior Jesus Christ.
- They lived in a life of self-denial and continued to be happy. They stayed without food and no proper source of water.
- They joyfully accepted to be disowned by their own people because of their new faith.
- They disobeyed the orders of the king because of believing in the good news of salvation.
- Even when they threatened to death, the martyrs continued praising and worshiping God.

Missionaries in Africa.

- They endured the harsh conditions in Africa but continued to be happy when spreading the good news of salvation.
- Some of the missionaries died in the process of their work but their colleagues continued doing the work joyfully.
- The early Christians continued to be happy despite their being persecuted for believing Jesus Christ.
- They suffered from poverty and continued to be happy because Jesus had lived in the same way.
- They moved long distances in their missionary journey but with a lot of joy.

- The Christians continued praising God with goodness even at the time they saw their friends killed.
- There were always threatened by the political authority but they continued with their work. They were happy to identify themselves with and helping the needy including the widows and the orphans.

UNHAPPINESS IN CHURCH HISTORY

Just like any other human beings, Christians experienced sadness in their lives. This was caused by the various sufferings they underwent. This came about as Christians tried to look for true happiness as seen below;

1. The suffering and the eventual death of Jesus Christ caused unhappiness among Christians. The Christians lacked knowledge on Jesus' coming and were grieved to see him suffering and dying.
2. The persecution of Christians in various communities also brought sadness in their faith. The disciples in particular suffered persecution with some even being killed like Stephan. This caused fear, which resulted into unhappiness.
3. Spiritual rivalry especially among the disciples brought sorrow in the Christian faith. Some apostles spoke in tongues, while others performed miracles. This caused disunity, which resulted into unhappiness.
4. The predestination doctrine brought by John Calvin of Switzerland caused unhappiness in church history. Calvin argued that God had already determined the destiny of all human beings before birth. He stressed that one could either go to heaven or hell and that nothing human could be done to change the arrangement. This caused panic among the Christians, which resulted into unhappiness.
5. The sale of indulgence that became a business in the church was responsible for man's unhappiness. The church leaders encouraged Christians to give gifts especially money to the church so that their sins were forgiven before being granted salvation. This caused unhappiness to the poor who could not afford pay because they knew that they could go to hell after their death.
6. Unhappiness in church history came as a result of slavery and slave trade. Such victims were over worked and yet less attention was paid to their welfare. This limited their freedom and caused a lot of pain on them this eventually resulted in unhappiness.
7. Christians experienced unhappiness due to poverty. Besides failing to support themselves, Christians had the duty of providing basic needs to the poor, orphans and the widows with food and shelter. This even made preaching the good news difficult.
8. Christians experienced sadness due to long unpleasant missionary journey they engaged in. They faced oppositions, harsh climate and inadequate facilities. This made life more difficult for the Christians to bear.
9. Oppression of Christian minority also caused sadness. In the Roman Empire more especially during the reign of emperor Nero, the Christian minorities were blamed

- for any small mistakes. For example, the Christians were at one time persecuted as having burnt the city yet they were innocent.
10. The missionaries who came to Africa used a threatening method of preaching the good news. This caused discomfort and frightened the Africans because of the preaching that whoever had not heard the gospel could go to hell.
 11. The restrictive nature of Christianity was responsible for unhappiness among the Christians. Christianity came to be viewed as a religion full of don'ts that limited the freedom of people.
 12. Unhappiness in church history was caused by the renunciation practiced by the Monks and the hermits in North Africa. They lived and encouraged their followers to live a self-denial life by doing without the pleasures of the world such as drinking, dancing and sexual intercourse. This was based on the belief that it could give them more time to enjoy friendship with God. This instead caused suffering among the people, which resulted into unhappiness.
 13. Christians in church history experienced unhappiness during the inter-denominational conflicts. This was especially between the Catholic and the Protestant. The Catholics labelled the Protestants as rebels and that they would go to hell. This resulted into contradiction with the effects being disastrous.
 14. Unhappiness in the church history came as a result of the martyrdom of Christians. In Uganda, the burning of the first Christian converts in 1886 caused fear and panic to other Christians who were still alive. This made them unhappy.

HAPPINESS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. God is a source of joy for mankind. He was joyful after completing the given piece of creation. (Gen 1:31).
2. Completing a given piece of work in the most desirable way gives joy to mankind. God experienced happiness after completing his works of creation.
3. God gave the human beings the worldly resources like plants and animals to use for their happiness. Therefore, man's joy comes from depending on God's provision (Genesis 1:27-30).
4. By creating human beings as male and female in his image, God wanted man to enjoy a close relationship with (Genesis 1:26).
5. Man's happiness comes from enjoying the company with others. This was seen as the man felt so lonely before the woman was created. Upon the creation of a woman, the man was filled with happiness (Genesis 2:18-25).
6. Disobedience brings unhappiness in man's life. The first human beings disobeyed God's command by eating the forbidden fruit and the result was unhappiness (Genesis 3:1ff).
7. Selfishness and jealousy are the root causes of unhappiness. Cain was selfish and became jealousy of his brother Abel and was punished by God. Therefore, there is need to share our belongings for a man to be happy. (Genesis 4:1ff).

8. Happiness comes from depending on God's provision. God gave the worldly resources to the first human beings to use for their own happiness and Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit they experienced sadness (Genesis 26-28).
9. The Old Testament points out that life of man consists of joy and sorrow (Ecclesiastes 3:4). God set time for everything including time for sorrow and the time for joy.
10. Giving birth among the Israelites was a source of joy. Hannah, the wife of Elkanah filled with joy when she gave birth to Samuel. (1 Samuel 2:1ff).
11. Happiness meant being free from any human act including slavery. The Israelites celebrated the day of their freedom from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12:1ff).
12. Happiness in Israel was enjoying God's blessings. Hannah was filled with joy when she was blessed with a baby boy whom she named Samuel (1 Samuel 2:1ff).
13. Possessing the land promised to them was a source of happiness to the Israelites. They celebrated taking over the Canaan land from their enemies the Canaanites.
14. The presence of God among the Israelites meant being joyful. King David together with the rest of the Israelites sung and danced as the covenant box was returned to Jerusalem. This covenant box represented their God (2 Samuel 6:1).
15. The happiness among the Israelites was dependent on worshipping only God. God told them that worshipping many gods would make them to be punished. This was later proved when they suffered from 2-3 years' drought because of king Ahab's mistake of worshipping the gods of his wife Jezebel (1 Kings 18:1ff).
16. The righteous are called to be happy and give praise to God to His mighty acts (Psalms 33:1).
17. Happiness was having an earthly king. The Israelites sung and danced with a lot of joy as they received Saul as their king.
18. Suffering in the form of illness caused sadness among Israelites. Job was overwhelmed by the skin diseases which made him to curse the day he was born (Job 3:1ff).
19. Happiness is being in union with one's fellow men (Psalms 133:1ff). the biblical text points out that it is wonderful and pleasurable for God's people are to live together in harmony.
20. Happiness means sharing and enjoying the fruits of one's labour (Psalms 128:2).
21. Happiness means fulfilling one's promises like God giving Canaan to Israelites (Deuteronomy 4:1, 6:24, Psalms 37:1ff). this was an act of God leading the Israelites to discover the way to happiness.

Revision Question

Qn.1. Explain the Old Testament teaching about happiness.

Qn.2. How can you use the Old Testament teaching to be truly happy?

- Look unto God for our happiness.
- We should complete the task before us in a desirable way or do our work thoroughly.
- We should depend on God's provision.

- We should be close to God by sharing our feelings with him.
- We should be a company of others. Adam was lonely before Eve was created.
- We should obey the laws or rules and regulations of the society unlike the first man who disobeyed God's command and they were punished.
- We should share what we have with other people.
- We should be fair and promote justice in human relationship.
- We should seek blessings from God.
- We should set a side time for everything.
- We should be righteous in our conducts.
- We should worship only one God.

OCCASIONS OF HAPPINESS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. The Israelites celebrated the Passover event. On this day, God commanded the Israelites to feast in celebrating the end of their slavery in Egypt and Mark the beginning of their movement to the promised land (Exodus 12:1ff).
2. The people of Israel created the covenant renewal of Shechem. On this day, they reaffirmed their faith with God accompanied by offering sacrifices (Joshua 24:1ff).
3. The Israelites enjoyed having God's provision in the form of food. God gave them manna and quails as they were on their way to the promised land (Exodus 16:1ff).
4. The Israelites were also happy after receiving the physical king appointed by God. They sang and danced when God gave them Saul as their first king following their request for a physical leader. (1 Samuel 10:23-24).
5. The return of the ark of the covenant from the Philistine was an occasion that called for celebration among the Israelites. They danced because it signified the presence of God among them. (2 Samuel 6:5-16).
6. The killing of Goliath by David brought happiness to the Israelites. This was because Goliath had over powered and caused great suffering onto the Israelites. His death was therefore a relief that prompted celebration. (1 Samuel 18:5-7).
7. The Israelites were filled with joy when the building of the temple was completed and finally dedicated to God. They celebrated this about one week because it signified that their God (Yahweh) could be kept in a safer place. (1 Kings 8:65-66).
8. The celebration of special feasts including the unleavened bread and the tabernacles was an occasion of happiness among the Israelites. This became the tradition in commemorating the exodus events. (Exodus 34:18-22).
9. Elijah's victory over the prophets of Baal was also an occasion of joy. It was in this victory that the Israelites came to realise that Elijah's God was the true God because the God brought back rain after three years of drought. This made the Israelites to sing and dance with joy. (1 Kings 18:41-45, 19ff).
10. The relief of Job from long illness brought happiness among the Israelites. They feasted because Job was given more blessings. (Job 42:10-16).

