

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/12

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

General comments

There were a number of good scripts that showed thorough and detailed knowledge of the texts. Candidates seemed to know both texts equally.

It was also noticeable that there were fewer 'no responses' than in previous years. Accurate knowledge of the text is vital and so the actual wording of the text is recommended rather than a paraphrase.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) The majority of candidates could identify one occasion but fewer were able to name two. Some
and (b) candidates named the same occasion twice in different ways e.g. when Jesus was 12; when Jesus' parents lost and found him in the Temple. Only one mark could be awarded in such instances.

Question 2

- (a) This was generally well answered.
(b) The most popular correct answer was 'be content with pay'. Most candidates answered correctly.

Question 3

- (a) This was well answered with 84% of candidates giving the correct answer.
(b) This question produced the highest percentage of correct answers on the paper (87%).

Question 4

- (a) A number of candidates confused what the son planned to say to the father with what the son
and (b) actually said when he met his father. Although most candidates were able to state one thing the son said to his father, less than half the candidates were able to state two things.

Question 5

- (a) This was well answered with over 80% of candidates gaining the full two marks. It was noticed that
and (b) occasionally candidates strayed into John's Gospel for their answer, which was not accepted since the exam is on the text of Luke's Gospel only.

Question 6

- (a) There was some confusion with the story in Luke of the Transfiguration. Also a common error was
and (b) to refer to angels whereas the text speaks only of two men in white.

Question 7

- (a) This was generally well answered and most candidates managed to gain both marks available.
and (b)

Question 8

- (a) This was answered correctly by one third of the candidates. There was confusion with the words that Jesus said on the cross or candidates included passages from earlier accounts in Acts.
- (b) This was well answered with over 80% of candidates giving the correct answer.

Question 9

- (a) Many candidates just referred to 'a miracle', more precision was needed for the mark.
- (b) This was more generally known with over half the candidates giving the correct answer.

Question 10

- (a) Again, a lack of precision led to the majority of candidates gaining no marks. Most candidates and (b) referred to Paul being bound and being handed over. However, only a few made reference to the Jews or to the Gentiles in their answer. Others confused it with Agabus' prophecy of famine.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) Although the parable was well known, key words or phrases were omitted. Only a few linked the satanic removal of the word with a loss of faith or salvation.
- (b) There was a lack of detail with candidates just making general statements about 'hearing the word'.
- (c) Although a wide variety of answers were accepted as correct answers, many candidates just gave vague answers e.g. Jesus teaching about the word of God. Such answers did not address the focus of 'meaning' of the parable.

Question 12

- (a) These were generally well answered.
- and (b)
- (c) Candidates struggled to gain the full two marks and this answer gained the lowest percentage of correct answers across the whole paper. Many candidates seemed confused and spoke about God dividing the people into two groups, rather than about access to God.

Question 13

- (a) Well answered with over 80% of candidates gaining the full two marks.
- (b) Although most candidates gained one mark, just over half of candidates gained the full two marks.
- (c) This question achieved the highest number of candidates (over 90%) giving the correct answer.

Question 14

- (a) Many candidates remembered the event but not the location.
- (b) Most candidates answered this correctly.
- (c) This drew a high number of no responses or incorrect answers. For instance, many candidates referred to Paul angering the crowd by saying their god was not real.
- (d) Most candidates gained at least one mark on this question.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/13

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.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This was generally well answered. The most common wrong answer was Tiberius.
- (b) Again, the majority of candidates gave the correct answer. A common wrong answer was Pilate.

Question 2

- (a) This question produced the most correct answers across the whole paper.
- (b) Again, this was well answered with only a few candidates confusing the answer with one of the other temptations.

Question 3

- (a) A few variations such as 'a godly man' or 'a good man', but most gave the correct answer.
- (b) To gain the mark detail in the answer was required. 'He showed great faith' was not detailed or accurate enough to gain the mark.

Question 4

- (a) The majority of candidates gave the correct answer, though it was also the question that produced the most 'no responses'.
- (b) A number of candidates conflated accounts from the other gospels. As a result, a common wrong answer was that the people spread palms in front of Jesus.

Question 5

- (a) This was generally well answered.
- (b) About half the candidates correctly answered this question. A common wrong answer referred to angels.

