

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2015 series

2048 RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

2048/23

Paper 2 (The portrayal of the birth of the early church),
maximum raw mark 80

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2015 series for most Cambridge IGCSE[®], Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

Page 2	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge O Level – May/June 2015	2048	23

1 (a) Acts 3: 1–10

- (i) Peter and John going to Temple at 9th hour; lame man from birth carried; laid daily at Beautiful Gate asking alms; Peter and John directed gaze at him when man asked for alms; look at us; he expected to receive something; I have no silver or gold but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk; took him by right hand – feet ankles became strong; leaping up – walked praising God; all people saw him walking and praising God
- (ii) some possible examples – healing of crippled man at Lystra (Acts 14:8–13); raising from dead of Eutychus (Acts 20:7–12)
- (b) e.g. healing at Beautiful Gate – crowd were amazed and filled with wonder as to what had happened; later questioned as to what power or name they did the miracle; cripple at Lystra – saw them as gods; healing of the slave girl – brought before magistrate
- (c) **agree**: God is sovereign and can intervene; accounts have witnesses to the events; would expect a loving God to intervene and bring healing; God is above the laws of nature.
- disagree**: laws of nature fixed and cannot change; we now can explain the “miracles”; unreliability of accounts; accounts are symbolic; exaggerations

2 (a) Acts 5: 1–11

- sold property; kept back some and gave rest to apostles; lied to Holy Spirit; was at your disposal but lied; lied to God not man; Ananias fell down dead; wife arrived not knowing about death; she lied about money; she died
- (b) expect devotion to apostle’s teaching; fellowship/breaking bread/prayer/miracles and signs; shared/sold to give to those in need; met together in temple courts; preached; conversions; numbers added; start of organisation with the Seven and elders; worshipped in synagogues, where accepted apostles observed the Jewish hour of prayer at temple initially; gradually separated and started own meetings (churches founded); Christians suffering persecution (not all aspects required for level 4)
- (c) **agree**: persecution led to fleeing Jerusalem and so dispersed the Christians; made Christians keen to spread their message
- disagree**: time of peace after Saul converted still led to growth of church; missionary journeys spread message; intention of God to spread church (e.g. Samaria) regardless of persecution; work of the Holy Spirit

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3 (a) Acts 9:10–25

Saul shown Ananias in vision; gave sight and filled with Holy Spirit; baptised; Saul preached to Jews; proved Jesus is the Christ; Son of God; threatened; fled over wall

(b) (i) tried to enter Bithynia; stopped by Spirit; went to Troas

(ii) vision – man from Macedonia begging; come over to Macedonia and help us; ready to visit Macedonia – concluded God had called him to preach to them

(c) agree: Paul's commission through Ananias was to preach to Gentiles; example of Pisidian Antioch, Philippi and Athens; also preached to pagans; Council of Jerusalem recognises Paul's mission to the Gentiles

disagree: examples of preaching to Jews first – went to synagogue; only after he had been rejected did he take it to the Gentiles; his commission at his conversion was to proclaim Christ's name to the Gentiles and their kings **and** to the people of Israel; even at Pisidian Antioch he spoke first in synagogue and was only when they rejected he turned to the Gentiles

4 (a) Acts 13: 6–12

Bar-Jesus (Elymas) tried to turn proconsul from faith; Paul accused him of being child of devil/deceitful; blinded him; proconsul believed – amazed at the teaching

(b) mother's house focus of Christian gatherings; travelled with Paul and Barnabas on first missionary journey; left early; Paul not wanting to take him on second missionary journey; Barnabas goes to Cyprus with John Mark and not with Paul; John Mark young cousin to Barnabas

(c) agree: preached gospel; conversions – both Jews and Gentiles; miracles worked; churches founded and elders appointed; expect examples

disagree: opposition; rejected by Jews – went to Gentiles; confusion at Lystra and forced to leave; discussion about "great" success

5 (a) Acts 15: 5–12

sharp dispute/debate about whether circumcision required for salvation; what is status of uncircumcised Gentiles; Peter spoke - reminded he had been called to preach to Gentiles; God gave Holy Spirit to Gentiles as to Jews; no distinction; tempting God to impose extra conditions for salvation; no need for burden of the Law (legalism); saved by grace, as we are; Barnabas and Paul relate their experiences

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(b) some went out without authorisation and disturbed you; troubling your mind by what they said; it seemed good to us to choose men and send them to you – with Barnabas and Paul as men who have risked life for name of Jesus; confirming this by word of mouth through sending Judas and Silas; Holy Spirit guides – no more burden except: abstain from food sacrificed to idols/from blood/from meat of strangled animals; from sexual immorality; do well to avoid these things

(c) **agree**: whole debate and tensions shown by need for Council of Jerusalem; Paul and Barnabas dispute; complaints by Grecian Jews

disagree: picture of life of church is fellowship and breaking bread together; cooperation and care for one another e.g. the Seven appointed; growth of churches and support for Paul from church leaders

6 (a) **Acts 17: 5–9**

(i) rushed Jason's house searching for Paul and Silas but not there; dragged out Jason and others to officials; accused welcoming Paul and Silas who were troublemakers; defying Caesar's decrees/another King – Jesus; turmoil; put Jason on bail and released them; Paul and Silas went at night to Berea

Acts 18:12–17

(ii) brought to court before Gallio – this man is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law; Gallio would not judge and they turned on the synagogue ruler instead; many converts; stayed 18 months teaching

(b) jealousy; threat to beliefs; questioning keeping of Mosaic law; critical of the Jews e.g. accusing them of killing Jesus; speaking against Temple; accused of speaking blasphemy

(c) **agree**: expect examples especially Philippi and Ephesus; real persecutors were Jews and pagans; civil authorities appear in order to deal with riots etc. not as persecutors

disagree: they jailed Christians; Herod persecuted Christians; supported Jewish opposition in their ruling; allowed stoning and making Paul leave some towns