Revision Question:

Qn.1. On what occasion were the people of Israel happy?

Qn.2. Identify events in the Old Testament that brought happiness to the people.

UNHAPPINESS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The book of the Old Testament does not only bring out events of happiness in human life. Even though God had done everything possible for man's happiness. Man made mistakes and lost his happiness as seen below.

1. The disobedience of man as recorded on Genesis 3:1ff brought sadness in his life. Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and ate the forbidden fruit. This resulted into the punishments that made them unhappy. man's disobedience therefore caused unhappiness because of the following.
2. Man experiences sadness because of his selfishness and jealousy. It was out of such that Cain killed his brother Abel. The punishment God gave him there after made him sad. (Genesis 4:1ff).
3. Man lost his happiness through his greediness, false wisdom, lack of faith and trust in God. This is reflected in the story of the builders of the tower of Babel who wanted to reach God. God instead punished them by mixing their languages and destroying the tower itself. This made them unhappy (Genesis 11:1ff).
4. Man experienced sadness through the drunkenness of Noah. Out of this, Noah cursed his son who had seen his nakedness. The suffering that the cursed son experienced caused sorrow in the whole family. (Genesis 9:20-25).
5. The flood man experienced was responsible for his sadness. The flood that lasted for forty days was God's punishment to the people who has become disobedient. (Genesis 7:1).
6. The sale of Joseph by his brothers to Egypt was an event of sadness in the Old Testament. Jacob, who was the father of Joseph, was grieved by the disappearance of his beloved son. It was also this sale that later on led to the movement of Jacob's family to Egypt where they were eventually enslaved. (Genesis 37:31-35).
7. The sin of immorality in the city of Sodom and Gomorrah resulted into sorrow. This was because God destroyed the cities because of the attempted rape by men living there. (Genesis 19:1ff).
8. Man experienced unhappiness through the rape of Dinah (the daughter of Jacob and Leah) by Shechem (the son of Hamos). As a result of this rape, Jacob's sons murdered many people including those from Shechem's family. (Genesis 34:1ff).
9. The enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt caused sadness not only to them but also to God. The Israelites were subjected to prolonged suffering because of over working. It was this kind of suffering that made God to call and commission Moses to go and deliver His people. (Exodus 3:7ff).
10. Man lost happiness through the provocations as reflected in Elkanah's family. Peninnah provoked Hannah who was her co-wife basing on her failure to produce

- children. This was a dilemma that kept Hannah in a sorrowful state. (1 Samuel 1:5-8).
11. The Old Testament brings out sadness when the Israelites demanded a physical king. Samuel who was the high priest was grieved. This demand did not please God because it meant the Israelites had rejected His divine authority that rescued them from the Egyptian slavery and led them to the promised land. (1 Samuel 8:6-8).
 12. Man experienced unhappiness through the forced labour especially during the time of kings. For example, king Solomon subjected his people to forced labour during the building of his palace. (1 Kings 5:13-16).
 13. The misery of diseases and death caused unhappiness in the Old Testament. For example, the sickness of Job did not only bring sadness to himself but to the entire Israelites community. (1 Kings 21:1ff).
 14. The greediness of king Ahab caused unhappiness among the Israelites. King Ahab grabbed the vineyard of Naboth and went ahead to recognize his death after the plot by his own wife. This angered the Israelites, the prophets and God (1 Kings 21:1ff).
 15. Man lost his happiness through the practice of corruption and bribery. God punished the Israelites because of these evil acts (Micah 7:1ff).
 16. The worshipping of idols resulted into man losing his happiness. This became common among the Israelites during the time of kings. It annoyed the prophets and God responded by punishing the Israelites because it reflected they are disobedient to the covenant law of not worshipping other gods.
 17. There used to be discrimination among the people of Israel. For example, kings like Solomon and Rehoboam discriminated against the northern tribes and treated them with a lot of cruelty.
 18. The people of Israel suffered from natural disasters particularly drought. This was during the reign of king Ahab and the prophetic ministry of Elijah. Many people cried out because of the consequences of the drought which included starvation and death among others.
 19. The people of Israel were sad for being in exile in Babylon. They cried out to God to rescue them from their suffering.
 20. Grabbing of property resulted into sorrow among the Israelites. King Ahab grabbed the vineyard of Naboth.
 21. The Israelites were unhappy because of their unrepentant ways. For example, God punished king Solomon because of being unrepentant.

Revision Question

- Qn.1. Identify in the Old Testament where man experienced unhappiness, sorrow and sadness.**
- Qn.2. How did man lose their happiness in the Old Testament?**

HOW THE EATING OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT RESULTED INTO UNHAPPINESS

1. Both the man and the woman were chased out of the garden of Eden and therefore they lost God's free provision.
2. The man and woman became ashamed of themselves particularly when they realized they were naked.
3. They became afraid of God and this was the reason why they went into hiding.
4. The man blamed God for putting a woman with him meaning that there was a broken human relationship.
5. God cursed the soil for the survival of human beings saying that it was going to produce weeds and thorns.
6. God cursed the man to begin surviving through his own sweat by working hard.
7. God punished the woman by making her experience pain during delivering.
8. God put the woman under the man's control. She was therefore to be submissive to the man.
9. God punished the woman by making her to have a special desire for a man.
10. God punished human beings by death. They were to go back to soil from where they were formed.
11. The human beings were cursed to eating wild plants meaning that they had lost free provision from God.
12. The human beings and other creatures started being enemies. Man started fearing a snake.
13. Sin entered into the world and this was the beginning of man's suffering through evils.
14. Man lost his immortality. He was cursed back into the soil from which he was formed.

Revision Questions

Qn.1. Explain how the eating of the forbidden fruit resulted into man's happiness.

Qn.2. How did the disobedience of man in Genesis 3 lead into their own unhappiness?

HAPPINESS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The coming of Jesus Christ brought the good news of salvation. This became the main source of happiness to mankind. God made him man and his coming fulfilled the prophet's vision (John 1:1-5 and Isaiah 11:1-9). The New Testament gives the following teaching about happiness.

1. Happiness is having the belief in the good news preached by Jesus Christ. Through this believing, man is able to achieve salvation (Luke 4:18ff).
2. Happiness comes from knowing that God is our father and that we are His sons and daughters. This is the only way through which man would inherit His kingdom. (John 19:27).

3. Happiness is the fruit of a continuing struggle to get rid of selfishness. Jesus emphasized that selfishness is the barrier to man's relationship with God and neighbors. (John 13:1 and Mark 14:34).
4. Happiness is being open to the invitation of Jesus Christ. Zacchaeus experienced happiness when he opened himself to good news of the kingdom in response to Jesus' invitation (Luke 19:1-10).
5. Happiness is having freedom from slavery, diseases or anything that causes discomfort to man. Jesus' miracles of healing the sick and the dead made his followers happy. (Luke 5:15).
6. Jesus denied that wealth security or political success were necessary for happiness or proof of God's approval to man. He points out that its man's heart and soul that are important. (Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-23 and Luke 18:18-25).
7. Christ also denied that the strict observance of the mosaic laws could guarantee salvation, which is the source of man's happiness. He is of the view that is man to benefit from the laws instead of the laws taking advantage of man. (Matthew 12:1ff).
8. Happiness is being united with Jesus Christ. This union is seen as the key to loving and thanking others even during difficulties (Philippians 4:1ff).
9. Happiness is being with God in the heavenly kingdom. God is presented as the loving father doing everything for His children to achieve happiness. (Philippians 21:1-4).
10. Christ emphasizes that the sorrow caused by death is not permanent. He pointed out that this would be followed by joy that lasts forever (John 16:16-22).
11. Jesus encouraged forgiveness and reconciliation for the believers to be happy. He talked about the prodigal son who was accepted back by his father with a great festival.
12. Happiness according to Jesus Christ is living by the beatitudes. He showed his followers the true nature of happiness which included being humble and merciful among others.
13. Jesus Christ advised His followers to believe in the heavenly treasures and work for them so that they may be truly happy. He therefore said wealth, security and political success are not necessary for one's happiness.
14. Jesus called upon every believer to be happy on the day of judgment. On such a day, the righteous would be together with the father in heaven.
15. Saint Paul said that Jesus' resurrection is a source of happiness to every believer. By it every believer is assured of coming back to life.
16. Happiness comes from having the love for God and fellow men.
17. Jesus' miracles were to offer man full happiness. His miracles had power over sins, the barrier to man's happiness (John 8:11, Luke 7:1ff, Matthew 9:4-8).

JESUS' TEACHING ON TRUE HAPPINESS (IN THE BEATITUDES – MATTHEW 5:1-11 OR LUKE 6:20-23)

1. Happiness is being spiritually poor. The kingdom of God belongs to such people (Matthew 5:3).
2. Happy are those who mourn. God will comfort them (Matthew 5:4).
3. Happy are the meek (humble). They will receive what God promised (Matthew 5:5).
4. Happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for the righteousness. God will fill them fully (Matthew 5:6).
5. Happy are the merciful. God will also be merciful to them. (Matthew 5:7).
6. Happy are the pure in heart. Such people will see God. (Matthew 5:8).
7. Happy are those working for the peace of mankind. God will make them His children (Matthew 5:9).
8. True happiness is being persecuted for what God requires. The kingdom of heaven belongs to such. (Matthew 5:10).
9. Happy are those insulted, persecuted and having all sorts of lies and said against them because of following Christ. A great reward waits in the heavenly kingdom (Matthew 5:11).

Revision Question.

Qn.1. Basing on the words and actions what should Christians do to be fully happy?