Question 6

- (a) This question was answered correctly by almost all the candidates.
- (b) Not quite as well known as part (a) but still well answered by the majority of candidates.

Question 7

- (a) This was a well known event and most answered correctly.
- (b) Most gave the correct answer with only a few confusing Sapphira with Ananias.

Question 8

- (a) Many candidates confused the account with other visions, particularly the actual conversion vision of Saul hearing Jesus.
- (b) Candidates did not answer this question well and it also produced a high number of 'no responses'.

Question 9

- (a) and (b) Both parts were well answered, with candidates clearly knowing the details of the events.

Question 10

- (a) Detail was needed in the answer to gain the mark. Many candidates referred only to 'elders' rather than 'Ephesian elders'.
- (b) Over half the candidates gave the correct answer but common wrong answers included 'Damascus' and 'Ephesus'.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) Most candidates gave the correct answer though it was clear that a number of candidates conflated the birth account with the birth stories from Matthew's Gospel.
- (b) Only about a third of candidates gave correct answers to parts (b) or (c). It is important to have a detailed knowledge of the text.
- (c) Many candidates did not seem aware of Luke's special interests in the outcast and the poor, and salvation for all.

Question 12

- (a) and (b) The parable was clearly well known to the candidates and most gave correct answers, showing a good knowledge of the details of the text.

Question 13

- (a) (b) and (c) Again, this was a story that was well known to most of the candidates and there was clear knowledge of the text details.

Question 14

- (a) This question was not answered well.
- (b) Candidates fared better on this part of the question and most candidates correctly named Silas.
- (c) Again, the majority of candidates gave the correct answer.
- (d) Candidates struggled to list two of the charges but most candidates managed to name one.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/22

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

General comments

There were some excellent answers that showed good knowledge and understanding of the text. The quality of the answers on the Acts of the Apostles continues to improve. Many answers were focused and clearly expressed.

The skill demanded for the part **(b)** questions move away from the narrative to showing reasoning and evaluation. Credit is given for discussion of the material rather than just stating the text. Possible strategies to help candidates with part **(b)** questions might include looking back at past questions and mark schemes, and also to use the level descriptors when practising the various skills. Very few candidates broke the rubric and attempted more than five questions.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) Although generally well answered, a significant number of candidates conflated the account of the wise men that is recorded in Matthew's Gospel. Hence, the answers described how the star led the shepherds to the manger and there the shepherds gave gifts to Mary. An element of the account often omitted was the chorus of angels following the announcement.
- (b) The census and its significance for Joseph were usually correctly stated. However, many were unable to explain the connection with messianic prophecies and King David.

Question 2

- (a) Another popular question with the majority of candidates recounting the incident accurately.
- (b) Many candidates relied on textual material without comment or explanation. Of the textual material selected, most referred just to forsaking family and not looking back. There is much more material that could have been included such as the parables of the tower-building and warring kings.

Question 3

- (a) Another popular question with many candidates giving a full and accurate account of the parable. The details that caused some problems to some candidates included the direction of the journey and the innkeeper's compensation.
- (b) Many candidates limited their discussion to the statement that people should love their neighbours as themselves and that they should show mercy to others. The significance of Samaritans and Jews were often overlooked.

Question 4

- (a) Those who attempted this question often omitted Jesus' prophecies about Jerusalem and how he wept over Jerusalem.
- (b) This was often rather brief in answer with most candidates just making reference to the fact that it was a donkey and not a horse and so suggested humility. A few made reference to the messianic prophecies or Jesus' concern for Jerusalem.

Question 5

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question showed good knowledge of the text, especially the conversation with the criminals.
- (b) This was not well answered. Many candidates just restricted their answer to 'forgive and you will be forgiven'. There were very few references to Jesus' other teaching on forgiveness.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) This question, though not unpopular, posed some candidates some problems. Many clearly did not know the material and may well have been drawn into the question when they saw the reference to the healing of the crippled beggar. The disowning and killing of Jesus, his resurrection and call to repentance were rarely seen together in candidate's answers.
- (b) Most answers were limited to preaching and healing with occasional reference to prayer. Few seemed aware of the role of the apostles in building up the church.

