



Cambridge O Level

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)**2048/22**

Paper 2 The Portrayal of the Birth of the Early Church

May/June 2022**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.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

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This document consists of **15** printed pages.

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.

PUBLISHED**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
1(a)	Outline what the Acts of the Apostles shows us about the leadership of the early church before the Day of Pentecost. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. Chapter 1 In Acts 1, we see initially that Jesus is the leader of the group of disciples, working under the authority of the Father: 'it is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority'. Jesus also promises the Holy Spirit to help to guide the church and some candidates might identify the Spirit as providing leadership. Most candidates will focus on the events when Matthias is chosen as one of the apostles. They will identify the twelve as having prominence over the rest of the early church and some may note that the women were also present but clearly not leaders, even though they were early believers. Some candidates may list the eleven, although this is not necessary. Peter is clearly the leader of the 120 believers as he stands up and explains the need to replace Judas with another. Candidates might observe that the ultimate decision comes from God, through the prayer of the believers: Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two...' Some might note that the leadership role of the apostles is referred to in the phrase 'apostolic ministry' (RSV: 'this ministry and apostleship').	6

Question	Answer	Marks
1(b)	Explain the importance of the Seven in the early church. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. The Seven were chosen after it was realised that the church was expanding, and the Hellenistic Jews complained that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. It was too much for the twelve to wait on tables and so seven good men were chosen to see to this. These seven were therefore important because they provided important assistance to the apostles as well as ensuring the widows were fed. As a result of this decision, the word of God spread, and numbers increased rapidly (6:7). Candidates may go on to focus on the importance of individual members of the Seven. Stephen was persecuted, arrested, and stoned to death: the first martyr. He was a true disciple and witnessed through his speech to the Sanhedrin at his arrest as well as his death. This is important to the early church in the witness as well as a justification for committing to the way – people were prepared to die for the message. Some candidates may look at the character of Philip who proclaimed the gospel and converted people. He was led by the Spirit and converted Samaria, a key moment in the expansion of the church. Philip also baptised the Ethiopian eunuch and began the spread of the message beyond Jewish territories.	6
1(c)	‘Churches should not have too many leaders.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 levels of response. Some might agree with this statement on the basis that God is the only true leader of Christians and so human leadership should be kept to a minimum. Leaders might get in the way of people’s worship of God and, in the worst-case scenario, might become objects of worship themselves. Some might agree because the structure of the early church was to keep leadership to a minimum and for each to focus on their own gifts and role within the church. Some might disagree with this statement because leadership in the church has changed since the time of the Acts of the Apostles. The church is a global institution now and not as localised as in biblical times. Different leaders can bring different things to the life of Christians – some can focus on worship and others on pastoral care, for example. Candidates might point to their own experiences of church structure and all appropriate arguments should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Describe what happened when Saul was in Jerusalem after arriving from Damascus. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. Chapter 9:26–30 Saul first tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him because they did not believe he had really converted. Barnabas took Saul and introduced him to the apostles. He explained to them how Saul had seen Jesus who had spoken to him and how since then he had been preaching fearlessly in Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul therefore was welcomed by the apostles, and he stayed with them and moved freely about the community in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. There he talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews who tried to kill him. Therefore, the believers took him down to Caesarea and on to Tarsus.	6
2(b)	Explain why Paul's work was challenging for some Jews. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. In the passage in (a), we see Paul's first encounter with the Hellenistic Jews. They would have been challenged because they had known Paul/Saul as a fierce persecutor of the church and so they would have not known how to deal with his 'betrayal'. They might also have been challenged because by seeing this man's life turn around so significantly, they might have wondered if there was truth behind what he was preaching and therefore been challenged in their own faiths. Paul goes on to preach far and wide and beyond Jewish circles. He is often met by opposition and conflict where he travels, and this tends to be from Jewish communities who were suspicious of him or felt betrayed. Paul also gained in popularity as he travelled, and it would have been very challenging for the Jews to see the Christian movement grow so significantly, especially under Paul's leadership. Paul's miracles too would have made people wonder where the power and authority came from in Paul's work. For example, his miracle at Lystra led to him being stoned. Paul, in his mission to the gentiles, also represented the relaxing of Jewish traditions within Christianity and some Jews might have felt that this was a betrayal of the covenant.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
