



Cambridge O Level

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

Paper 2 The Portrayal of the Birth of the Early Church

October/November 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.

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This document consists of **13** 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.

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
Level descriptors for 2048 AO1 (Knowledge and Understanding)		
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.

Question		Answer	Marks
AO2 (Evaluation)			
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)	Outline reasons for the possible dates of the writing of the Acts of the Apostles. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Argument for a date prior to 64 CE: • The ending of the book – if the ending indicates that the reader has been brought up to date then it ends in about 58 CE. • The suggestion that Acts was written to defend Christians who were confused with the Jews by the Romans – to show that they were a distinct body of people. • The destruction of Jerusalem is not made explicit. • Paul needed support for his work, perhaps during his imprisonment in Rome. • The author did not seem to have access to Paul's letters, which would have begun to be collected after 70 CE. Argument for a date between 70 and 85 CE: • Luke's Gospel seems to have knowledge of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE and Acts is the sequel to Luke. • The heavy Roman persecutions (from the early 80s) of Christians are unlikely to have started because Romans are shown as offering a fair trial and trustworthiness. • The content of the book suggests a church that has changed into an organised body where baptism had become a central service, sects had begun to appear in the church and Paul's death was an historical event.	6
1(b)	Explain why some people might think it is important to know when the Acts of the Apostles was written. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Some might think it is important because by having an historically accurate account and knowing the dating of Acts, there is further proof of the truth of the Christian message. It could be useful to understand the context of the author (including his date) so that we can understand the influences on him and the biases within the text. It gives more credibility to the 'we' passages if we know exactly what the 'we' refers to. If Acts is later, then it is perhaps less likely to be as reliable a record as it claims to be. Modern missionaries might not use it. If Acts is earlier, it would explain why Paul's death was omitted – and that would explain why it is still historically reliable.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
1(c)	‘Christians should focus on the life and teachings of Jesus rather than the birth of the early church.’ 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 level descriptors. Some could agree because the gospels explain the salvation of the world through Jesus’ death on the cross. The focus on outcasts is an important message shown in Jesus’ work. Focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus teaches about key aspects of how to live. Primarily, those who present this view will argue for the importance of knowing Jesus’ own words and messages and understanding his life as he is the ultimate role model for Christians. Some could disagree with the statement on the basis that it is more important to understand how the church should be organised and how Christianity got to where it is now. The messages of Acts are helpful to all Christians – how to spread the message, for example. Acts provides useful male and female role models for Christians. This is far more relevant, it could be argued, than the life of Jesus, which sets up the contents of Acts. All relevant arguments should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Outline the work of Philip in the early church. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Philip was one of the Seven, chosen to relieve the apostles from having to wait on tables and therefore in charge of the daily distribution of food. After Stephen’s stoning and the dispersal, Philip went to Samaria where he spoke engagingly and performed signs, such as the casting out of demons and the healing of the lame. He encountered Simon the sorcerer (magician) and baptised many people with water, leading to the apostles coming to Samaria to confer the Holy Spirit. He encountered an Ethiopian eunuch, guided by an angel whom he taught and baptised before being taken away by the Spirit and brought to Azotus before preaching in all towns until he reached Caesarea where he settled with his four daughters who were prophetesses.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	Explain the importance of Philip's role as shown in the Acts of the Apostles. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Philip as one of the Seven: important to see how the organisation of the church developed, important to show their service to the apostles, important to emphasise the importance of service, especially in the distribution of food and care for widows. Philip as missionary: took the message beyond Jewish territories to Samaria and had such success that the apostles came to visit and confer the Holy Spirit. Philip as spiritual: guided by God/angel/Spirit, Philip was led to the Ethiopian eunuch – he shows trust in the Lord. He also carries out the ministry of miracle-working with the power of God. Philip's role in spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth is significant as he represents a major move forwards, out of Judea and Galilee.	6
