



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Ordinary Level

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

2048/23

Paper 2 The Portrayal of the Birth of the Early Church

October/November 2016

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 80

Published

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AO1: Describe and explain using knowledge and understanding.

These level descriptors should be used for all part **(a)** and **(b)** questions.

Level 4	6 marks	A thorough, well-developed and substantial response. A comprehensive account of the range and depth of relevant material, demonstrating an extensive and highly accurate knowledge and understanding of the subject. There is detailed explanation. The answer is well structured.
Level 3	4–5 marks	Demonstrates a clear understanding of the question. The information is quite detailed. Generally accurate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. Covers the main points accurately. The information is in a structured format.
Level 2	2–3 marks	Demonstrates some understanding of the question. A fair, mainly relevant but generally undeveloped response. The candidate demonstrates some factual knowledge and understanding, which is fairly accurate but may lack specific detail. Some of the main points are covered but lack substance. The information will be presented for the most part in a structured format.
Level 1	1 mark	An attempt to answer the question, but demonstrates little understanding of the question. Very limited knowledge of the subject. Response includes only a small amount of relevant material. Information is reported in basic outline only or as a list, with little or no explanation. Mainly inaccurate, though some credible points may be made.
Level 0	0 marks	No attempt whatsoever to answer the set question, or the candidate provides a wholly irrelevant response.

AO2: Use evidence and reasoned argument to express and evaluate personal responses, informed insights and differing viewpoints.

These level descriptors should be used for all part **(c)** questions.

Level 4	7–8 marks	Recognises and explains the significance of the issue(s). A personal response is fully supported. A range of points of view, supported by justified arguments/discussion. The information is presented in a clear and organised way. Evidence of informed insights.
Level 3	5–6 marks	Understands the significance of the question. Seeks to move clearly beyond a purely descriptive approach. Justified arguments/different points of view, supported by some discussion. Evidence of appropriate personal response. Some evidence of informed insights.
Level 2	3–4 marks	Understands the question but the response is mainly descriptive. Only one view offered with limited support or discussion. Limited or no evidence of informed insights.
Level 1	1–2 mark	The candidate's response is descriptive with no attempt to discuss or evaluate the material at all. Viewpoints are unsupported.
Level 0	0 marks	No response submitted, or clearly lacks any understanding whatsoever of the subject matter.

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- 1 (a) Give an account of what Peter said about Jesus to the crowd at Pentecost. [6]

Acts 2:22–36

a man accredited by God to you by miracles/which God did among you through him/as you know/handed over to you by God's deliberate plan/you with help from wicked men put him to death/by nailing him on the cross/God raised him from the dead/freeing him from the agony of death/impossible for death to keep its hold on him/prophesied by David/ resurrection of Messiah/we are witnesses to his resurrection/exalted to right hand of God/received Holy Spirit/Jesus is Lord and Messiah

- (b) How does the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost differ from that of the giving of the Holy Spirit at Samaria? [6]

Spirit at Pentecost happened suddenly without asking/at Samaria Peter and John prayed that they might receive Spirit/placed hands on them/no tongues of fire or speaking in tongues though says that Simon saw that the Spirit was given (not clear what he saw)

- (c) 'If it had not been for Paul, the Gentiles would not have been part of the early church.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. [8]

Agree: Paul specifically chosen by God as Apostle to Gentiles/his experience of Gentiles being converted/persuaded Council of Jerusalem/mission to Gentiles

Disagree: Paul not first to convert Gentiles/Peter's vision and Cornelius/Peter rather than Paul that initiated Gentiles being accepted in church/Peter's ruling about Gentiles at Council of Jerusalem

- 2 (a) What led up to Stephen appearing before the Sanhedrin (RSV the council)? [6]

Acts 7:9–14

opposition from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen/could not stand against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke/falsely accused of blasphemy against Moses and God/stirred up the people and the teachers of the law

- (b) Give an account of what happened to Stephen after he had finished his speech. [6]

Acts 7:54–60

Furious and gnashed their teeth/Stephen full of Holy Spirit looked up to heaven/saw the glory of God/Jesus standing at right hand of God/Look/heavens opened/Son of Man standing at right hand of God/people blocked ears/dragged him out to stone him/witnesses laid clothes at feet of Saul/Lord Jesus receive my spirit/fell on knees/Lord do not hold this sin against them/died.