- Should be poor spiritually.
- Should be faithful.
- Should be merciful to others.
- Should allow to be persecuted.
- Should preach the good news of salvation to others.
- Should respond to God's call in faith.
- Should be humble in faith.
- Should encourage righteousness in their ways.
- Should forgive and reconcile.
- Should work for peace.
- Should know that God loves every one.

CHRISTIAN OCCASIONS OF HAPPINESS

1. Christmas day where Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the savior who came to deliver man from his sins.
2. Good Friday where Christians celebrate the day Jesus died on the cross. This means that man would achieve salvation.
3. Easter day where Christians celebrate the day Jesus Christ resurrected. This is a sign that death is no more to Christians.
4. Ascension Day where Christians celebrate the day Jesus went back to heaven to prepare the heavenly kingdom for them.

5. Baptism day where Christians celebrate the increasing number of people joining God's family.
6. Confirmation day where Christians celebrate their declaration to remain firm in their faith.
7. Holy matrimony (wedding) where Christians celebrate fulfilling God's divine plan for marriage.
8. Ordination day where the Christians celebrate the consecration of church leaders who are important in developing and strengthening the spiritual lives their people through spreading the good news.
9. Holy communion where Christians remember the last supper Jesus Christ had with the apostles before being arrested and eventually put to death through crucifixion.
10. All Saints' days. Here some Christians celebrate and remember great personalities who died in their Christian faith after offering important services.
11. Starting a new church. This is an indication of growth within the Christian community.
12. Fellowship where Christians come together, share experiences and encourage one another to remain firm in their faith.

UNENDING LIFE

The phrase “unending life” means life without an end. It is the continuation of human life in another form usually in the form of spirit or soul in the world which is invisible.

Unending life comes after a person has died. The belief in unending life comes from the fact that the body of each person comprises two parts that is the physical body and the soul or the spirit.

The belief is that the physical body is mortal (can die) while the soul or the spirit is immortal (cannot die or lives forever).

Therefore, for one to attain unending life must first lose the physical body in the process called death.

Death is, therefore, a point in life when the physical body is transformed to a spiritual being.

Death can also mean a point in life when the immortal soul leaves or separates from the mortal body.

Many words can be used to describe the life that is attended after the physical world or death. Such included;

- Life here after.
- An afterlife.
- Life after death.
- Eternal life.
- An everlasting life.

UNENDING LIFE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION (OPINIONS AND VIEWS ABOUT UNENDING LIFE)

1. Death is accepted as a reality in life for every human being experience. For this matter, it is an avoidable.
2. Some people believe that there is life after death. They accept that they would continue to exist in a spiritual life after this physical form.
3. However, to some people life after death is non-existent. This is the view held by the scientists and the highly educated among others.
4. Some people are believed that life after death is determined by morality or the way one behaves. The righteous are rewarded with eternal life and the wicked are punished with a life of suffering.
5. Some people look at death as a mystery and something that remains difficult for the human being to understand and explain.
6. Some people turn to death when they face extreme difficulties in life like poverty and incurable diseases among others. Such people feel that it is better to be dead than to continue with their suffering and therefore, commit suicide.

7. Death is taken to be brutal, rude and cruel by some people. It robs them off their beloved and dear ones unexpectedly.
8. News about the death of good and righteous people is treated with a lot of sorrow and sadness. It is great loss compared to the death of the wicked.
9. The death of the young ones or children is taken to be more painful than the death of an old person. This means that by dying the old people are assumed to have rested.
10. Some people believe that there is judgment at the point of death. The righteous would be given place in the kingdom of God and the wicked condemned to hell.
11. Some people believe in the resurrection of the body. The Christians in particular believe that they are going to share the resurrection with Jesus Christ.
12. Many people prepare themselves for life after death by being morally upright, repenting their sin and helping the needy among others.
13. The souls of the dead are respected and remembered especially if before their death such people have been useful to community. They are remembered by giving their names to new born, roads and buildings.
14. Some people believe in purgatory. This is a place where Christians believe people are made pure of their sins or given before going to heaven.
15. Some people pray for the souls and through the soul of the living dead.

Revision Question

Qn.1. Explain the view held about unending life in your community.

Qn.2. How is the concept of life after death understood in the present situation?

HOW CHRISTIANS PREPARE FOR THE LIFE TODAY

1. Going through the rituals of water baptism. This is intended to remove the original sin inherited from Adam and Eve as to live a pure life, which is a requirement necessary for joining the kingdom of God.
2. Carrying out confirmation. This is a means of re-affirming one's faith and belief in the gospel.
3. Sharing Holy Communion (Eucharist). This is because the body and blood of Christ sealed the new relationship between man and God.
4. Engaging in prayers. This is a direct means of communicating man's needs to God and a way of expressing gratitude for the blessings received. Prayer is therefore a way of keeping in touch with the Kingdom of God.
5. Some people repent their sins. This is a way of confessing and condemning one's sins so as to embrace righteousness required by God.
6. The sick are anointed so as to obtain the divine blessings of God in their last stages of their worldly life.
7. Other people attend bible studies and fellowships. Here Christians share their experiences, faith and give courage to one another to remain firm on the course of inheriting the heavenly kingdom.
8. Some have taken the duty of preaching the word of God. This is done in following the example of Christ who also did the same before his arrest, death and resurrection

where he instructed his apostles to evangelize the whole world before he went back to heaven.

9. Christians are carrying out charitable work in preparing for eternal life. They give support to the needy such as orphans, poor and disabled. By doing this, Christians are following the example of Christ their savior who also did the same.
10. Some Christians go in for holy matrimony. This is with the intention of fulfilling God's divine plan for marriage as recorded in Genesis 1:28.
11. Some Christians pay tithe to church as a way of expressing their loyalty to God. This is because God is the giver of everything.
12. Other people have embarked on reconciling conflicting parties in search of peaceful living. Christ also reconciled man with God and man with man.

Revision Questions

- Qn.1. In what way do Christians prepare themselves for the life after death?**
- Qn.2. Explain the activities that Christians do to get ready for eternal life.**
- Qn.3. Explain how Christians prepare themselves for unending life.**

CAUSES OF DEATH TODAY

1. Diseases like AIDS, malaria and cholera.
2. Accidents through vehicles, drowning and electrocution.
3. Natural disasters such as landslides, earthquakes and flooding.
4. Domestic violence such as child and women battering.
5. Committing suicide through self – poisoning, hanging and jumping into water.
6. Wars i.e. many do lose their lives in the battle fields.
7. Old age. This is a natural way of dying after being tired and worn out.
8. Mob justice. This is because it is associated with serious beating, kicking, stoning or burning to death.
9. Armed robbery where victims are killed with the intention of destroying the evidence.
10. Government policy of sentencing criminals to death through hanging.
11. Abortion. This is the deliberate expulsion of the foetus from the mother's womb. Facing the foetus may cause some implications and over bleeding.
12. Child birth.
13. Drug abuse e.g. taking opium, cocaine and marijuana.
14. Poisoning food, drinks or pouring acids.

HOW CHRISTIANS VENERATE OR REMEMBER THE DEAD

These are the ways though the Christians respect those who died in their Christian faith. In other words, it is giving honour and recognition to the contributions of a person towards the growth and development of the church.

1. Christians pray for the soul of the dead. This is done as a way of requesting God to grant eternal life.

2. Christians give the names of the dead to institutions in remembering them. For example, St. Mary's college Kisubi and Namirembe hospital.
3. Christians commemorate the days their colleagues passed away. In Uganda, 3rd June is a public holiday and is celebrated annually in recalling the day Uganda martyrs were burnt in 1886 because of their faith.
4. Christians remember their dead ones by building monuments. These are structures built resembling the dead. They are commonly known as statues and are always found in and around the church buildings.
5. Books are written about the dead. In such books, the life and the activities of the dead are explained for the living Christians to read and try to do the same.
6. Some of the Christians are canonized and called of saints. They are given such a name because of the roles they played in the church before their death. For example, Saint Paul, Saint Michael and Saint Mary among others.
7. The dead are venerated through embalment. This is where the body of the dead is preserved to prevent it from decaying by the use of chemicals or electrification. In Gulu cathedral, the bodies of two bishops in the names of Angelo Negri and Kihangire were embalmed and are there for people to see.
8. Christians honor their dead ones by burying them in the church grave yard. People like the bishops, priests, pastors and the Nuns are always buried in such places prepared by the church.
9. Memorial services are also organized in honoring the dead Christians. In such services, prayers are said to dedicate the life of the dead to God.
10. Songs of praise are composed in the names of the dead. Such songs are sung regularly in the church during time for worshipping. Singing in the names of the dead reminds the Christians of their contributions.
11. Christians make pilgrimage as a way of respecting the dead. These are visitations to holy sites or areas of religious importance like Namugongo where the Uganda martyrs were burnt in 1886.
12. Christians build shrines to express their fellowship with the departed members. For example, Namugongo shrine was built in memory of the Christians who were burnt alive on the order of kabaka Mwanga in 1886 when they refused to denounce their faith in Christianity.
13. Christians consult the dead ones though prayers. They request them to intercede on their behalf in order to be granted salvation on the day of judgment.
14. Memorial lectures are organized in the names of the dead. Such lectures may be used to inspire the living to live exemplary lives as the dead had lived.
15. Christians give the names of the dead to the living ones especially the newly born babies. Names such as John, James and Peter are given in memory of the apostles of Jesus for their great services.
16. Organizations are also set in the names of the dead. These organizations are always formed to continue with the services of the dead to the community.

Revision Questions

- Qn.1. In what ways do Christians remember those who died in faith?**
Qn.2. How do the believers recall the lives of the fellow departed member?

