YEAR 9 ADVANCED MATHS. ANALYSIS TASK

Date:	Name:	Marks:

ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE (COMPARED TO OTHER ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS)

The Isaiah Scroll found at the Qumran caves of the Dead Sea, dated to the 2nd century BC.
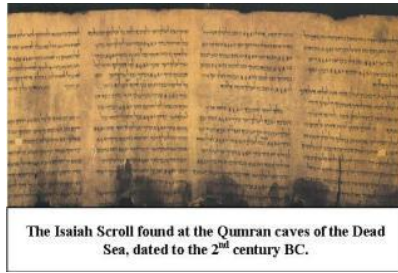
Source: http://www.truthnet.org/Bible-Origins/3_Bible_Inspiration/

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. What is "Manuscripts"?
    It is the original handwritten text of an author's work.

2. What are some of the famous ancient manuscripts get passed down? Who are the authors?

   Histories written by **Herodotus** (ca. 484 B.C.-ca. 425 B.C.) the first Greek writer who succeeded in writing a large-scale historical narrative. The narrative of the *Histories* tells the rise and fall of the Persian empire.

   The Illiad written by **Homer** (ca. 800 B.C. – 700 B.C.) a Greek Poet. *The Iliad"* is usually considered to be the earliest work in the whole Western literary tradition, and one of the best known stories about war, peace and love of all time.

   The Holy Bible The bible is a collection of 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents.

Old Testament – 39 books
     First five books (The Torah) were believed to be written by Mosses (**1400 BC**)
     Last book (Malachi) was written by the prophet Malachi (**430BC**)
New Testament – 27 books
     First book – Gospel of Matthew written by Disciple Matthew (**during the first century**)
     Last Book –Revelation written by Apostle John (**90 AD**)

All these books share a **common storyline**, the **creation, fall, and redemption** of God's people.

Question 1a {**B.C** – Before Christ; **A.D**.— Anno Domini, which is Latin for "year of our Lord," and it means the number of years since the birth of Jesus Christ; **ca.** Latin word which means "around".}

Mark the event mentioned above on time line below. Notice the centre should be 1AD not 0AD

⟵——+————+————+————+————⊕————+————+————+————+——⟶ Time

[3 marks]

Additional information: Babylon empire (ca. 600 – 550 BC), Persian empire (ca. 550 – 330 BC), Greek empire (ca. 330BC – 150BC), Roman empire (ca. 150 BC – 400AD)

Question 1b (2%)

Imagine going to any library in the world. Find 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, written on 3 different continents. However, they must share a common storyline, a common theme, and a common message, with no historical errors or contradictions.

Comment on this challenge. Describe the probability with words like (Certainly, highly likely….certainly not).

Hence, comment on the likelihood (chance/ probability) of the formation of the Bible if done merely by human effort. Give reference to the background information from previous page. Also notice that that "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)"

ACTIVITY
Step 1: Get into groups of 2, call 1 person X and the other person Y
Step 2: Get all the X students to sit outside the room for a few minutes
Step 3: The teacher will then write a sentence e.g. Fred got up, walked to the door, and then opened it.
Step 4: The Y students will then write out that sentence, but deliberately change **1 word** completely.
Step 5: Each Y student write their changed sentence on the board.
Step 6: The X students will then come back into the room. They need to figure out the original sentence.

Question 2 Briefly put down what you discover from this activity.

[3 marks]

Question 3

Calculate the percentage error, **correct to 2 decimal places**, in the following example of manuscript corruption. Show all working out.

$$Error\% = \frac{NumberOfErrors}{OriginalNumber} \times 100\%$$

Original script	"We are twice armed if we fight with faith" -- Plato **% error: 0%**				
Copies in next century (Daughter manuscript)	"We are twice armed if we fight with faith" **% error:**		"We are twice armed if we **sight** with faith" **% error:**		**Average % Error:**
Copies in the following century	"We are twice armed if we fight with faith" **% error:**	"We are twice armed **of** we fight with faith" **% error:**	"We are twice armed if we **sight** with faith" **% error:**	"We are twice armed of we **sight** with faith" **% error:**	**Average % Error:**

[4 marks]

Question 4
Is it possible to have % error bigger than 100%? Why/ Why not?

[2 marks]

Question 5
Complete the following table.