2(c)	‘The story of Paul in the Acts of the Apostles has much to teach Christians today.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 levels of response. Some candidates might agree with the statement on the basis that Paul carefully unpicks the place of Jesus in God’s plan for the world as seen in his speeches. They might argue that Paul’s teaching is timeless and relevant to Christians now as much as it was in the first century. They might say that Paul’s miracles show that God’s power can act in the world and his commitment to work as a missionary demonstrates the importance for Christians of spreading the gospel. Some candidates might disagree, however, because they might say that the situation of the early church is so different from nowadays that Paul’s techniques cannot be used by modern Christians. They could argue that his miracles were in a special time and place, and we do not see miracles happening in the same way in the world today. Some might suggest that Christians today do not need as much Old Testament history because they do not come from Jewish backgrounds. All relevant arguments should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	Describe what happened when Peter first arrived in Joppa. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. Chapter 9:36–42 Peter was urged to come to Joppa from Lydda because Tabitha (Dorcas) (who was always doing good and helping the poor) had died and her body had been prepared for burial. Peter arrived and went with the disciples to the upstairs room. The widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she had been alive. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he knelt down and prayed. He turned towards the dead woman and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ She opened her eyes and seeing Peter, she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. He called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented Tabitha/Dorcas alive to them. Word spread all over Joppa and people came to believe.	6
3(b)	Explain why this account might have been important to the early believers. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. It might have been important as a restatement of the power of God working through Peter, justifying Peter’s leadership of the church. As a resurrection miracle, it shows that there is continuity between Peter and Jesus in the wonders that they can perform. The account might have been important because it reminded the early church that Peter’s leadership was not solely confined to Jerusalem. It could also show that Peter had ongoing concern for the marginalised in society (the widows) in the way that he focused on them – this continues the work of Jesus. The account could also be said to be important because it demonstrates the historical nature of the Acts of the Apostles and all the other accounts in the book. It also shows Peter’s trust in God as a role-model for Christians.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)	‘Peter would have been a better leader if he had stayed in Jerusalem.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 levels of response. Some might argue that Peter’s role was to lead the church in Jerusalem and to be a figurehead based there. They might suggest that Peter should therefore not have left Jerusalem and left it to other believers to travel on his behalf. There was plenty of work that needed to be done in Jerusalem in order to maintain the unity of the believers. Some might argue that the apostles’ key role was to focus on prayer and the ministry of the word and so journeying was not part of their work. Some candidates might disagree with the statement and say that as the church spread, it was important that the leadership of the church, especially Peter, was seen beyond Jerusalem. As Peter was able to perform miracles, too, it would have been important for these elements of his ministry to be visible elsewhere. His movement beyond Jerusalem would have been an example to the other apostles. Examiners should credit all valid arguments.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Give an account of the visit of Paul and Barnabas to Iconium. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. Chapter 14:1–7 On arrival, they went as usual into the synagogue and there spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. Those Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other gentiles and poisoned their minds against them. Paul and Barnabas spent a good deal of time there, speaking boldly for the Lord who demonstrated his grace by allowing them to perform signs and wonders as well. This divided the city – some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. There was a plot among those who disliked them to treat them badly and to stone them, but Paul and Barnabas found out about it and fled.	6
4(b)	Explain the importance of the first missionary journey to the spread of the church. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. The first missionary journey took place under the influence of the Holy Spirit and so it was God's work being played out in the world. It balanced the preaching of the message to the Jews and the gentiles: in each place, Paul would preach first to the Jewish community and then to the gentile community – the journey took the message of Jesus beyond Judaism in a more structured format. It also laid the foundation for the council at Jerusalem. It cemented Paul's authority in the church. Barnabas begins by assisting Paul but then Paul takes precedence. This is important because of the significant and great work that Paul undertook. Candidates might refer to individual passages in the first missionary journey, but it is important that they focus on the question.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