REASONS WHY SOME PEOPLE DOUBT LIFE AFTER DEATH

The following are the reasons that make some people doubt the existence of the life after death.

1. The influence of science and technology makes it appear that there is no life after death. This is because such an idea cannot be proved.
2. The different approaches or views concerning life after death tend to make some people doubt its existence. This is because such different teaching end up confusing people.
3. Death has remained a mystery and something beyond human explanation. This can make some people to express doubt about what comes thereafter.
4. Some people want to enjoy life and therefore they don't want to think about what happens after death.
5. The sorrows associated with the loss of a member make it difficult for people to imagine life after death. This is because the mourning is always heart breaking.
6. The fear that people have towards death makes them doubt whether there is life after death or not.
7. The delay in the second coming of Jesus Christ (Parousia) has made some people to imagine life after death. Some people tend to become impatient and hence lose their faith.
8. Some people are influenced by their material wealth to believe that there is life after death. They tend to concentrate on their riches other than thinking about the unknown.
9. The influence of formal education also makes it difficult for some people to believe in after death. The highly-educated people look at life as a circle. One is born, lives, dies and decomposes.
10. Some people believe that the idea after death is a consolation for those who are frustrated in life.
11. To some people, the issue about life after death is a moral education intended to control behavior of human beings when still alive in order to create harmony.

Revision Question.

- Qn.1. Give reasons to explain why some people doubt the existence of life after death.**

UNENDING LIFE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

It was a belief among the people in African tradition that the dead continued to exist in another world after the physical life. This belief was reflected in the daily activities of the people.

BELIEFS ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH

1. The dead in African tradition were not dead they were referred to as the living dead.
2. The Africans therefore believed that the dead would continue living in the form of spirit in an invisible world.
3. Death was not complete destruction of a life of a person. Only the body was believed to have been destroyed to let the spirit of the person join the rest of the departed family members and ancestors in another world.
4. Death in Africa was taken to be a change of one's environment. That is from the visible to the invisible world.
5. Death in Africa was taken to be a form of sleep but with the belief that one would wake up in another world.
6. The living dead were believed to be more powerful than the living and therefore they had to be respected.
7. The living dead were believed to have power either to bless or curse the living depending on the kind of relationship one had with them.
8. The dead were believed to be active members of the family. They had control over the family affairs and were therefore consulted through giving sacrifices.
9. The dead were believed to pay visit to the living family members through dreams and visions.
10. The Africans believed to be determined by the way one live the visible life. If one had been good, one could go to good spirit world and the vice versa. Therefore, morality was important aspect of life hereafter.
11. In some cultures, dying while giving birth meant that one had died completely. Among the Acholi people, the dead were remembered through their children among others. The Chagga of Tanzania believed that the existence and the happiness of the dead depended on having had children.

PRACTICES OR RITUALS ABOUT UNENDING LIFE

1. Each family had a common burial ground where all the members were laid to rest. The people believed that they would continue being together as a family members.
2. In some cultures, particularly the Bemba of Zambia the people whispered words into the ears of the dead. The family members could tell the living dead what they wanted from their ancestors.
3. The dead were buried with their belongings including food, drums and stools among others. Among the Egyptians, a king would be buried with a wife and servants. The belief was that they could continue to use such items and human beings in the next world.

4. The Africans could wash the body of the dead person with the belief that he or she could go into the world through a long journey when clean.
5. The dead were buried in the evening hours. The people believed that they could go into the next world when cool.
6. In some cultures, the dead were buried inside the house to show that they were still part of the family.
7. The dead were buried next to each other in the compound. This meant that they could continue living as a family.
8. The graves were mounted with stones. The belief was that they were sheltered from harsh climatic conditions including rain and sunshine.
9. Some people used to sleep next to the dead body throughout the night before burial the following day. This was a way of giving company and showing solidarity to the living dead.
10. In some cultures, an opening or hole was created onto the graves of the dead. This was to allow free movement of the spirits in and out of the grave and also to allow fresh air in.
11. The Africans used to give the names of the living dead to newly born. The people believed that such would continue among them through their names.
12. The Africans used to shave or trim any bodily hair. This was a sign of mourning but which meant that a new life could begin by growing of hair.
13. The Africans respected certain places including mountains, forests, big trees and caves. Such places were believed to be sacred or holy and homes of the living dead.
14. Funeral rites were carried out. The people believed that such activities involving singing and offering sacrifices could help to settle the living dead among the ancestors.
15. The feet of the dead body came out first in the process of taking it for the burial. This was done with the belief that the person would move with the feet on the journey to the next world. They also believed that at the birth one could have come with the head first because of the inability to walk. He or she was therefore expected to use the feet while going to the spirit world as it was in the visible world.
16. The Africans believed that the water vapor (smoke) after rainfall was an indication of the dead preparing food.
17. Life here after was believed to be determined by the way one lived the visible life. If one had been good, one could go to the good spirit world and vice versa.

Revision questions

- Qn.1. “The dead are not dead”. Explain the statement giving reference to African traditional practices or beliefs.**
- Qn.2. Explain the practices in African tradition that showed the belief in unending life.**

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. Violation or breaking of taboos was believed to have been the cause of death. Taboos carried religious meaning and people were not allowed to touch or to say any bad about them. Therefore, breaking them was an insult to God – the author of life.
2. Breaking brotherly blood pact was believed to result into death. This was because the relationship was built on blood, which sustains one's life. Therefore, breaking blood pact meant terminating one's life.
3. Violation of an oath by an individual was also believed to cause death. Making an oath was meant to bring out the truth about something or somebody. It was also meant to prove one's commitment in all spheres of life. Breaking it was therefore breaking the relationship already established.
4. Curses especially by the elderly people could bring death to an individual. This was because elderly people like fathers, mothers, uncles, brothers and aunties or in-laws were believed to be representative of God or gods. Their words could therefore cause death.
5. Death was also attributed to old age. They believed God could choose to call an old aged person to leave the earthly life after realizing that he or she was already worn out.
6. Death was associated with witchcraft or evil magic. In such a case, a person was poison through food, water or even casting an evil eye and saying magical words.
7. Bad spirits of the living dead were believed to cause death. They believed that if an individual had some grudge with the dead when they were still alive, he or she could also die.
8. Evil deeds of the relatives or neighbors like incest, murder and night dancing among others were also believed to cause death. This was based on the ground that it could annoy the gods responsible for social life of human beings.
9. Death in traditional Africa was attributed to lack of respect to God's holy place either through words or deeds.

WAYS OF EXPRESSING SORROW IN AFRICAN TRADITION SOCIETY

The following were the ways that people in Africa traditional mourned for the death of a person.

1. There used to be crying and weeping for the loss of a member. This was caused by the pain of physical separation.
2. The Africans could sing and dance upon the death of a person. The songs contained sorrowful messages but which were intended to help the people overcome the sorrow and the pain caused by the death.
3. In some cultures, the people could suspend their daily activities like cultivation for a given period. Among the Acholi people, activities can be suspended for three days

- in the event of a man's death and four days in the event of a woman's death. This was to show respect for the departed member.
4. There used to be slaughtering of animals and birds including goats and chicken respectively. This helped the people to overcome the sorrow caused by the death of a person.
 5. In some cultures, the people could smear their bodies with white clay. This was practiced by Masai people of Kenya.
 6. Besides, the Masai people could abandon their homestead and shift elsewhere. This was because such a home was now associated with a form of misfortune.
 7. Among the Masai people, all the pots in the house were broken down to show the life of a family member had come to an end.
 8. The people were required to dress in a particular fashion. The women in most cases could be bare chest and tying some leaves either on their heads or around their waist.
 9. In some cultures, the people could stay without bathing and washing until the period of mourning is over.
 10. In some societies, the living could trim off the bodily hair. This was to symbolize that death had occurred and yet another life was the spring out.
 11. In some societies, sexual intercourse was suspended till the period of mourning is over. Sex was associated with pleasure and therefore it could not be done at the time of mourning.
 12. Lighting fire the whole night. Some of the mourners could spend the whole night awake.

RITUALS OF DEATH IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

Death in traditional Africa was considered sorrowful and was marked by complex and long rituals. The rituals involved a lot of activities. They were not performed to unknown strangers. Thieves or murderers; such rituals included the following;

1. Rituals for disposing the body

These were ceremonies that were performed before preparation for the burial. They include:

- Washing the dead body with water or traditional medicine. This was done to prepare the individual for the journey to the next world while clean.
- Shaving the bodily hair. This meant that the living dead would begin a new life in a new world the way he or she came to the visible world.
- Cutting off the bodily nails. This had a similar reason with the above.
- Putting oil or butter in the mouth, nostrils or any other bodily opening.

The above rituals are conducted in the presence of leaders and elders. Sometimes children, pregnant women or suspected witches were not allowed to touch the corpse.

2. Burial time:

- The dead were buried with belongings like spears, arrows, foodstuffs, domestic utensils and tools. In some cases, servants and wives of the Kings were buried with them dead body. They believed that these items could help the dead in the next world.
- In some cultures, a hole was made on the grave. This was done with the belief that the spirit would move in and out freely.

3. Funeral rites.

- The last funeral rites were performed when the person was old or she or he had children.
- For the unmarried, the funeral rites were simple and only close relatives attended it.
- For a king or chief, it was taken as a national affair that involved the suspension of a normal life. It required a lot of preparation and wealth.
- Funeral rites involve selection and installation of the heir of the family, chieftom or kingdom. The successor could either be the oldest man, daughter, niece or nephew of the deceased.

