Instructions:
1. Prepare the reading list of primary sources and the essay questions listed below. You are also required to prepare a bibliography of scholarly articles and books that are related to the primary sources and essay questions.
2. The examination will consist of three questions drawn from this list, from which you will be asked to answer two. You will have two hours to answer each question.
3. In composing your argument you should engage seriously with the primary sources listed here. Your arguments should be detailed, specific, and well-organized. You are not expected to memorize quotations or recite page and line numbers. General answers based on information found in reference works and encyclopedia entries will not be considered acceptable.

Essay Questions:
1. Describe the relationship between church and state as reflected in Eusebius’ *Oration in Praise of Constantine* and Athanasius’ *Defense to Constantius* and *Defense against the Arians*. How do the particular historical contexts shape their different conceptions of the emperor? To what extent do their views of Nicene theology shape their relationship to the emperor?

2. The Councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon addressed the Christological controversy that arose from the *Theotokos* dispute. Write an essay that answers the following questions: what were the arguments for and against the use of the term *Theotokos* and why was this such an important issue in the Christological debate? What were the major theological points on which Cyril of Alexandria and Nestorius disagreed and to what extent was this resolved at the Council of Chalcedon? Was the *Tome* of Leo the Great a compromise between the two opposing sides in the Christological controversy?

3. Describe in detail four major areas of disagreement between Irenaeus and the Gnostics. Explain how Irenaeus’ theology responds to those differences and enables him to develop what might be called an authentic Christianity.

4. Write an essay in which you identify and analyze Socrates’ and Sozomen’s different points of view regarding ecclesiastical matters. Do this by comparing and contrasting their treatment of three major episodes and/or persons and then by relating those differences to each author’s literary strategy.

5. Discuss the Trinitarian theology of Basil of Caesarea and Gregory of Nyssa in the context of their dispute with the neo-Arians. What is the nature of this dispute, how do Basil and Gregory respond to it, and how does it shape their conception of the Trinity?
formulating your answer, consider how their theory of theological language informs their Trinitarian thought.

6. Why did Augustine consider it necessary to react against the acquittal of Pelagius at the Council of Diospolis in 415, and why did he eventually prevail? Assess both the politics of the Pelagian controversy and the theological issues involved in it.

7. Compare Optatus’ perception of the Donatists with the Donatists’ self-image in their martyr stories. In your answer, indicate how particular social locations and religious convictions influence one’s understanding of the nature of the church.

8. What are the presuppositions that are guiding the hermeneutical/exegetical theories of Origen and Augustine? Compare their respective understanding of literal and figurative senses and assess their contribution to the history of exegesis.

9. What kind of literature is the Life of St. Anthony and History of the Monks in Egypt? To what extent should these texts be considered as historical writings? In particular, consider how the Scriptures, miracles, and virtues function as literary devices.

10. How are the late antique figures of Constantine and Basil depicted in the light of the biblical saints? Analyze Eusebius’ Life of Constantine and Gregory’s Praise of Basil and discuss what is distinctly Christian about these biographical/hagiographical writings.