2(c)	'Philip is more important in the Acts of the Apostles than Peter.' 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 level descriptors. Some might agree with this statement on the basis that Philip represents more of what the Acts of the Apostles was about: missionary work, spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth and so on. Although Philip has a minor role in terms of space, he is clearly a key figure in the early church who is mentioned as still being a main figure in the church in chapter 21. Peter, by contrast, disappears and not even his death is alluded to. Some might disagree. Peter's key role is to provide continuity from Jesus and early supreme leadership in the church. He is a major character, replaced only by Paul. It is through Peter that the Christian message begins to spread and without him Christianity would have stayed fearful in the upper room. All relevant responses should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	Describe the visit of Barnabas to Antioch and Tarsus. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Acts 11:22–26 Barnabas was sent to Antioch by the Jerusalem church because of the success of preaching that had happened there by those dispersed. Barnabas arrived and encouraged all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. Because Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, a great number of people were brought to the Lord. Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul and he found him and brought him back to Antioch. They spent a year there together, meeting with the church and teaching great numbers of people. It was there that the disciples were called Christians first. While they were there, a prophet Agabus predicted a severe famine in the Roman Empire and the Christians there wished to help those in Judea, so they sent an offering via Barnabas and Saul.	6
3(b)	Explain the role of Barnabas in the Acts of the Apostles. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Barnabas was clearly a well-respected Christian leader in his own right as he was sent from Jerusalem to Antioch. He contributed to the preaching ministry of the church. The first mention of him is of his selling a field and donating it to the apostles – he was clearly generous. He is best known for his mentorship of Paul. His chief role was to prepare Paul for his own public ministry and to ensure that he fully understood the Christian message and how to communicate it. This ties into his name, which means ‘son of encouragement’. Barnabas accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey, though perhaps at the start of the journey, Barnabas was leading the journey and Paul was accompanying him. Barnabas was therefore responsible for taking the Christian message further and further from Jerusalem. When Paul and Barnabas separated, Barnabas continued his work of preaching and converting.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)	‘The spread of the Christian message would not have been as successful without Barnabas.’ 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 level descriptors. Some might agree with the statement. Paul needed nurturing before he became as significant as he was – and Paul was probably responsible for the spread of Christianity to the extent that it has spread – without Barnabas, Paul would not have been successful and so Barnabas is responsible for the size and extent of Christianity today. Barnabas also brought the Christian message directly from the apostles in Jerusalem and so he ensured that Paul taught the correct version of Christianity and so prevented early splits in Christian thought. Some might disagree with the statement because Barnabas could easily have been replaced by one of the many key figures in the early church who could have supported Paul. Also, he perhaps had less impact on Paul than we think as seen in the way that they fell out when they separated. All relevant responses should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	Describe Paul’s teaching in Pisidian Antioch on the history of the Jews before Jesus. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Acts 13:16–25 God chose the people of Israel. He made them prosper in Egypt and he tolerated their bad behaviour in the wilderness before leading them into Canaan where he overthrew seven nations and gave them the land as their inheritance. This lasted about 450 years. Then God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. The people asked for a king and were given Saul for forty years and then David: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ David was the ancestor of Jesus, as promised by God. Jesus was also foretold by John who preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)	Explain how Paul tried to convince the people in Pisidian Antioch that Jesus was the Saviour. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Paul began by establishing God's protection of Israel through time. He then established David, the great king, as the ancestor of Jesus, showing that God's protection continued through time. John was the prophet foretold who would herald the Messiah. Paul said that it is to their generation that the message of salvation has been sent. Those in Jerusalem failed to recognise Jesus and had him executed but he then rose from the dead. Paul explains this story of Jesus, which would have been well-known but emphasises the importance of the resurrection as his method of convincing them. Paul uses quotations from the Old Testament to help him to teach the people not only of the sending of Jesus but also his resurrection. Jesus was the fulfilment of prophecies and promises from Jewish history. The link to the Old Testament was his method here of convincing them that Jesus was the Saviour, promised by the scriptures. Finally, Paul warns his audience not to fall foul of the warning in the prophets and to believe, however hard it might be, using a stern warning as yet another method.	6