REASONS FOR CARRYING OUT OR PERFORMING DEATH RITUALS

Death rituals were intended to send the spirits to the dead peacefully into the next world. This was done by offering sacrifices.

1. Death rituals were intended to help settle the spirit of the living dead among the ancestors.
2. The rituals were to help recognize the living dead as still being part of the family especially by giving their names to the new born.
3. The rituals were intended to bring life back to normal. Some activities like singing and dancing could help to overcome sorrow brought by death.
4. The rituals were intended to show the spirit of solidarity and togetherness between the living and the living dead.
5. Some of the rituals were intended to help the living remember, respect and recall the contributions or the roles of the living dead.
6. Some of the rituals were intended to thank those who helped during the funeral arrangement like digging the graves and burying the dead person.

COMPARING THE CONCEPT OF UNENDING LIFE IN AFRICA TRADITION SOCIETY AND CHRISTIANITY

Similarities.

1. Both believe that there is life after death. Death is not considered the end of life. There is a belief that an individual would have another life in the form of spirit in an invisible world.
2. In both, names of the dead are given to places, children and buildings, lakes as the way of remembering them. For example, Saint Balikuddembe market and Luwum street.
3. In both, there is casting out demons from possessed people. Africans could sacrifice animals and pray as a way of removing the bad spirits in an individual. In the same way, Christianity believes that bad spirits can be cast out through prayers.
4. In both, shrines are built as a way of respecting and recognizing the ancestors in the livelihood of the living. For example, Namugongo shrine was built in memory of the Uganda martyrs of 1886. For Africans, shrines are built in compounds.
5. Both African tradition and Christianity believe that one's destiny into the next world is determined by the behavior of an individual in the earthly life. Africans believed that badly behaved people could go to the bad spirit world. And for Christians, hell is the destination for the sinners while righteous are rewarded with eternal life.
6. Both African tradition and Christianity respects names of the dead. Christianity refers to names of people as saints. To Africans, such names are not to be mentioned without authority from the elders or the spirit of the dead.
7. Death in both African tradition and Christianity is looked at as being the transformation of the physical body into spirits or souls. Both believe that the immortal soul leaves the mortal body at the time of death.
8. Prayers are used to attain eternal life in both African tradition and Christianity. Prayers are considered as being a direct communication to the supreme God who is behind man's existence here on earth and after.
9. Funeral rites are performed in both African tradition and Christianity. This is a day to recall the earthly life of the deceased and the day of the deceased passed away. For example, requiem masses and memorial services are conducted for Christians.
10. Sacrifices are offered in both African tradition and Christianity. Africans offered sacrifices killing domestic animals like goats and sheep or slaughtering birds like chicken to appease the spirit of the dead. Christians also offer sacrifices to bid farewell.

Differences.

1. Africans bury the dead with items such as spears, food and stools. However, for Christians, unending life is absolutely spiritual and thus has nothing to do with material possession.
2. Whereas Africans believed that the dead were reborn through their children and grandchildren, Christians believe that a person remains as a child of God.

3. To the Africans, the dead were considered active members of the family. However, Christians join the family of God in His Heavenly Kingdom.
4. Traditional Africans believed that the dead had influence over the living and were more powerful than living. This is contrary to Christianity where such an idea is not considered.
5. The dead makes demands such as sacrifices and being appeased according to the Africans. This is an idea that Christians do not agree with.
6. Unlike Christianity, the Africans believed that the dead could pay visits to their families through dreams and visions.
7. In Christianity, the soul of the dead is believed to go either to heaven or hell. In African tradition, it was believed that the soul of the dead either lingered around the homestead or went to the spirit world places such as mountains, caves and forests.

UNENDING LIFE IN CHURCH HISTORY

At the time of Jesus Christ, most people believed in life after death. This was because of His miracles and the teaching of salvation, followed by his death and the immediate resurrection. However, after His ascension, people got confused. Different groups of people expressed different ideas about life after death depending on what they thought was right. These groups include;

1. THE EGYPTIANS

- The Egyptians believed in life after death. They believed that the soul could live as much as it was on earth provided such a soul had not encountered some hazards.
- The Egyptians buried the dead with material things such as food, clothing, furniture or anything needed for the expected future existence.
- The Egyptians treated the dead bodies well to avoid decomposition. This process is called embalmment.
- They believed that dead bodies could come back to life again.

2. THE GREEKS

- The greeks believed in immortality of the soul and the mortality of the body. They believed that the soul could live forever even when the body was dead.
- Many greeks believed the immortal soul could escape from its imprisonment in the body at the time of death.
- The greeks believed that life after death was determined by the kind of life lived here on earth. If an individual behaved in a good way, he or she could have a good eternal life and vice versa.
- The greeks expressed their belief in eternal life through paintings. The paintings showed how the soul of the dead could be weighed by the god of the underworld to which the soul of the dead body had to pass.
- Some religious cults believed that those who had shared certain rituals during the earthly life could experience resurrection.

3. THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

- The early Christians believed that life after death was possible (Acts 2:22ff, 17:30ff).
- The apostles and other Christians believed that they could share the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:21ff, 1 Corinthians 1:4ff).
- The Christians believed that they were saved from the power of sins and received the Holy spirit as well as became children of God because of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- The Christians believe that death was good because it was a way of achieving salvation.

THE DISTORTION (FALSE IDEAS) OF UNENDING LIFE IN CHURCH HISTORY

This began from the middle of the 3rd century. There aroused many false ideas about unending life, which changed the real meaning of salvation. These false teachings made life in the Roman Empire increasingly insecure because many Christians lost their certainty about salvation. These false teachings include;

1. The Christians were made to believe that God is cruel and harsh. Because of this, they started fearing death, which believed to be violent and sudden.
2. The preachers put emphasis on death which presented as being sudden and violent. This made the believers to begin fearing death.
3. Many Christians decorated their churches with pictures showing suffering in hell. They showed how people would be punished on their way to heaven before being accepted by God.
4. The preachers emphasized that the dying without repenting one's sins would mean a person was going to hell. By saying so they had forgotten that God was forgiving and merciful.
5. The Christians preached that rebellious people against God could not escape judgement and emphasized that their permanent place was hell. This made people to fear judgment and purgatory (space life full of suffering).
6. Parents feared the death of their babies especially if it occurred before baptism. They got frightened by their own mistakes instead of trusting God's goodness and forgiveness.
7. The sale of indulgence that later came up also confused Christians greatly. The church leaders encouraged people to give gifts especially money to the church in order for their sins to be forgiven before being granted salvation. The rich had even gone to the point of organizing hundreds of masses to be conducted after their death. This made it appear that salvation could be simply be bought.
8. John Calvin of Switzerland came up with another false idea with his pre-destination doctrine. He argued that God had already determined one's destination before birth either to go to heaven or hell and therefore nothing humanly could be done to change

the arrangement. This made God appear cruel and man having no ability to choose between good and evil.

9. Because of scientific knowledge, some Christians looked at heaven, hell and purgatory as geographical places. They imagined their sizes to absorb all human beings. This ended up confusing the believers who also started doubting life after death.
10. The missionaries especially those who came to Africa preached that those who never heard the gospel could go to hell. They emphasized the need for the people to embrace Christianity quickly before facing God's judgment. But St. Paul had pointed out that "those who heard the gospel are judged by it and others by conscience (Romans 1:18ff)".
11. The Catholics taught that the Protestants were rebels and believed that they could go to hell. They based most of their teachings on frightening and alarming stories to make people believe in the gospel. This means that the Catholics had forgotten the love of Jesus Christ and His redemptive death as well as the goodness of God.
12. The Jews had false belief that salvation was for them only. They believed that the gentiles could only receive salvation after embracing the Jewish religious practices. This was a wrong idea because salvation is universal.
13. The idea of renunciation brought by the Monks and the Nuns was a false teaching about salvation. They preached that salvation could only be achieved by living in isolation and doing without worldly pleasures such as eating, dancing and sexual intercourse. This was a misconception because God created all the worldly resources for man's benefits. (Genesis 1:27-30).
14. The Christians feared sickness because it was associated with death. Sick people became worried because of the lack of knowledge of what could happen after death.

Revision Questions:

- Qn.1. Explain the wrong teachings that developed about life after in the history of the church.**
- Qn.2. How was the idea and belief about life after death distorted life after death?**
- Qn.3. Explain the teachings that caused panic among the Christians about life after death in the church history.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE UNENDING LIFE

The history of the Israelites did not have any clear belief in the bodily resurrection. Most of their beliefs showed that they had limited ideas about life after death as summarized below;

1. God willed death for human beings as punishment for having disobeyed his command by eating the forbidden fruit. He told the first human beings that they will go back from where they were formed (Genesis 3:19).
2. God set time for everything including for time of birth and time of death. (Ecclesiastes 3:2).
3. The Israelites were required to choose between life and death. By obeying the commands, they would live forever in the land they were about to occupy. (Deuteronomy 32:45-47).
4. The Israelites looked at death as a punishment that God had given for them.
5. The Israelites took life to be useless and looked at it as a way of chasing wind before they would all die. (Ecclesiastes 9:7-10).
6. The Israelites believed that an individual could go to a place called shoel and live in the form of a shadow. This was a place where an individual could have no real personal life, no work, no reasoning, no knowledge or wisdom or anything done in the earthly life.
7. There was fear of death and shoel. King Hezekiah was sad when he was about to die because he feared shoel (Isaiah 38:9-20).
8. The Israelites believed that a man's life was fragile and mere puff of wind (Psalms 144:4). They looked at it as being useless because it was easily blown away at the time of death without seeing and knowing the final destiny.
9. The Israelites looked at having children as a way of prolonging their parents' existence on earth. (Psalms 127:3-5). They believed that when one had died before producing, then such a fellow has died completely.
10. Death was taken to be a means of resting from the troubles of the world. Job desired to die because he felt he was tired of suffering.
11. The Israelites considered life to be short and it would pass away like a shadow.
12. The Israelites felt that death was only for the evil people therefore it was painful to see a righteous person suffer and die.
13. The Israelites expressed a pessimistic view (hopelessness) of what could come after death. Because of this, they tried to reduce the dreadfulness and the sorrows of death by enjoying life as much as possible. (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13).
14. The Israelites recognized and accepted the death of the old people but were saddened by the death of the young ones. They believed that old people had already done everything possible in their lives and therefore deserved to die. (Ecclesiastes 12:1ff).
15. The Israelites expressed sadness for the suffering of a good person. They believed that the only way of rewarding the goodness of such an individual was prosperity in earthly life.