Question 7

- (a) Those who attempted this question showed sound knowledge of the text.
- (b) There were some good answers that drew out some interesting differences.

Question 8

- (a) This question was the most popular on **Section B** and was generally well answered. However, many candidates were often brief in their account of Peter's two visions on the roof of Simon the Tanner's house.
- (b) Most candidates produced some thoughtful answers to this question. A few misunderstood Peter's vision of the sheet and related it to food only rather than seeing the implications for the Gentiles. A few candidates were able to point out that the Damascus experience convinced Paul of the resurrection of Jesus.

Question 9

- (a) Most candidates understood the heart of the dispute (circumcision) and how it affected the Gentiles. Only the most able candidates seemed able to explain Peter's contribution despite the many good answers given in **Question 8**. A few candidates confused the Council of Jerusalem with the Sanhedrin.
- (b) Most candidates seemed to struggle to select and organise the relevant material.

Question 10

- (a) Candidates showed some excellent knowledge about both Timothy and Apollos.
- (b) In contrast to part (a), answers were limited in scope. Most answers were limited to discussion about Paul's healing power.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/23

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

General comments

There were some good answers that showed knowledge and understanding of the text. The quality of the answers on the Acts of the Apostles continues to improve. Many answers were focused and clearly expressed.

The skill demanded for the part **(b)** questions move away from the narrative to showing reasoning and evaluation. Credit is given for discussion of the material rather than just stating the text. Possible strategies to help candidates with part **(b)** questions might include looking back at past questions and mark schemes, and also to use the level descriptors when practising the various skills.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) (i) This was generally well answered though the details of the angel's message regarding the role of John were often omitted.
- (ii) Candidates showed good knowledge of this event.
- (b) Candidates tended to limit their comments to John as forerunner. Some candidates ignored the question limits and included other material that could not be credited.

Question 2

- (a) This was a popular question with the majority of candidates recounting the incident accurately.
- (b) Some candidates limited their answer to this question to the fact that the people wanted Jesus to leave. Candidates should remember that stating the event, such as the people asking Jesus to leave, does not in itself explain why that is unusual, the reason why such an action is regarded as unusual needs to be clearly explained.

Question 3

- (a) Another popular question with many candidates giving a full and accurate account of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus or the parable of the rich fool. However, a significant number of candidates described the rich young ruler speaking to Jesus. This material could not be credited as the question clearly requested a parable.
- (b) This was generally well answered, although many candidates included material that went beyond discussion of the parable selected, and so this extra material could not be credited.

Question 4

- (a) (i) This was generally well answered.
- (ii) Few candidates were able to give material beyond the statement that in the resurrection there will not be marriage.

- (b) The answers tended to be rather limited in coverage and linked only to material in part (a). The question was in fact much wider and could have included such things as blasphemy and forgiving sin.

Question 5

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question showed good knowledge of the text, especially the conversation with the criminals.
- (b) This was not well answered. Many candidates just restricted their answer to Jesus' death and only a few made reference to the resurrection.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) As expected, this was a very popular question and was well answered.
- (b) Most answers were limited to preaching and healing with occasional reference to prayer. Few seemed aware of the role of the apostles in building up the church.

Question 7

- (a) Those who attempted this question showed sound knowledge of the text in both parts of the question.
- (b) Answers were very limited in their coverage. Few went beyond a basic statement about power to work miracles and speaking in tongues.

Question 8

- (a) This question was not popular and those that did attempt it often only included Paul leaving the synagogue and staying next door with Titus Justus, and a brief reference to a riot. Some confused Corinth with other places Paul visited on his journeys.
- (b) A few candidates went beyond saying that some people were converted.

Question 9

- (a) This was only answered by a few candidates. Some confused the place with other places Paul visited, whilst others gave only a very brief summary of the events.
- (b) A few candidates could develop the answer beyond saying that the speech contained no Old Testament references.

Question 10

- (a) This question was only answered by a few candidates and those that did attempt it usually gave good answers. Possibly some candidates did not recognise that it was referring to the riot of the silversmiths.
- (b) The answers given suggested that some candidates tackled this question without having prepared material on prophets. However, it is a topic clearly identified in the syllabus and has been examined previously. Only a few made any reference to Agabus.