



Cambridge Assessment International Education
Cambridge Ordinary Level

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)**2048/23**

Paper 2 The portrayal of the birth of the early church

May/June 2018

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 80

Published

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.

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Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Question	Answer	Marks
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Level descriptors for 2048
 AO1 (Knowledge and Understanding)
 These should be used for all part (a) and part (b) questions.

Level	Mark	Level Descriptor
4	6	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.
3	4–5	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.
2	2–3	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.
1	1	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.
0	0	No attempt whatsoever to answer the set question, or the candidate provides a wholly irrelevant response.

AO2 (Evaluation)
 These should be used for all part (c) questions.

Level	Mark	Level Descriptor
4	7–8	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.
3	5–6	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.
2	3–4	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.
1	1–2	The candidate's response is descriptive with no attempt to discuss or evaluate the material at all. Viewpoints are unsupported.
0	0	No response submitted, or clearly lacks any understanding whatsoever of the subject matter.

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	Give arguments to support the view that the Acts of the Apostles gives a reliable account of what happened in the early church. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses may include: Luke gives an accurate record of geographical locations. Details offered by Luke check out with other documents and writers. ‘We’ passages suggest that Luke must have been present on some of Paul’s journey and as such are eye-witness accounts. Luke’s time spent with Paul suggests that he would have heard many stories and had exceptional sources and so has reliable accounts of events that he did not witness himself.	6
1(b)	Explain why some might disagree with this view. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses may include: There are differences in emphasis between Acts and Paul’s epistles. Paul tells us that life with the Christians of Corinth was troublesome but Acts makes no mention of this in Paul’s stay at Ephesus – his life was also in danger. There is much of what is recounted in Acts that Luke did not witness so it is not reliable. Luke only refers to some of the apostles and not all of them, so it is not a reliable account of the acts of all of the apostles.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
1(c)	‘To understand the Acts of the Apostles you need to have read Luke’s Gospel.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Responses agreeing with the statement might include: Luke makes it clear in the opening that this book follows on from the Gospel; ‘In my former book Theophilus ...’ (1:1) Both are written to the same person, Theophilus, and are understood as addressing a particular community and their concerns. Both books share language and themes and they make more sense together. Acts assumes the knowledge of the stories and events from the Gospel and the Gospel story is incomplete without the events in Acts. Responses disagreeing with the statement might include: Acts is separate as it considers the life of the early church. The Gospel is a separate book which is about the life and teachings of Jesus and can be read and understood on its own. We cannot be sure that Luke is responsible for writing both the Gospel and Acts. All other relevant responses should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Describe the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses might include some of the following: 8:26–40. Philip was directed to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza by an angel of the Lord and was instructed to go to a chariot where he found a man reading Isaiah. Philip asks if he understands Isaiah and he replies that it needs to be explained to him. Philip shows him through Isaiah, the good news about Jesus. Following this explanation he sees water and asks to be baptised. Philip baptises him and he goes away rejoicing. The Ethiopian was actively seeking conversion and was able to continue to spread the church.	6
2(b)	Explain why Philip's work in the early church was important. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses may include: He was one of 'the Seven' so had a key role in the distribution of food and practical work in the church. Following the death of Stephen, he went to Samaria and performed signs, exorcisms and healings which brought many new members to the church, including Simon Magus. He was responsible for the conversion of the eunuch which in turn led to others joining the church. He was also important for his work in travelling around and preaching the Gospel, spreading the church to many.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
2(c)	'The only concern of the early church was to gain new believers.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates agreeing with the statement may argue the following: Conversion is a clear mark of new believers being brought to the church and so demonstrates the church's success. For example, the Ethiopian Eunuch showed he understood Christ and wanted to be baptised, Saul had a complete change in outlook and went from persecuting Christians to proving to others that Jesus is the Messiah and Cornelius was a gentile who received the Holy Spirit and was able to speak in tongues and was also baptised. All of these are clearly able to demonstrate the success of the church through conversion. The success of Paul's missionary work can partly be judged on the number of new converts as it is a clear marker of success. Candidates disagreeing with the statement may consider the following: It was the acceptance of Gentiles and the spread of the good news to them that is the mark of success in the church. Paul's journeys are not only successful based on the number of converts but also due to his successful preaching and teaching. The church's success can also be based on the number of miracles/healings performed which also led to new believers. The church is successful only because of the work of the Holy Spirit, which is responsible for all of the actions and work of the church. All other relevant responses should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	Describe the content of the letter which Paul and Barnabas took to Antioch. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses might include some of the following: 15:23–30. The aim of the letter was to ensure that the believers in Antioch were settled. The authority of the senders and messengers is affirmed and is backed up by the Holy Spirit. The letter stated that the readers should not be burdened with any more than the following prescriptions: • Abstain from food sacrifice to idols • Abstain from blood • Abstain from the meat of strangled animals • Abstain from sexual immorality.	6
