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Cambridge Ordinary Level

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

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Paper 1 The Portrayal of the Life and Teaching of Jesus

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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 marks	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.

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1(a)(i)	Describe the teaching in the Sermon on the Mount about: adultery Responses might, use quotation or paraphrase to describe the following: adultery: Matthew 5:27–30: Jesus said, ‘... anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.’ His advice was to reject this temptation. ‘If your right eye causes you to sin gouge it out ... throw it away. ... if your right hand causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away ... it is better to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go to Hell.’	6	
1(a)(ii)	divorce divorce: Matthew 5:31–32: Jesus said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce. I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness (on the grounds of unchastity/impurity/immorality) causes her to become an adulteress (commit adultery) and whoever marries the divorced woman commits adultery.’		

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1(b)	Explain why these teachings were new teachings to a Jewish audience. Responses might explain some of the following: In the case of both adultery and divorce, Jesus begins the teaching by pointing out that there is already a teaching in Jewish law that adultery is forbidden, and that divorce is allowed if done in the correct way. He then proceeds to embellish upon/add to each teaching and make the rule/law stricter. In fact, it appears that he is making new laws or interfering with God's law. In the teaching on adultery, not only is the act forbidden but even thinking about it or looking at someone lustfully is also adultery – in the heart – and this is as bad as committing the action. In the teaching on divorce Jesus contradicts the law and says that although it is allowed, it is only to be used if there is unchaste behaviour by a wife (e.g. adultery or other immorality). Divorce for other reasons is not allowed because by divorcing his wife a man forces her to commit adultery if she re-marries and the man she marries will also have committed a sin. Those who hear this would be amazed that anyone other than the Pharisees and Priests would attempt to interpret God's law/the Law of Moses in a new way.	6	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
1(c)	'These teachings on adultery and divorce cause problems for Christians today.' Do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Responses might consider some of the following: Responses are likely to agree that many Christians today would find the teachings difficult to follow. Some candidates might defend the position that thoughts about someone of the opposite sex are not sinful if they are not acted upon and excuse them as natural. Also, there are many acceptable and valid reasons for divorce that are accepted by both society and various branches of the Christian church. However, arguments against the statement are likely to point out that these are still the teachings of Christianity (Roman Catholic Church) and other religions. Some candidates might argue that the teachings of Jesus, in the Bible, are the words of God and Christians should not find it difficult to obey them. Some may point to the various advantages of a virtuous lifestyle and a strong marriage and that believers work harder at these as part of their belief.	8	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2(a)	Give an account of the healing of two demon-possessed men (<u>RSV</u> two demoniacs). Responses might, use quotation or paraphrase to describe the following: The Healing of Two Demon-possessed Men: Matt 8:28–34. Jesus came to the country of the Gadarenes and two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, met him. They were so violent that no one could pass. They shouted ‘What do you want with us Son of God? Have you come here to torture us ...?’ A large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them. The demons begged ... ‘If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.’ Jesus commanded them to ‘Go’ ... suddenly the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died (perished) in the water. Those tending the pigs (the swineherds) ran off and told the whole town what had happened. The whole town came out to Jesus and begged him to leave the neighbourhood.	6	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2(b)	Explain what the story may show about the identity of Jesus. Responses might explain some of the following: Candidates might explain the Jewish belief about the link between demon possession and sin and the battle between good and evil. The significance of the story in Matthew's gospel might be explained as one in which Jesus' true identity is revealed when he is addressed by the demoniacs as 'Son of God' and this occurs in the early stages of his ministry. Also, Jesus' ability to address the evil spirits directly and their pleas to him show him to be no ordinary exorcist/healer (of which there were many at the time). The ability to send the spirits into the pigs and the death of the pigs (an unclean animal) add further to the significance of the story. Some candidates might comment on the fact that the healing happens in Gentile territory, (which explains the presence of the pigs). This could indicate the universal nature of the ministry of Jesus, as saviour. The possible negligence of the swineherds might have caused them to be afraid and spread a rumour of fear in the town. That the people of the town were afraid and asked him to leave, shows their lack of understanding of the nature of Jesus' power.	6	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