16. However, the Israelites had a belief that God was with the dead. They believed God could protect them (Psalms 73:21-26).
17. The Israelites had a belief that God protects against earthly and shameful death (Psalms 16:1ff and 17ff).
18. The Israelites believed that God was the only one who could rescue a person from the sinful world and take him to the world of peace for him to live eternally.
19. The Israelites also had a clear belief in the resurrection of the body. They believed in the coming of the messiah to judge the living and the dead (Daniel 12:1-13).

Revision Questions

- Qn.1. Explain the Old Testament teaching about life after death.**
- Qn.2. Show that people of Israel had limited idea about life after death.**
- Qn.3. Give reasons to explain hopelessness that the people of Israel had about life after death.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT ABOUT ENENDING LIFE

In the New Testament, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives hope to every believer about life after death. He showed man that there is another life in abundant in the heavenly kingdom. Through Him, every believer got the hope of achieving salvation.

1. God sent His son Jesus Christ to die for the sins of human beings so that they may achieve or obtain salvation.
2. Christ sympathized with those who lost their dear ones. For example, he was sorrowful at the death of a friend Lazarus (John 11:32-37).
3. By Jesus' death on the cross, he conquered death once and for all for the believers.
4. Jesus' resurrection gives hope for all the believers that they would come back to life.
5. Christ had power of death. He raised the dead like Jairus' daughter. He also came back to life after the third day of His death. (Luke 7:11-17 and Mark 5:21ff).
6. Jesus identified himself to the believers as the way, the truth and the life. Therefore, he encouraged all the believers to have faith and trust in him for them to inherit the father's kingdom.
7. Jesus advised his followers to open up themselves to his messages in order for them to have external life. He illustrated in the story of Zacchaeus who accepted his invitation and he was rewarded.
8. Knowing Christ is choosing ever-lasting life and failure to know him is a way of choosing permanent. Jesus identified himself as the only way to eternal life (John 14:6).
9. Sharing the holy communion is a source of man's strength to increase eternal life (John 6:25ff and 1 Corinthians 11:24).
10. Jesus encouraged everyone to be born again of water and the spirit in order to attain salvation or eternal life. It was in his conversation which Nicodemus who wanted to know how he could attain eternal life (John 3:1ff).

11. Jesus said that the merciful here on earth would be showed mercy in the father's kingdom.
12. Jesus encouraged the believers to give assistance to the needy including the poor and the orphan in order for them to have eternal life. He advised the rich man to sell all his property and give the money to the poor, follow him and he would be rewarded in the father's kingdom.
13. Jesus taught the believers that death is a gate way for eternal life. He emphasized that whoever wants life must first lose the body in order to have the father's kingdom.
14. Jesus encouraged the believers to repent and turn away from their sins in order for them to be rewarded with eternal life. He emphasized that repentance puts one's faith right with God.
15. According to Christ, eternal life is the love of God with all our hearts, souls and strength and the love of neighbors as much as we love ourselves. (Luke 10:25-28)
16. Eternal life begins here and now. This the meaning of the phrase "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" Jesus points out that this requires an individual to turn away from his or her sins. (Matthew 3:2).
17. Christ emphasized that there would be the final judgment for all mankind. He points out that the righteous would inherit God's kingdom and the wicked cast into eternal fire. (Matthew 25:31ff).
18. The resurrection of Jesus is an opening way to a new life and having joy in the kingdom of God as well as being with Jesus Christ Himself (Philippians 1:21-26).
19. The separation and sorrows death causes are not permanent. Believers are advised to rejoice because at the second coming of Jesus Christ, they would be able to meet and shake hands again. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
20. The way an individual lives the earthly life prepares the individual for the fullness of life in the kingdom of the father. This is the call for the believers to keep their moral integrity (revelation 22:1-5).
21. Denial of the resurrection of Jesus is denial of one's faith. This is because the main theme of Christian teaching is the resurrection of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:12-14). St. Paul points out that if Jesus had not risen, Christians would have had nothing to talk about.
22. Believers are told to rejoice because the resurrection of Christ is a proof that death has no power over man. They would also resurrect. (1 Corinthians 15:15-28).
23. According to St. Paul, being open to God and neighbors is a gateway to eternal life. This is a way of accepting invitation of Christ to a bouquet in the heavenly kingdom. (1 Corinthians 18:18).

Revision Questions

- Qn.1. Give examples from the New Testament that there is life after death.**
- Qn.2. How can the teaching and the life Jesus Christ help the believers to have hope in the eternal life?**
- Qn.3. In what ways did Jesus show that there is life after death?**

SUCCESS

Success refers to one's desired or set goal(s) with a specified period of time. This could be excellence in education and marriage among others.

Success requires that targets are set and means for achieving the targets are within the reach of a person.

Success differs from person to a person depending on one's set goals, visions, priorities and opportunities.

SETTING GOALS

- Identify the goals to be achieved within the specified period.
- Identify the means of achieving the goals. These are the resources available.
- The goal identified should be given a time frame or the period in which it can be achieved.
- Identify the strength and weakness in pursuing the goals.
- One should identify the activities, the skills needed and the people to work with in order to achieve the intended goals.
- One should plan how to achieve the goals by getting all the resources put in order.
- The goals set should be within the reach of the person. In other words, the goals should be within one's ability.
- One should take actions and work towards the achievements of the goals set.
- One should use the opportunities available in order to achieve the desired goals.

IMPORTANT VALUES TO CONSIDER IN ACHIEVING ONE'S GOAL

- Hard work.
- Loyalty (commitment and faithfulness).
- Resilience – the ability to persist even in difficult situations.
- Discipline.
- Dedication or determination.
- Self-sacrifice.
- Honesty.
- Self-drive.
- Co-operation.
- Patience.
- Planning.
- Prayer.

SUCCESS IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

Success today may not necessarily differ from individual to individual. There are general accepted indicators and features that different people use to measure success. These include the following:

1. Material wealth such as attractive houses, huge sums of money and vehicles among others are considered success. It is believed that they reflect serious efforts put by the individuals to acquire them.
2. Employment more especially white-collar jobs like accountancy, marketing managers and lawyers. Such employments offer ready sources of income, which makes one's life better.
3. Attending and attaining formal education. Possessing such academic qualifications diploma, degrees or masters means that an individual is assured of getting jobs.
4. To some individuals, having children is success in life. Children are considered blessings in marriage and their presence is a fulfillment of God's intention for marriage as recorded in Genesis 1:27 – 28.
5. Success today lies in having good health. This is because diseases such as AIDS, malaria and cholera among others are claiming the lives of many people.
6. Being in a good marriage characterized by love, respect and faithfulness among others is counted as success in life. Many young people look forward marriage after completing education and acquiring jobs.
7. To other individuals, living longer is to be successful today. This is particularly true with the old aged considering that many could have died at an early age.
8. Some people consider spiritual development as success. They are joyful that God is with them because they believe that everything is possible with God.
9. Some consider moral uprightness as living a successful life. A well-behaved person is respected, admired and regarded as a role model in his or her community.
10. Being victorious or a winner in any competitive election is being successful in life. These people are believed to be of high integrity and the rightful choices to be given votes by the general population.
11. Having power and prestige or being influential in the society is considered as success today. This is because of the respect given to such individuals having the authority to influence or control the affairs of the community through their various services.
12. Service is also based on observing and fulfilling cultural obligations. Cultures being a way of life remind the people of their true identity. It also creates the sense of belonging to the particular group of people. Therefore, respect to such cultures is one step forward to achieving goals of the society.
13. Being popular in the community is living a successful life to some people. Celebrities like models, musicians and the wealthy among others feel great because of being admired by many people.