3(b)	Explain the way the relationship between Paul and Barnabas changed over time. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses might include some of the following: 15:19–22 (also v30). After Saul's conversion he petitioned the disciples to join them, but they were afraid of him. It was Barnabas who told them of his conversion and he stayed with them. Following the Council of Jerusalem, Barnabas is given a more prominent role and he is mentioned first in 15:12, however, it was Paul who initiated their journey in 15:36. Their relationship changed after a disagreement about John Mark and they parted company. Barnabas departs from the book of Acts at this point. From then on, Paul is the main focus.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)	‘The biggest obstacle to the growth of the early church was the issue of circumcision.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates agreeing with the statement may include the following: The issue of circumcision caused a rift within the early church and there was a great deal of confusion as to what was expected of new Gentile converts. Some of those in Jerusalem argued that ‘the Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses’. However, there were others who had seen that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on non-circumcised Gentiles and so did not believe it to be necessary. Even after the Council of Jerusalem had made its decision there was still confusion. It seemed as though there were some who were ‘troubling the minds’ of the Gentiles concerning what was decided, so it did not completely resolve the issue. Peter was criticised for eating with uncircumcised men, and this interaction with the uncircumcised Gentiles was an additional issue. Candidates arguing against the statement may include the following: The issue concerning circumcision was resolved at the Council of Jerusalem and so was no longer an obstacle. It is more the issue of table fellowship with Gentiles which was more problematic than circumcision. Candidates may also consider alternative obstacles which were greater, for example, Roman opposition and persecution, and opposition from the Jewish leaders. All correct and relevant responses should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Give an account of what happened with the young man in Troas. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses might include some of the following: 20:7–12. They came together to break bread, Paul spoke to the people. There was a man named Eutychus who sank into a deep sleep, and fell to the ground from a third storey and was picked up dead. Paul put his arms around him and said, ‘Don’t be alarmed. He’s alive’. After that they broke bread and ate. ‘The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.’	6
4(b)	Explain why it was important for the early church to teach about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses may include: Preaching and teaching about the resurrection of Jesus Christ was key in the work of the early church. When addressing the Jewish people, the apostles were able to demonstrate that Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of the Old Testament. For example, Peter connects Jesus to the history of the Jewish people by exclaiming that David had foreseen the resurrection of Jesus: God had promised him that the Messiah would be one of his descendants and would save God’s people. Furthermore, that he would not experience corruption but instead would sit at God’s right hand in glory. The resurrection is also important as it gives the apostles their authority to teach and heal. As witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they have been commissioned with the gift of the Holy Spirit to ensure all of God’s people are saved. The resurrection was also central to Paul’s preaching and candidates may make use of this material with suitable examples. Some candidates may answer more generally and explain the importance of the resurrection as opening the gates of heaven, being the unique factor in this new religion, opening the door to the Holy Spirit and so on.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
4(c)	‘Stories concerning someone coming back to life are not believable today.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates agreeing with the statement may include the following: They are not believable as there could be an alternative explanation, e.g. resuscitation. Scientifically once you are dead you are dead, and so there is no possibility of coming back to life. There have not been resurrection miracles since the Bible. Some would argue that the Bible stories are not meant to be read literally and so are not true in that sense. Candidates disagreeing with the statement may include some of the following: Resurrection stories are believable today, they just require faith. Belief in the resurrection is a key part of the Christian faith as Christians believe in the resurrection of Jesus and as a result of his resurrection, the resurrection of the body for all who believe in him. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is the main reason why the early church began and so it is a key part of Christian history. Resurrection stories are recorded in the Bible, and for many, this means that they are therefore true. All other correct and relevant responses should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	Describe what was said <u>and</u> done when Matthias was chosen. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses might include some of the following: 1:12–26. They went to the upstairs room where they were staying and joined together in prayer along with the women and Mary the Mother of Jesus with his brothers. Peter stood among the believers and explained about Judas' betrayal, etc. and said: 'therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us ... for one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection'. They nominated two men, Joseph called Barsabbas (Justus) and Matthias. They prayed: 'Lord you know everyone's heart, show us which of these two you have chosen'. They then 'cast lots and the lot fell to Matthias'.	6
