

DIVINITY

Paper 8041/02 The Four Gospels

General Comments

1. **Questions 1-7** were the most popular choices but questions on John's Gospel were well covered by those candidates who answered them. **Questions 10-14** were less popular.
2. Overall performance was good. There was evidence of satisfactory preparation but there was less evidence of the appropriate use of scholarly material within the written answers. The standard of writing was good.

Specific Questions

Question 1

- 1a This was a popular gobbet. Candidates recognised the context being the birth of Jesus but not enough comment was focused upon the gobbet, much was said about the birth as a whole story.
- 1b A popular gobbet with good comment around the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Candidates recognised that it was found at the end of the sermon and commented upon the authority that Jesus taught with.
- 1c All candidates who did this gobbet answered it very well. This was a very popular choice.
- 1d Again, a popular gobbet which was well answered. Candidates identified the story and commented on James and John's request and their poor understanding of Jesus.
- 1e Many candidates used this as an opportunity to comment upon Luke's teaching on the rich.
- 1f Recognised to be part of the preparation for the coming passion of Jesus, candidates made the link with this and the triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This question lacked specific comment but brought a lot of retelling of what happened.
- 1g Not as popular as some of the other gobbets but for those candidates who had a good understanding of John's Gospel this was answered well.
- 1h A less popular choice which, on the whole, was not as well answered as others. Candidates linked it to the 'I am' sayings and talked more about the other phrases rather than concentrating on 'I am the door'.

Question 2

This was a very popular question. Candidates gave a lot of relevant comment. This question was generally well answered and the idea of Jesus being the new Moses was developed with reference to the whole gospel and not just the birth of Jesus. The place of the Law of Moses and Jesus as the fulfilment of it brought good, relevant comment.

Question 3

The best answers to this question looked at all the three aspects of when, where and by whom Matthew was written but a lot of emphasis was given to whom. The traditional views of the authorship of this Gospel were covered and this was a popular question.

Question 4

This was a popular question. Essays on the disciples were well done and the better candidates highlighted their positive character traits as well as their negative traits.

Question 5

The 'Son of Man' title is a regular topic for a question but this year it was confined to looking at the use of it in Mark's Gospel. A lot of comment was around the messianic secret in Mark and the way in which this title contributes to this. Some good answers were given on this.

Question 6

Not as popular as other questions but for candidates who were familiar with the role of John the Baptist in Luke, this question was well answered. Good candidates made use of the wide selection of material available in Luke on John the Baptist and comments were not just made around his birth story.

Question 7

This is a familiar theme and it brought out familiar comment and references. Better answers looked at not limiting the gospel to just the Gentile community but they commented on its impact further afield than this.

Question 8

This is a question about how John has used synoptic material not a comparison between the Synoptics and John. This was not such a popular choice of question.

Question 9

Although this question was not widely selected by candidates, for those who did attempt an answer, it was evident that they had prepared well for this topic and covered a lot of the material expected. The role of Mary at the Cana wedding and the Samaritan woman at the well were popular stories for this question.

Question 10

The answer to this question had to be more than just an essay on the purpose of the Last Supper but needed to refer to gospel differences and characteristics. Fewer candidates chose this question.

Question 11

This question was poorly answered on the whole because candidates did not give specific detail, instead including personal comment rather than textual information.

Question 12

This was not widely selected. This needed a lot of reference to specific 'Q' material and not many candidates were able to give a good understanding of the arguments for the existence of 'Q'.

Question 13

Not a very popular choice but for those who did attempt this question they made reference to a good selection of material.

Question 14

A question on the parables is always popular and it allows for much comment. It was important for candidates to remember that the question was looking at the purpose of the parables and not just the variety of topics they cover. On the whole this question was popular and it was well done.

3. All questions succeeded at achieving the intended differentiation. Overall the exam instructions were clearly understood.