2(c)	‘Jesus curing someone of evil spirits is a difficult idea for people to accept today.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Responses might consider some of the following: Arguments in support of the statement might be reinforced by evidence from the text of the two demoniacs or other stories/exorcisms studied. To understand the event(s) it is necessary to understand the Jewish belief of the connection between demon possession and the battle between good and evil in the world (the devil). What was seen to be demon possession might have been mental illness. Candidates might discuss different views on the psychological reasons for the healings. However, a balanced view might be that Matthew’s gospel is full of dramatic miracle stories which might be taken as proof of Jesus identity as Son of God and the purpose of the gospel is to show this. So Christians and even non-Christians do not experience difficulties in believing that God is able to command/defeat evil spirits. Some candidates might draw comparisons with the need for Christians today in some parts of the world, to take the matter seriously because there is still a strong belief in evil spirits and demon possession. Also, some responses might give an example of human addictions that cause misery and suffering from which people might seek cures.	8	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
3(a)(i)	Describe the parable of the Lost Sheep. Responses might use quotation or paraphrase to describe the following: The parable of the Lost Sheep: Matt 18:12–14. Jesus began the parable with a question. ‘What do you think? ... If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And, if he finds it ... he rejoices over it more than the other ninety-nine that never went astray.’	6	
3(a)(ii)	In Matthew, what religious idea is represented by a flock of sheep and a shepherd? Responses might explain the following: Sheep are the believers/Jewish-Christian community. The shepherd is seen as God, the shepherd cares for the flock in the same way that God cares for his people. In Matthew, the shepherds are also the leaders of the new Christian community.		
3(b)	Explain what Christians today might learn from the teaching in this parable. Responses might explain some of the following: Candidates are likely to interpret this as a teaching about the forgiving nature of God and explain that the context of a shepherd and his sheep is one that is easily understood today (as it was in Jesus’ time). A shepherd would not be expected to leave ninety-nine sheep (which might be in danger of attack by wolves) in order to search for one stray, so the story holds peoples’ attention. The action of the shepherd is unexpected, and this is the way God’s forgiveness works. A sinner is as important as ninety-nine religious God-fearing people. The parable gives Christians the reassurance that God’s care and forgiveness is for all. Some candidates might offer an example of how the teaching might be applied today.	6	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
3(c)	‘Only people who are truly sorry for their sins can be forgiven.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Responses might consider some of the following: Candidates might argue and offer reasons why forgiveness should either be conditional or unconditional on the repentance/remorse of the sinner. Some might argue that forgiveness by humans is often dependant on the nature of the crime/sin. The nature of repentance and the extent of the sincerity of the remorse might also be a factor. Some might judge that God can only carry out unconditional forgiveness. However, arguments against the statement might use examples of Jesus’ teaching on forgiveness to point out that it is a Christian duty to forgive, just as God forgives us etc. There might be other reasons offered why unconditional forgiveness brings solace and closure e.g. to victims and their families regardless of the repentance of the sinner.	8	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
4(a)	What happened at Bethany in the house of Simon the Leper and why did the disciples criticise what was done? Responses might use quotation or paraphrase to describe some of the following: Jesus Anointed at Bethany: Matthew 26:6–13. While Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with a jar of expensive, alabaster perfume, which she poured on his head. The disciples were angry/indignant and accused the woman of waste. ‘This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.’ Jesus asked them why they were bothering the woman. ‘She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me...she did it to prepare me for burial...wherever the gospel is preached...what she has done will be told in memory of her.’	6	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
4(b)	Explain the significance of this story in preparing the disciples for what was to happen next. Responses might explain some of the following: In defending the woman's actions and rebuking the disciples, Jesus appears to be predicting his own death and burial. Jesus refers to 'prepare me for burial' and it was the custom to anoint bodies with perfumes and oils before burial. This indicates that Jesus was aware of the manner of his death, the crucifixion and also that conventional preparations could not take place. So, the woman would be remembered because her actions might be seen as a sign of this. The event of the anointing is a warning to the disciples by Jesus that they should be prepared for his death and the nature of it. This time it is in Jerusalem where his enemies are working against him. Also in predicting his death, Jesus is predicting his sacrifice as the lamb of God. The disciples would be aware of the link between anointing and kingship in the Old Testament and the prophecies that the Son of Man must suffer. In the next passage in Matthew, Judas agrees to betray Jesus and some commentators believe that this is because he was acting upon Jesus' prediction as an indication that he was the Messiah and this incident motivated his betrayal.	6	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