4(c)	‘Those who have had a conversion experience make the best missionaries.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 levels of response. Some might agree with this statement, pointing especially to Paul. Seeing the great change in his character would have made a huge impact on his credibility. Candidates might observe that the passion of those who are converts can be transmitted to others and their enthusiasm might bring people to a change of heart, perhaps referring to modern-day examples. Some might disagree with the statement on the basis that having a conversion experience does not necessarily make you experienced in the points of teaching that you need to understand in order to be a good missionary. Paul had to be carefully tutored after his conversion and then mentored by Barnabas before he was an effective missionary – it was not necessarily his conversion that made him so effective. Some might also say that the success of missionaries come from their basic skills and talents, referring to examples beyond Acts. Credit should be given to all relevant arguments.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	Outline Paul's teaching about God when he was in Athens. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. Chapter 17:22–31 Paul taught that the God of Christianity is the God represented by the 'unknown God' of the altar he saw in Athens. Paul explains this God to be the God who made the world and everything in it; is the Lord of heaven and earth but who does not live in temples built by human hands. He is not served by human hands as he does not need anything – instead he gives everyone life and breath and everything else. He made all the nations of the world out of just one man, and he ordered the world in time and in the boundaries of the land. He is not far from any person and all people are his offspring. God is not like an image made by human hands; humans are made by God and God now seeks for all to repent and not hold on to the old ways. He will judge the world in the future at a time he has appointed through Jesus, and he has proven this by raising Jesus from the dead.	6
5(b)	Explain why Paul changed his message depending on his audience. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. Paul was a skilled speaker and teacher, and he knew that he had to find an area of agreement to start with in his speeches. Therefore, when he was in Jewish company, he began with Jewish history – for example, in Pisidian Antioch. When Paul came to Athens, he began from the altar to the unknown God – something he had spotted in the city. Paul used the Greeks' existing religious practice to come across as more reasonable to them than if he had begun with something else. Paul realised that the resurrection was a stumbling block for most potential converts, and he carefully built up his message to explain about the significance of Jesus and his resurrection.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
5(c)	‘The resurrection of Jesus is the most important teaching found in the Acts of the Apostles.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 levels of response. Some may agree with this on the basis that the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of Christianity and the reason why Christians had to separate from the Jews, despite their shared past. It is a sign of the renewal of all things, initially made by God. The speeches in Acts all point towards the resurrection and the proclamation of Jesus is not the proclamation of a dead man but of a living God. However, some might disagree and suggest that other things are more important in the specific context of the Acts of the Apostles. Some might point to the care for those in need and the sharing of all possessions in community life as a more practical and more important belief. Others may suggest that the Acts of the Apostles, which could be named the Acts of the Holy Spirit, is about the outpouring of the Spirit into the world and so the most important belief is that of the gift of the Holy Spirit or the power of God in the world. Some might point to the nature of the speech in Athens to illustrate their points. Credit should be given to any relevant arguments.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	Describe what led to the burning of scrolls in Ephesus by those who practised sorcery (<u>RSV</u> magic arts). Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. Chapter 19:13–19 Some Jews, who were exorcists, tried to use the name of Jesus over demon-possessed people. They said, ‘In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.’ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this and one day an evil spirit answered them: ‘Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?’ The man with the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all and gave them a beating such that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. The news of this spread to both Jewish and Greek communities in Ephesus and this led to them being seized by fear and it led to great honour being given to the name of the Lord Jesus – one thing that happened was that sorcerers (magicians) brought their scrolls together in public and burned them.	6
6(b)	Explain the significance of evil spirits in the Acts of the Apostles. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response. Through Acts, evil spirits show a continuation of the work of Jesus who also cast out evil spirits. Just like in the Gospels, the evil spirits recognise the power of God working through the apostles and exorcisms show that good overcomes evil. Evil spirits were clearly part of everyday life in the time of Acts – as was the practice of exorcism. Stories concerning evil spirits are included in Acts to teach wider points – Simon the sorcerer (RSV magician) teaches that God’s power is not to be bought, for example.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
6(c)	‘Evil spirits are not relevant for Christians today.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view. Examiners should mark according to the AO2 levels of response. Some might agree with this statement because the types of encounter seen in the New Testament are not seen in modern Christian life. We have a better understanding of physical and mental illness and can explain what was perhaps seen as demon possession in scientific ways. Some might disagree. The Roman Catholic Church (as well as other denominations) still has official exorcists. Many Christians still accept that Satan has power over people’s lives and can take over someone to the extent that an exorcism might be relevant. The power of temptation and sin since the fall is still powerful in the world today, as much as it would have been in the first century. Candidates may draw on their own experiences and all relevant material should be credited.	8