REASONS FOR FAILURE IN ACHIEVING GOALS

The following are the reasons why some people fail to achieve their goals:

1. Laziness especially if a person is reluctant to engage in any productive activity in order for him or her to get the means of achieving their goals.
2. Poor health caused by diseases like AIDS, measles and malaria. Because the body is weakened by such diseases, it may become difficult for the person to take any meaningful steps towards achieving goals.
3. Poverty causes failure in life. This is where an individual lacks the means to realise his or her goals.
4. Natural calamities like floods and landslides can lead to failure. For example, flood and landslides in eastern part of Uganda affected the agriculture negatively as people's crops were destroyed as well as their lives.
5. Heavy taxation by the government works against an individual's effort to achieve his or her goals. The heavy taxes being imposed leaves people with little disposable income. This cannot allow the victims to meet all their obligations.
6. Dependence burdens may lead to failure in life. In such a case, one may be having many people to cater for in terms of finance, accommodation and food among others. The resources available are easily consumed by the many people.
7. Some people fail to achieve their goals because of the political instability. For example, the famous walk to work protest in 2011 by the opposition parties like the Forum for Democratic Change and Democratic Party because of the rising food and fuel prices caused fear and brought many businesses to stand still. Besides, political instability is associated with destruction of property.
8. Failure in life is caused by alcoholism. The excess alcohol in the body renders the person weak and lazy to engage in any productive activity.
9. Some people fail to achieve their goals because they are jobless. Despite their qualifications and willingness to work, they cannot find the productive activities to help them achieve the desired goals.
10. Poor education system can cause failure in life especially when it is theoretical. Such a system tends to produce job seekers other than job creators.
11. Negative attitude about oneself and life in general can cause failure. This makes an individual to set a limit beyond which he or she cannot do anything.
12. Some people fail because they are neglected at home by family members. Because of inadequate or no support at all, it becomes difficult for an individual to struggle alone.
13. Constant frustrations can result into failure. After putting a lot of efforts and making of trials but without achieving much one can easily give up.
14. Some cultural rigidity in some community contributes to the individual's failures to achieve their goals in life. In such cases, the cultures may not accommodate new changes in life. This restricts people's daily activities.
15. Failure in achieving one's goals is also attributed to the evil of corruption today. In this case, either an individual or a group of people use the facilities that should aid

all people towards success. This is a dilemma that leaves the rest in a poor condition where they cannot do anything for themselves.

BENEFITS OF SUCCESS

- High standards of living.
- Popularity.
- Good governance.
- Moral uprightness.
- Happiness among people.
- Greater economic development.
- Peace and harmony in the society.
- Prestige.
- Independent living.
- Political stability.
- Creation of more jobs.

Revision Question

Qn.1. Explain the success Uganda has attained since independence.

- Economic growth.
- Political stability.
- Emancipation of women.
- Enforcement of human rights.
- Improvement in education like Universal Primary and Secondary Education.
- Improved communication.
- Infrastructural development like roads.
- Improved medical services as more hospitals and training more health workers.
- Industrialization.
- Urbanization.
- Good governance.
- Formation of organizations both government and non-government organization like Uganda AIDS commission and Uganda Human Rights commission.
- Free mass media.
- Technological advancements like the use of internet.

THE UNDERSTANDING OF SUCCESS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

1. Traditional Africans considered success as being in a good relationship with the community members. They valued having friendship instead of quarrels and being interested in the welfare and prosperity of others.
2. Success meant possession of material wealth such as land and cattle among others. These material wealth provided security against social evils such as famine. Such individuals were also respected in the community.
3. Success was having concern on human dignity. It was for this reason that disadvantaged people like the slow, cripple and the weak were not considered failures in life. Provided they lived in good terms with others, the community always assisted them.
4. Success was being in good terms with ancestral spirits. The Africans believed that the spirits blessed them. This was the reason Africans respected and feared the spirits.
5. Success was based on having wisdom in the community. This was an important tool in guiding the community members to achieve their goals.
6. Success was being victorious in tribal wars. According to the traditional Africans, victory in wars was a source of pride and guaranteed security against the loss of lives and property.
7. Poverty was not considered a failure in life according to the traditional Africans. As long as one could share with those who had, success could have been achieved. This was because of the communal way of life where all resources in the society belonged to all people.
8. Success in traditional Africa was being a hero. Having done great things for the benefit of the whole community like killing a lion that could have invaded a given village, winning battles alone, etc. was highly valued as it could have saved the people from the would-be disasters like death and loss of property.
9. Having good harvest of food at the end of a season was considered success in traditional Africa. This guaranteed security against famine for the family members and the entire community.
10. Success according to traditional Africans was being married. Marriage was compulsory and it was a demonstration of one's maturity to live an adult and an independent life. All people desired this kind of life as a way of fulfilling one of their cultural obligations.
11. Marrying many wives was an aspect of success in traditional Africa. Polygamous men held social high status in their community based on their responsibility of caring for the many wives together with the children.
12. Success was being faithful and observing the cultural values of the society. Cultures to the traditional Africans were important because it reflected the true identity of the people. It also brought pride and created the sense of belonging.

13. According to the traditional Africans, having many children was success. This was because children provided wealth, security and labour among others not only to the family but also to the whole community.

Revision Question

Qn.1. Explain the concept of success as understood in African Traditional Society.

Qn.2. What was success to the people in African Traditional Society?

SUCCESS IN CHURCH HISTROY

The history of Christianity has often been presented as a successful story. The early Christians looked at success in terms of material achievement. They used such materials to measure success in the spread of Christianity. This includes the following;

1. The Christians measured success by the number of converts into Christianity. The greater the number of people becoming Christians, the greater the achievement.
2. The Christians measured success by the length of time Christianity had been in existence in a given place. The longer the time, the more successful the church could have been.
3. Success was measured by the geographical spread of Christianity. Christians wondered and imagined how Christianity which started in the Roman Empire later spread throughout Northern Europe, Asia, America and then Africa.
4. The Christians looked at success in terms of achievements in the arts such as beautiful buildings, pictures and sculptures produced in the service of the church.
5. Christians considered the importance and the influence of church leaders as being great achievement. They had pride in their leaders being influential in the politics of the community. This belief came as a result of the respect with which people treated the Bishops and other church leaders.
6. Christians put emphasis on the roles played by the secular rulers who were Christians. For example, emperor Constantine of the Roman Empire who became a Christian was given a great place in the church because his conversion was seen to be an achievement basing on the work of the preachers.

However, the above idea of success came to a halt and eventually proved the Christians wrong. This was because of their later challenges, which they met as seen below:

- Christ, the founder of Christianity was publicly executed. His friends also deserted Him and some of them did not even understand some of His preaching.
- The death and ministry of Jesus Christ disappointed the disciples. This was because they thought Jesus could come as a political leader but not spiritual as He appeared.
- The disciples had no proof to convince people that Christ had actually resurrected. This made people doubtful of the truth about Christianity.
- The apostles also found themselves being persecuted. Peter and Paul, the two most important of the apostles in the spread and foundation of the church faced persecution in Rome. This made them appear as failures to the common man.

- The first Christians were slaves, poor and illiterate. The working rich class even oppressed them.
- The Christians also faced serious persecution and torture especially in places where they were the minority like in the Roman Empire town of Scilli near Carthage.

A CHANGED ATTITUDE TO SUCCESS IN CHURCH HISTORY

This began from the middle age where Christians began looking at success in different ways as summarized below.

- Loving and sharing with others. This was to enable the church grow rapidly as the first Christians did (Acts 2:5ff).
- Sacrifice of oneself for God and others just as Christ Himself did.
- Being the light of the community by having faith and trust in God and leading others to do the same. (Matthew 5:1ff, Luke 11:33).
- Working for justice for all people. Martin Luther publicly condemned injustice among the people.
- Christians looked at unity as the greatest step towards success.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

1. The Christians preached the gospel. Their preaching was about the messiah (Acts 8:4-8).
2. The Christians gave testimonies as they proclaimed the message of the Lord. These testimonies helped make the people believe more in the gospel truth (Acts 8:25).
3. The disciples converted the people into believers thus the church was strengthened and it grew in number through carrying out water baptism (Acts 9:31).
4. They wrote epistles to various communities such as Corinth, Galatia and Rome. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians on several times on puzzling questions including marriage and food offered to idols among others.
5. The Christians carried out charitable work. They distributed relief and donations to the needy in form of food. (Acts 6:1-4).
6. They continued to perform miracles. For example, Peter and John healed a lame man (Acts 3:1-10).
7. The Christians engaged in prayers. This became one way through which they could communicate with God.
8. The believers shared their belongings. The rich in particular sold their property and shared the money with everyone (Acts 4:32-37).
9. They encouraged reconciliation among the believers. For example, they helped to reconcile the native Jews and the Greek speaking Jews over the disagreement concerning finances (Acts 6:1-6).
10. There was fellowship among the believers. They continued coming together and sharing the words of God (Acts 2:44-47).

11. The Christians founded churches in various communities. St. Paul took the leading role in establishing the church in the communities he travelled like in Rome in his several visits.
12. The believers were involved in fasting as they copied the example of Jesus Christ. During such times, they dedicated themselves to the service of God (Acts 13:1-3).
13. The early Christians laid hands on the people as Jesus had done before.
14. They also trained others to help them with the work of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. For example, Saint Paul trained Timothy and Titus.
15. The Christians shared Holy Communion with the people. This was done in memory of the Lord's supper and the bloodshed through crucifixion.

CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICAN CHURCH (THE MISSIONARIES)

Consideration should be given to the following already covered under the sub-themes of work and service.

- Introduction of formal education by building schools like Mengo Senior School.
- Set up medical centres.
- Founded churches.
- Introduced new Agricultural methods.
- Preached good news of salvation.
- Trained African religious leaders including Adrian Atiman, Apollo Kivebulaya.
- Campaigned for the abolition of slave trade.
- Introduced new skills in life like carpentry.
- Carried out baptism.
- Translated the bible into local languages.
- Helped in reconciling hostile tribes e.g. tribes Buganda and Bunyoro.
- Set up mission station such as at Bagamoyo.
- Set up catechical centres.

THE OLD TESTAMENT ABOUT SUCCESS

Success in the Old Testament is a story of the struggle by the Israelites to understand their relationship with God and among themselves. They had to remain loyal to the covenant agreement they made with God if they were to achieve their desired goals. Therefore, the Old Testament teaches the following about success;

1. The main goal of man is being in union and harmony with God, fellow man and other creatures. (Genesis 1 and 2). In these chapters, God is presented being in control and doing everything possible for man's success.
2. Success is having trust and faith in God. Lack of these virtues results into failures in life just as Adam and Eve as well as the builders of the Tower of Babel failed in their relationship with God (Genesis 3:1ff and 11:1ff).