4(c)	‘The reaction of the disciples to what happened at Bethany was perfectly understandable.’ Do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Responses might consider some of the following: Candidates might express sympathy for the disciples’ confusion, following Jesus’ teaching on caring for the poor and criticism of extravagant and showy displays. Their reaction was an understandable and caring one, following his teachings. On the other hand, throughout Jesus’ ministry the disciples showed little understanding of Jesus’ true identity in spite of all they had seen. (Candidates may give an example.) Their reaction on this occasion confirms this. One view might be that the disciples were unable to comprehend Jesus’ true nature and this was an understandable human trait. However, they had been chosen to accompany Jesus’ on his ministry and had seen healings and exorcisms and received teachings that meant they were aware of Jesus’ identity as Saviour and Lord but still unaware of the imminence or nature of his death.	8	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
5(a)	Describe what happened when Jesus was arrested. Responses might use quotation or paraphrase to describe some of the following: Jesus Arrested: Matthew 26:47–56 While Jesus was speaking to the disciples Judas arrived with a large crowd armed with swords and clubs. He had arranged a signal ‘The one I kiss is the man...’ Going up to Jesus, Judas greeted him and kissed him. Jesus replied ‘Friend do what you come for.’ Then men stepped forward and arrested Jesus. One of the companions reached for his sword and struck the servant of the High Priest, cutting off his ear. Jesus rebuked him ‘Put your sword back in its place ... all who live by the sword will die by the sword.’ ‘Do you not think I cannot call on my Father... but how then will the scriptures be fulfilled ...?’ Jesus then addressed the crowd, ‘Am I leading a rebellion that you come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the Temple courts teaching and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place so the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.’ Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.	6	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
5(b)	Explain what Jesus meant when he said ‘But all this has taken place so the writings (<u>RSV</u> scriptures) of the prophets might be fulfilled.’ Responses might explain some of the following: The arrest shows that Jesus has accepted his fate as the will of God, he will go with those arresting him, as this is his destiny. He refers to the scriptures and the writings of the prophets of the Old Testament that the Son of Man (the Messiah) will suffer and die. Jesus could, if he wished, call upon his Father to send legions of angels to save him but he knows and has accepted that he has to fulfil his destiny and his betrayal and arrest is part of this divine plan. The scriptures have said it ‘must happen in this way’.	6	
5(c)	‘Jesus died because the people of his time did not understand him.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Responses might consider some of the following: Candidates might interpret ‘people’ as disciples, crowds, religious officials and all valid interpretations will be rewarded. It might be argued, from evidence in the set texts that the disciples did not appear to fully understand Jesus. They deserted him when he was arrested. The Chief Priests and teachers of the Law had plotted against him because his teaching criticised them and caused conflict. They understood him but did not like what he said. Some candidates might argue that whether people understood Jesus or not was irrelevant as his death was predestined. Or, that Jesus teaching/ministry was (purposely?) not easy to understand.	8	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6(a)	Describe what happened when the disciples met Jesus on the mountain in Galilee. Responses might use quotation or paraphrase to describe the following: The Great Commission: Matthew 28:16–20. This was when Jesus gave the disciples the commission to spread the Good News. The eleven disciples went to Galilee, ‘to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.’ They saw Jesus and worshipped him but some doubted. Jesus said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.’	6	
6(b)	Explain the significance of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Responses might explain some of the following: The phrase is significant because it summarises Christian belief in the nature of God, as taught by Jesus. It is this description of the nature of God that the Jews of Jesus time found difficult to understand. This is the Christian belief in the Trinity. The Trinity is central to Christian belief and makes Christianity different from other monotheistic religions. Christians believe in one God. The Trinity is a way of describing three aspects of God which Christian believers experience. The one God is made up of: God the Father, creator of heaven and earth, God the Son, who was born of a virgin, suffered, was crucified, buried and rose again, God the Holy Spirit, at work in the world today.	6	

Question	Answer	Marks	Guidance
6(c)	‘Matthew’s Gospel makes the story of Jesus interesting for everyone.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Responses might consider some of the following: Arguments in favour of the statement might be that the teachings in Matthew are universal and seen as a way for Christians and others to achieve closeness to God. The story of Jesus has universal appeal and the accounts in Matthew are dramatic and detailed. They also place Jesus in a historical and Jewish background. However, some might argue that the ideas and events portrayed in the gospel are far removed from the present time and that the idealised portrayal of Jesus does not have relevance in today’s secular society in Britain. Some candidates may comment on the difficulty of understanding some of the religious context/concepts in Matthew.	8	