Author	Date written (±50 years)	Earliest copy identified	Approximate time span between original and earliest copy identified.	Number of copies (Accuracy of copies %)
Homer (Iliad)	800 B.C	400 B.C.		643 (95 %)
Herodotus	450 B.C	900 A.D.		8 (??)
Plato	380 B.C	900 A.D.		7 (??)
Aristotle	383B.C	1100 A.D.		49 (??)
Suetonius	120 B.C	950 A.D.		8 (??)
Caesar	70 B.C.	900 A.D.		10 (??)
Bible New Testament	75 A.D	130 A.D.		5600 (99.5%)

[3 marks]

Question 6

(a) The accuracy rate of the New Testament Bible is 99.5%. What would be the percentage error? Show clear working out.

[2 mark]

(b) How does the % error of the New Testament compare with the percentage error of Homers Iliad? Show clear working out.

[2 mark]

(c) In the New Testament the vast majority of these errors are either simple spelling mistakes or the substitution of words like Lord instead of Jesus. Assuming these spelling mistakes account for 89% of the errors. What is the actual % error related to these spelling mistakes? Show thorough working out mathematically as well as a well labelled diagram to aid explanation.

[2 + 2 (diagram) = 4 marks]

BIBLE STATISTICS

NEW TESTAMENT STATISTICS (KJV)	GREEK NEW TESTAMENT
Chapters: 260 Verses: 7,957 Words: 180,552 Letters: 838,380	Words: 138, 020

(d) Given the New Testament was written in Greek. Use the information provided, estimate the number of words that could be copied wrongly via spelling mistakes.

[2 marks]

<u>**Question 7**</u> Give answer correct in % correct to two decimal places.

Use the following formula to calculate percentage increase and percentage decrease

$\%\,change = \dfrac{new - original}{original} \times 100\%$	Positive $= \%$ increase Negative $= \%$ decrease

(a) What is the percentage increase in the number of copies found from Plato's script to Caesar's script?

[2 marks]

(b) Calculate the corresponding percentage decrease in the number of copies found from Caesar's script back to Plato's.

[2 marks]

Question 8 {CAS: Solve (….)} Give answer in % correct to two decimal places.

$NewValue = OldValue \times (1 + \%increase)$

$NewValue = OldValue \times (1 - \%decrease)$

Redo question 7 with CAS and Solve( ). Show thorough working out.

(a) What is the percentage increase in the number of copies found from Plato's script to Caesar's script?

[2 marks]

(b) Calculate the corresponding percentage decrease in the number of copies found from Caesar's script back to Plato's.

[2 marks]

(c) Explain why these two percentages are different.

[2 marks]

(d) What is the percentage increase in the number of copies found from Caesar's script to New Testament scripts?

[2 marks]

CONCLUSION (3%)

In light of doing this task, write down 3 things that you have learnt or discovered. Make sure one of them must be your comment on the accuracy of New Testament compared with other ancient manuscript.

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For those who want to know more…

A lot of people still think that the New Testament was written in the 2nd and 3rd century AD (i.e. about 100 years after the eye witnesses died off). However, the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke were all quoted by Ignatius bishop of Antioch (died 107AD) in the first century, and just recently there was another very important finding which reports on a fragment of the Gospel of Mark that is most likely dated before 90AD. For one of the books to be accepted into the New Testament, a number of tests were applied. The books had to be written by an eye witness or someone who knew the eyewitness's. The documents had to be written early and the writings had to fit into accepted teaching all around the Mediterranean.

So 550 BC means 550 years before Jesus was born

And 2000 AD **almost** means 2000 years after Jesus was born …

… except AD started at 1, not 0
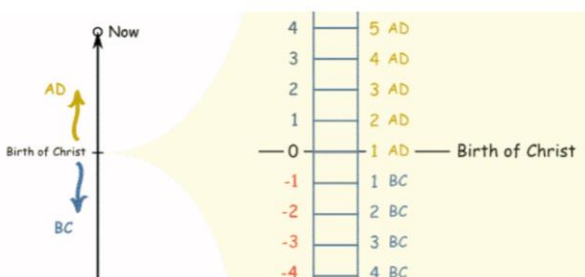
So, 2 AD is actually 1 Year after Jesus was born
And 2000 AD is actually 1999 Years after Jesus was born.

Ref: https://carm.org/manuscript-evidence
https://carm.org/illustration-bible-text-manuscript-tree-and-variant-readings
http://www.livescience.com/49489-oldest-known-gospel-mummy-mask.html
http://amazingbibletimeline.com/bible_questions/q10_bible_facts_statistics/
http://www.parallaxperspective.com/2013/01/18/bible-statistics/
http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/bibleorg.html
http://www.christianministriesintl.org/articles/Bible-the-Inspired-Word-of-God.php
http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Herodotus.aspx