3. Success is giving oneself in a personal and total relationship to God. God promised the Israelites success only if they could depend on Him (Deuteronomy 6:1-9).
4. To the Israelites, success was keeping and observing the laws God had given them. They had to love God and their neighbors and worship Him only. (Exodus 20:1ff).
5. Suffering is part of success. For example, Job suffered from God's strike but came out with a blessing at the end. (Job 21:7-15).
6. Related to the above, perseverance or endurance is success in life. Job tolerated the pain inflicted upon him but was victorious through being blessed.
7. Success was based on material possessions. For example, the Israelites considered possession of the Canaan land and being fruitful as great achievement in their lives.
8. Success meant freedom from slavery. The Israelites celebrated their freedom from Egyptian slavery through Moses on the command of God. (Exodus 12:1ff).
9. Success was associated with child bearing. Sarah, the wife of Abraham and Hannah, the wife of Elkanah were overwhelmed when they achieved their goals of giving birth to Isaac and Samuel respectively. (Genesis 12:6 and 1 Samuel 1:20).
10. Being just or fair to one's friends is a way to success in life. The biblical texts present a man being joyfully concerned with studying the law and loving his fellow men. (Psalms 1:2-3).
11. Wickedness is failure in life. The wicked are lighter, useless part of wheat. The Psalmist points out that such people do not last for long. (Psalms 1:4-5).
12. Success according to the Old Testament is attained through living a pure and righteous life. The various sacrifices offered in Israel were intended to cleanse the people as they related with Yahweh whom they believed could grant success.

THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT SUCCESS

The New Testament brings out the idea of success basing on the life and the teachings of Jesus Christ. He is presented as the true Son of God and He was God, but later became a human being. His father sent him to redeem mankind from evil of sins and bring the good news of salvation. Jesus remained faithful to this goal throughout his life and showed what success means as summarized below;

1. Success according to Jesus means doing and obeying the will of God as well as serving the needs of man. He resisted temptations by Satan so as to fulfill His father's will and serve the needs of man (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1ff).
2. Jesus said that success is opening up oneself to what God wants. He encouraged his followers to believe in God rather than believing human possibilities.
3. Jesus said that one should respond to God's invitation with faith and trust in order to be successful. He gave the example of Zacchaeus who became saved from his sins after accepting him in his life.
4. Jesus told His followers that there is prosperity in the heavenly kingdom. He advised the rich man to sell his property so that he could obtain the heavenly riches (Matthew 19:19-21).

5. Jesus said that the greatest is one who humbles himself or herself before God and others (Matthew 18:1-5).
6. Jesus advised His followers to deny themselves the pleasures of the world so that they can achieve much in the heavenly kingdom.
7. Jesus said that everything is possible with God and therefore He expects His followers to present their needs to Him for greater achievements through prayer.
8. He encouraged his followers to be creative and use their talents in order to achieve greater things in life. In this he gave the example of three servants each of whom was given some coins.
9. Jesus encouraged hard work and planning for the work properly in order for one to be successful. He gave an example of the builder who made his house strong enough to resist the bad weather (Luke 6:48).
10. Jesus encouraged his believers to help each other, understand his or her mistakes in a humble way for greater prosperity. (Matthew 18:15-17).
11. Jesus encouraged believers to love God as well as their neighbors the way they love themselves in order for them to succeed. (Matthew 22:37-40).
12. Jesus said that an agreement between two people in the name of God would be successful (Matthew 18:18-20).
13. Saint Paul said that one's success should give glory to God's name in heaven (1 Corinthians 10:3).
14. Saint Paul encouraged believers to live in harmony and be united as they work together in order to achieve their goals (Philippians 2:1-4).
15. Saint Paul encouraged team work in order for the community to achieve its goal. He said that everybody's contribution was important for the well-being of the community.
16. Jesus demonstrated that suffering, tolerance and perseverance are gateways to success. He points out that whoever loves the body must first lose it. This came at the time when James and John – the sons of Zebedee, had asked Jesus to allow them sit at His right, and to enjoy of the heavenly kingdom. (Mark 10:35-40).
17. Success to Jesus means moving beyond the humanly values of the society such as observing the laws. He called on man to accept the new values in Him and to be open to the needs of others. (Matthew 19:20-21).
18. Success is living in harmony and unity with other members in the community. All people are to have this desire and work for the community. (Philippians 2:1-4).
19. To Jesus, success means living self – sacrificial life. He points out that this is the only way to glory for mankind and having full humanity. Jesus gave his own life away through His death on the cross and brought glory to man and the father's kingdom. (Philippians 2:8, Luke 9:23-26).

Revision Questions

- Qn.1. What did Jesus teach about living a successful life?**
- Qn.2. Explain the New Testament view about success.**

JESUS' SUCCESS OR ACHIEVEMENT

1. He reconciled man with God, man with man when he died on the cross.
2. Jesus defended the weak like a woman who was caught in adultery and was about to be stoned to death.
3. He resisted temptation by Satan and in doing so he defeated the Satan once and for all.
4. He conquered death for human beings by dying on the cross for the sins of man.
5. He was able to challenge the Jewish authority about the emphasis of observing petty laws which were enslaving the people.
6. He performed miracles like changing water into wine, healing the sick and blind among others. This helped to set his followers free from the suffering.
7. He defended the right of the women. Among others, he recognized a woman's offer of a coin as being important.
8. He obeyed human authorities. This was by encouraging his followers to pay taxes as required by the government of the time.
9. Jesus had human friend with whom he associated. They include Martha, Mary and Lazarus.
10. Jesus looked for sinners and helped them to turn back to God through repentance and believing in him.
11. Jesus overcame the suffering that he underwent for the sake of human beings.
12. Jesus resurrected. This meant that he had powers over death and this helped to bring salvation to mankind.
13. Jesus cleansed the temple by beating the traders.
14. Jesus ascended into heaven after having completed his work of bringing salvation to human kind.
15. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his apostles. This helped to inspire and gave the courage to the apostles to do and complete their work.

REASONS WHY JESUS APPEARED AS A FAILURE TO THE JEWS

The coming of Jesus Christ – the messiah God had promised. (Isaiah 9:6ff, 11:1ff) instead turned out to be a disappointment to many of the Jews. This was because the Jews expected a political messiah and the many challenges Jesus faced beginning with His birth and during his ministry. He was therefore regarded as a failure because of the following:

1. Jesus had a poor social background. He was born in a kraal of cattle and was known to be the son of Joseph who was simply a carpenter. The Jews expected a high social status of a king (Luke 2:1ff).
2. Jesus' baptism made Him appear a failure. To the Jews, baptism was only for the sinners who were seeking for God's forgiveness. His baptism therefore meant that He was just like any other ordinary man. (Mark 1:9-11).
3. Jesus' presumed failure came from His temptation by Satan. The Jews expected the son of God not to be tempted by a devil. He was therefore seen to be more of a

- human being than the divine being they expected Him to have been. (Matthew 4:1-11).
4. Jesus was materially poor. He owned nothing and even had only one cloth. To the Jews, material possessions were important in determining one's status in the community. Jesus was, therefore, regarded a failure because of lacking material possessions.
 5. Jesus appeared as a failure because he associated with sinners like the tax collectors, prostitutes and the lepers among others. These were people considered the out-cast members and the social misfit of the society. (Mark 2:13-17).
 6. Jesus appeared a failure because of over emphasizing that he had come to serve the Father's will. He got involved with work that was usually done by the slaves. For example, he washed the feet of His disciples. This surprised the Jews who expected Him to be served just like other Kings.
 7. The betrayal of Jesus by His own disciple Judas Iscariot made Him to appear a failure in life. The Jews believed that this reflected his weaknesses in controlling the people he had chosen Himself. (Mark 14:10ff).
 8. Jesus appeared as a failure because of His arrest. The Jews had expected Him to have prior knowledge since he claimed to be God. They also expected Him to use his miraculous powers to resist the arrest, which to them He failed to do so. (Mark 14:43-49).
 9. Jesus' presumed failure came in when His own people disowned Him at the time of His arrest. In Mark 14:50, the disciples ran away leaving Him alone, and in Mark 15:34, Jesus appeared to have been abandoned by God – His father who sent Him.
 10. Jesus' lack of political power made him to appear a failure. The Jews had expected a political messiah but Jesus was instead spiritual in nature. He kept away from politics all the time. This was a dilemma to the Jews who failed to understand.
 11. Jesus appeared as a failure because he was not married. To the Jews, marriage was important aspect of social life and every young man was expected to marry before the age of twenty. Failure to do so was therefore a failure in life just as Jesus failed.
 12. Jesus appeared as a failure when he decided to abandon eating food so as to concentrate on His work of preaching. The Jews even called Him the mad man because of this behavior (Mark 1:12-13).
 13. Jesus appeared as a failure in life because His crucifixion and more together with the two thieves. Crucifixion was the best way of punishing criminals who were considered failures in life. (John 19:17-18).
 14. Jesus was considered a failure in life because he died at an early age. He had only lived for 33 years. This was a failure in life because the Jews expected only old people who had out lived their usefulness to be dying.
 15. Jesus was considered a failure because of His attack on the traders in the temple. This trade was a valuable economic activity to the Jews. Therefore, Jesus' action of beating people, over turning the tables, etc. portrayed Him as being less concerned about the welfare of others (Mark 11:15).

16. Jesus was considered a failure because of having weak disciples who had even failed to understand His teachings. He had always used parables while preaching the good news. This made it difficult for people to believe in His teachings hence being referred to as a failure. (Mark 14:13-20, Matthew 13:18-23, Luke 8:11-15).