

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/12

Luke and Acts (1-21: 15) Short Answer Questions

General comments

There was a significant number of scripts that reflected good knowledge and understanding of the text. Candidates should be encouraged to quote the actual text rather than a paraphrase.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

(a) and (b) Although this question was generally well answered, a number of candidates gave generalised answers about Jesus' life and work. For example, a common wrong answer was that the angel revealed that Jesus was the Messiah or Saviour.

Question 2

Both parts to this question produced the highest score of correct answers with almost all candidates gaining the full two marks.

Question 3

Many candidates either did not read the reference to the Sabbath or were not sure which healings were done on the Sabbath and so guessed at the answer. Common wrong answers referred to leprosy and the paralytic man lowered through the roof.

Question 4

Both parts were generally well answered though part (a) was omitted by a number of candidates.

Question 5

(a) Some candidates showed knowledge of other gospel narratives other than Luke and gave answers such as "It is finished". The exam is based on Luke only and so only Luke's narrative material can be credited.

(b) A similar problem to (a) occurred with many candidates quoting the text of Matthew.

Question 6

Both parts were well answered, with some candidates accurately naming one of the seven other than Stephen in part (b).

Question 7

(a) Generally well answered, although precise reference to Christians was sometimes lacking.

(b) Ananias was the most common wrong answer given.

Question 8

- (a) Many candidates gave the answer as Cyprus, either because they did not know the actual town was Paphos but knew Sergius Paulus was on Cyprus, or they misread the question and did not see that the question required the name of the town.
- (b) This was generally well answered.

Question 9

- (a) The most common wrong answer was “the synagogue”. It may well be that Paul’s strategy of going first to the synagogue in a town was the reason why many candidates did not refer to the Areopagus.
- (b) A lot of candidates omitted this question.

Question 10

Both parts of this question produced the highest number of candidates omitting to answer the question. Both parts also produced the lowest number of correct answers. Those that did attempt the question seemed to confuse it with the gospel account of Jesus’ instructions to the disciples

Section B

Question 11

- (a) Generally well answered.
- (b) This question produced one of the lowest numbers of correct answers. Most candidates replaced the divine message at the baptism with that given at the transfiguration.
- (c) This was generally well answered.

Question 12

Both parts (a) and (b) were well answered. However, part (c) produced few correct answers. Most candidates either offered material derived from other gospel accounts of resurrection appearances or referred to returning to Jerusalem to tell the others.

Question 13

Candidates showed good knowledge of the personnel and the actions contained in this story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. However, the conversation that took place between the two was less well known and so part (c) was the least well answered of the parts of this question.

Question 14

This was a story that was clearly known by the majority of the candidates, possibly because of the vivid nature of the account.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/13

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RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/22

Luke and Acts (1-21: 15) Essay Questions

General comments

The marks covered the full range with evidence of some good answers.

Some candidates showed very detailed knowledge of the text for part **(a)** questions where narrative was required. Good candidates gave answers that were focused and clearly expressed.

Some candidates, though they knew the material, either did not read the question carefully enough or did not select the right material. This was particularly evident on **Questions 1(a), 5(a) and 7(a)**. These candidates gave accurate accounts from the text but often included text that was not requested. For example, in **Question 1(a)** many included lengthy accounts of Zechariah's vision in the Temple.

As in previous years, a significant number of candidates did not answer the part **(b)** questions well. Candidates need to be aware of the level descriptors that make clear what is required to gain a Level 3 or 4 in the AO2 questions.

A few candidates, who answered parts **(i)** and **(ii)** of the part **(a)** of a question, omitted part **(b)** of those questions.

Comments on specific questions

SECTION A

Question 1

- (a)** This was a popular question but, as mentioned above, candidates tended to include material that went beyond that required. Most candidates were able to recount the main points about what happened but were less sure about what was said. In particular, in part **(i)** many candidates omitted the reaction of the crowd when Zechariah spoke and his prophecy about John. In part **(ii)** many candidates omitted Jesus' final comments.
- (b)** This was generally well answered though few knew of the role of Elijah ascribed to John. Most candidates limited their discussion to John's baptism of Jesus.

Question 2

- (a)** This was the most popular question and was generally well answered. Most gave a full detailed account of the miracle. Those candidates that did not gain full marks generally omitted some of the conversation about the centurion being a man under authority.
- (b)** This seemed to have been an area that many candidates had prepared for and many candidates highlighted such areas as "power of command by word", "healing from a distance" and "the Kingdom open to Gentiles" in addition to the more common discussion about faith.

Question 3

- (a)** The two parables were well known and most candidates gave good answers.

- (b) In contrast to part (a), this question was rarely answered well. Most candidates gave the Lord's Prayer verbatim, or else did not read the question carefully and answered on Jesus' teaching on prayer in the parables.

Question 4

- (a) This question was only answered by a few candidates. Those that did attempt it often answered from the wrong text and described the collecting of the donkey by the disciples. Others missed out the Pharisee's objection and Jesus' response. Only a few candidates showed knowledge of Jesus' weeping for Jerusalem.
- (b) Whilst candidates had some knowledge of Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees in general, there was often insufficient textual knowledge to enrich the answers.

Question 5

- (a) This was generally well answered, though Jesus' appearance before Herod was often more detailed than the account of Jesus' first trial before Pilate. As mentioned above, this question led many candidates to recount material that was not required (e.g. by recounting Jesus' appearance before the Jewish Council or continuing the account up to Jesus' crucifixion). Such material cannot be credited.
- (b) Most candidates attempted to analyse Pilate's character, though reaching a variety of different conclusions. The more able candidates supported their views by reference to Pilate's actions.

SECTION B

Question 6

- (a) This was an area of text that most candidates were confident about and was generally well answered.
- (b) The more able candidates made reference to the consequences of the church growing, such as the need for organisation and the growth of opposition and persecution. Less able candidates limited their discussion to the growth in converts and their boldness to speak.

Question 7

- (a) Although the text was generally known, the details were often lacking. As mentioned above, it was also a question which led many candidates to include material that went beyond the scope of the question set.
- (b) This seemed to be an area that candidates had prepared and so there were some good answers.

Question 8

- (a) Although this was a popular question, many candidates did not discuss the events in the house of Cornelius. They tended to just give the account of the vision at Joppa, but not set it in the context of Peter's defence.
- (b) Many candidates struggled to answer this question. It was not always clear that candidates understood the link to part (a) and the mission to the Gentiles.

Question 9

- (a) This question led many candidates to write at great length, disregarding the trigger of "a brief account". It often meant that they penalised themselves as they were short on time in answering further questions. Candidates need to spend equal time on each question. A number of candidates omitted any reference to Lydia.
- (b) Many candidates answered this in rather simplistic terms (e.g. Paul was a success because he converted many people). Only a very few candidates attempted any evaluation which included a weighing up of the extent to which Paul's visit to Philippi could be seen as a success.

Question 10

- (a) Some candidates had prepared this topic and were able to refer to key texts. Other candidates attempted the question without knowing much about elders and deacons. They were able to write about the call of deacons in Acts but very little else.
- (b) This was generally well answered and most candidates knew the relevant material relating to the prophet Agabus.

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