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- (c) **‘Persecution of the early church limited its growth.’**
To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. [8]

Agree: opposition and conflict curtailed many visits to towns/stopped preaching/disrupted stay/Jewish group travelled to disrupt Paul/Stephen killed/church forced to take low profile

Disagree: initial persecution gave boldness to apostles to proclaim message e.g. when arrested after healing of lame man/after Stephen’s death church scattered but led to believers in wide spread places to tell others of Jesus/conflict and opposition also led others to believe

- 3 (a) **Give an account of the visions that Peter and Cornelius had that caused Peter to meet Cornelius and to enter his house.** [6]

Acts 10:3–16

Peter’s vision of the sheet and animals/3 times/kill and eat/never eaten anything impure or unclean/do not call anything impure that God has made clean/angel appeared to Cornelius/your gifts and prayers to poor received as memorial offering before God/send men to Joppa for Peter/guest in home of Simon the tanner/lives by sea

- (b) **Explain the importance of Peter’s meeting with Cornelius for the spread of the early church.** [6]

Peter’s realisation about acceptance of Gentiles/challenge to laws about mixing with Gentiles/influenced his thinking at Council of Jerusalem/shows God is guiding inclusion of Gentiles/gift of Holy Spirit poured out as Peter speaking

- (c) **‘The early church focussed more on prayer than on preaching.’**
To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. [8]

Agree: prayer heart of early church when they met/prayer key to all decisions taken by church e.g. appointments/commissioning/giving of Spirit/where to visit/prayer for leading by Spirit/prayer led to preaching

Disagree: preaching was key work of church/the means by which people came to faith/called to preach/seven chosen so that apostles free to preach and teach
Neither prayer nor preaching the most important/both important and linked

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- 4 (a) Describe the healing at Lystra by Paul and what happened immediately afterwards. [6]

Acts 14:8–19

lame man from birth/Paul looked at him/saw he had faith to be healed/stand up on your feet/jumped up and walked/saw Paul and Barnabas as gods/tore clothes/rushed into the crowd/why are you doing this/we are only human like you/telling you good news/to turn from these worthless things to the living God/who made all things/gives you rain and food/difficulty keeping crowd from sacrificing to them

- (b) Recount the events at Troas that involved Eutychus. [6]

Acts 20:7–12

Paul speaking until midnight/lamps in upstairs room/seated by window was Eutychus/sinking into a deep sleep/sound asleep/fell out of window from third floor/picked up dead/Paul threw himself on him with arms around him/he's alive/went back up and broke bread/Paul talked until daylight then left/Eutychus taken home and people comforted as he was alive

- (c) 'Miracles are not something a 21st century person can believe in.'
To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. [8]

Agree: miracles impossible/against science/no supernatural/more obvious explanation is myth or symbolic or natural explanation/now have better knowledge and understanding of medical conditions and diagnosis

Disagree: if God then supernatural exists/science unable to rule out miracles/evidence strong in Bible/claims of miracles today

- 5 (a) Give an account of what happened in Thessalonica on Paul's second missionary journey. [6]

Acts 17:1–10

Paul proclaimed in the synagogue Jesus as the Christ/Jews/Greeks and some prominent women became believers/Jews rioted and attacked the house of Jason where they were staying/Jason and others taken before the rulers/accused of causing trouble all over world/defying Caesar's decrees, saying there is another King called Jesus/released on bail/Paul and Silas sent by night to Berea

- (b) Explain (i) why the Bereans (RSV Bereans) are described as noble, and (ii) why Paul left Berea (Beroea). [6]

(i) Acts 17:11

received the message with great eagerness/examined the Scriptures everyday to see if what Paul said was true

(ii) Acts 17:13–14

Jews in Thessalonica learnt that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea/went and agitated the crowd/stirred them up/Paul sent to coast whilst Silas and Timothy stayed on

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- (c) **‘Paul’s second missionary journey could hardly be described as a success.’**
To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. [8]

Agree: opposition forced him to flee from towns/cut short intended stay/his preaching produced opposition from the Jews/only a few converted

Disagree: preached message/both Jew and Gentile converted/did miracles and people believed/churches founded/officials also believed/word spread

- 6 (a) **What does the Acts of the Apostles record about Agabus and his prophecies?** [6]

Acts 11:27–29; 21:10–11

came down from Jerusalem to Antioch/through Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread through Roman world/this famine happened during reign of Claudius/disciples decided to help by sending gifts to Judea/came down from Judea to Caesarea/took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it/claimed Holy Spirit told him that in this way the Jews of Jerusalem would bind Paul and hand him over to the Gentiles/people pleaded with Paul not to travel on to Jerusalem

- (b) **Describe the role of deacons in the early church.** [6]

linked to ‘the seven’/focus was finances and administration of the churches charities/Acts suggests wider tasks as Stephen and Philip preached/aim was to relieve the apostles so they could teach and preach

- (c) **‘Peter rather than Paul was the real leader of the early church.’**
To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. [8]

Agree: Peter referred to as leader/decisions made by him on behalf of whole church/Peter preaches at Pentecost/speaks against Ananias and Sapphira/key figure at the Council of Jerusalem/Peter first to include Gentiles into church

Disagree: Role of Peter seems to diminish after Council of Jerusalem/growing authority and fame of Paul/most of Acts centres on Paul which is story of the early church/Paul’s journeys set up churches for which Paul is responsible in terms of appointing elders etc./after Acts 15 no indication Paul was answerable to Peter