

The Eclectic Manuscripts Comparison Chart: Bibliographical Test

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." – John 8:32 (KJV) | "It's better to be divided in truth, than united in heresy." – Anonymous
 Note: Assume all dates as close approximations.

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Author / Work	Claimed Date Written (Begin-End)	Earliest Surviving MSS	Approx. time: Original to Surviving MS	Number of MMS	Accuracy of MMS to Each Other
Christian: New Testament ¹	c.27~30AD ² – c.66~96AD ^{3, 4, 5}	c.60AD ^{6, 7} – c.200AD ^{8, 9}	Less than 100 years	5,856+ ¹⁰ (18,130†) ^{11, 12}	99.5% ¹³ (100% with B-RAID & UM-CoC)
Jewish: Old Testament ¹⁴	c.1350BC ^{15, 16} – c.450BC ^{17, 18}	c.1208BC ¹⁹ – c.587BC ^{20, 21}	Less than 150 years	17,000+ ^{22, 23}	99.99996% ²⁴ (100% with B-RAID & UM-CoC)
Islamic: Quran ²⁵	c.610AD ²⁶ – c.653AD ^{27, 28}	c.568?AD ²⁹ – c.750AD ³⁰	Less than 150 years ^{31, 32, 33}	96+ ^{34, 35?}	N/A ³⁶
Hindu: Upanishad ³⁷	c.1700BC ³⁸ – c.1600AD ³⁹	c.1040AD ⁴⁰ – c.1464AD ^{41, 42}	2700+ years	1 ^{43, 44, 45?}	N/A ⁴⁶
Buddhist: Sutras ⁴⁷	c.600BC – c.500BC ⁴⁸	c.1AD ⁴⁹ – c.99AD ⁵⁰	500+ years	267 ^{51?}	Insufficient Data
Homer: Iliad ⁵²	c.800BC – c.700BC ⁵³	c.493AD ⁵⁴ – c.508AD ⁵⁵	1,193 years	2,000+ ^{56, 57, 58}	95%? ⁵⁹
Aristotle: Writings ⁶⁰	c.384BC – c.322BC ⁶¹	c.900AD ⁶²	1,222 years	1,000 ⁶³	Insufficient Data
Plato: Tetralogies ⁶⁴	c.427BC – c.347BC ⁶⁵	c.869AD ^{66, 67}	1216 years	238 ⁶⁸	Insufficient Data
Manuscripts must date before 1455 AD (time of the first printing press book) in order to be counted above. ? = Incomplete data. Circa (abbreviated c.) is widely used in historical writing to signify 'approximately' when exact dates are not accurately known. Manuscript (abbreviated MS) and Manuscripts (abbreviated MSS). † = MSS in non-native languages dating to same time period. Christ's ministry start date is estimated, since we don't know his exact Birth 4BC-1BC / Death 30BC-33BC (see refs). ^{69, 70, 71}					

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Note: Whenever possible, the Wayback Machine (<https://web.archive.org>) was used to permanently archive and preserve the integrity of the web based reference, at the time it was used as a reference. Since the Wayback Machine appends the original website onto the end of the Wayback Machine link, you need to manually copy and paste the entire link into a web browser for the archive.org links to work correctly. Also, a large number of old and/or out of print books are available for free to download from the world's largest library and university repository at <http://www.archive.org>, and can also be located at <https://books.google.com>.

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