5(b)	Explain why the appointing of 'the Seven' was necessary <u>and</u> how their role was different from that of the apostles. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses might include some of the following: 6:1–7. It was necessary because the number of disciples was increasing and there were issues concerning the daily distribution of food. There were complaints by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked. The twelve gathered together and decided: 'it would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables' and so seven men were chosen who were full of the Spirit and wisdom. The apostles' main purpose was to spread the word of God, and the Seven were to wait on tables. The apostles had authority and were witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus, whereas the Seven received their instruction from the apostles. Only the apostles were able to baptise with the Holy Spirit, which is why it was necessary for them to go to Samaria following the work of Philip in bringing new believers to the church.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
5(c)	‘The way that the early church chose leaders is not suitable for choosing Christian leaders today.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptor. Candidates agreeing with the statement may include the following: The way in which leaders in the Church of England is chosen (not entirely separate from the monarchy/politics) is quite different and therefore the procedures of the early church are not relevant. Leaders are chosen through merit and because they are the best person for the job. In the Church of England, women are able to have leadership roles and so the early church’s procedures would not be relevant here. Candidates disagreeing with the statement may include the following: The election of the Catholic Pope has similarities with the election of Matthias, in that there are prayers and a ballot system and the system in the Egyptian Coptic community is identical to that in Acts. The Holy Spirit it could be argued, is present in the choosing of leaders today just as much as it was in the early church. All relevant approaches should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	Describe what happened <u>and</u> what was said immediately following the healing of the beggar at the Beautiful Gate. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses might include some of the following: 3:8–26. The people were astonished and came running to them in Solomon's Colonnade. Peter asked them why they were surprised; 'why do you stare at us as if by our own power of godliness we had made this man walk?' Peter goes on to explain that the God of Abraham, etc. glorified Jesus, but you handed him over to be killed, but God raised him from the dead and they are witnesses to this. Peter said, 'It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see'. He also told them that the Messiah's suffering was foretold by the prophets and that everyone needed to repent; 'anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from the people'. He also explained that 'when God raised up his servant he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways'.	6
6(b)	Explain why Peter and John were arrested following this event <u>and</u> why they were released. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Responses might include some of the following: 4:1–8. The priests and captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees were disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. Candidates may respond from the perspective of the Sadducees being upset about the teaching about resurrection or they may focus on the disruption from the miracle or that from Peter's speech in which he identifies the people of Jerusalem (as well as their leaders) as responsible for the death of Jesus. 4:8 –22 They were released because Peter spoke to the Sanhedrin and explained that it was through Jesus that they were able to heal the man. The Sanhedrin said to one another, 'Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it'. They were released with a warning not to spread this further.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
6(c)	‘Conflict with the authorities was essential for the early church to spread.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates agreeing with the statement may include the following: Conflict gave the church the opportunity to explain and defend their actions through speeches, e.g. Peter to the Sanhedrin following the healing of the man at the Temple Gate, and gave Gamaliel the opportunity to explain why they should not be put to death, or Stephen’s speech to the Sanhedrin, which made it clear that they were doing God’s work. The death of Stephen and the conflict involved here led to the scattering of the church which brought the message to many places and people. Conflict enabled the performing of miracles, such as the earthquake which led to Peter’s escape from prison and Paul and Silas’ deliverance which also led to the baptism of the jailor and his household. Candidates disagreeing with the statement may include the following: The arrests of key figures in the church prevented the spread of the early church and restricted the work of the apostles. Stephen could have achieved much more alive than dead. Paul would have been much more successful throughout his missionary journeys if he had not experienced conflict with various groups. Candidates could argue that it was not conflict that was necessary for the church to spread but miracles/healings, for example, the Temple Gate and the healings at Lydda and Joppa. It was the work of the spirit that was necessary for the church to spread; without Pentecost, for example, and the spirit directing Peter, Phillip, etc., the church would not have been able to grow. Candidates could also argue that the conversions of Saul, the Ethiopian, Cornelius, etc., were necessary for the early church to spread. All other relevant responses should be credited.	8