4(c)	'It was Paul's speeches, not his actions, that spread the message of Jesus.' 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 level descriptors. Some might agree with the statement because Paul's speeches were methodical and explained to his audience bit by bit how Jesus was the natural continuation of the Jewish faith. They might argue that Paul adapted his speeches depending on his audience and this shows the skill behind them as teaching techniques. They might also point to the emphasis on the resurrection, which is the most important aspect of the message of Jesus that needed to be communicated – the resurrection can never be explained through miracles, for example. Some might disagree with the statement. Paul's actions showed that God approved of his work because God blessed him with the ability to do great things. Paul also journeyed and this is an action in itself that showed the dedication and commitment Paul had to spreading the message of Jesus – he would not turn so far away from his old life as a Jew if there was not truth behind his work. This change of heart could be argued to be the most effective form of witness to spread the gospel. All relevant arguments should be credited.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	Give an account of what happened when Paul was taken to be judged (RSV to the tribunal) at Corinth. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Acts 18:12–17 Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, and the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgement. They said that he was persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law. Paul was going to speak but Gallio said to them, 'If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanour or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you.' However, he rejected their accusation because it involved questions about words and names and their own Law and so they needed to settle the matter themselves. He refused to be a judge of such things and drove them off. The crowd turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul, Gallio, who showed no interest in the situation.	6
5(b)	Explain why Paul's actions had led to this incident. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Paul had spent over a year in Corinth and was gaining in popularity. The Jews would have felt threatened by what he was doing and what he stood for and, much like in the time of Jesus, would have wanted to put an end to it in whatever way they could. Paul had settled into Corinth and had brought the message to both Jews and Greek. His message was appealing to all and so the Jews would have felt that he was gaining in popularity over them. Paul had once said, 'Your blood be on your own heads!' to the Jews and so they would have looked for any reason to catch him out. Significant people in Corinth, such as Crispus, the synagogue leader, had been converted. Paul would have been emboldened by the message of the Lord in a vision, saying that he would not be harmed. This might have made his preaching even more fearless.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
5(c)	‘Paul was lucky to have escaped death on so many occasions.’ 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 level descriptors. Some might agree with the statement on the basis that Paul got into difficulty throughout his ministry. He was almost stoned at Iconium and challenged with a potentially capital crime in Corinth. He stirred up people wherever he went, and some reacted badly. Some might disagree with the statement because Paul was throughout protected by God’s plan for his mission. He was promised that he would not suffer in Corinth, and he was often warned and delivered from places that turned against him. Although his death seems to have been inevitable, it was only at a time of God’s choosing – he tells the Ephesian elders that he was going to face judgement, compelled by the Spirit. Credit all relevant responses.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	Describe the raising of Eutychus from the dead. Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Acts 20:7–12 On the first day of the week at Troas, all came together to break bread. Paul was speaking to the people and did so until midnight as he was leaving the next day. Eutychus, a young man, was seated in a window and he sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked. He slept and fell to the ground from the third floor and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. ‘Don’t be alarmed,’ he said, ‘He’s alive!’ He then went upstairs and broke bread and ate. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.	6

Question	Answer	Marks
6(b)	Explain the significance of this passage in the Acts of the Apostles. This passage continues to show God's power at work in Paul. It confirms that Paul was doing God's work and as an apostle was carrying on Jesus' ministry. It shows Paul's concern for the Christian people and community not only through his desire to help Eutychus but also through the time he spent with the people. It assumes the faithfulness of all the believers as at the heart of the life of the church. It demonstrates the importance of the breaking of bread as an act of community worship. It is a 'we' passage and so part of the evidence to show the reliability of the account in Acts.	6
6(c)	'The Acts of the Apostles is more about the life of the early Christians than about the growth of the church.' 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 level descriptors. Some might agree with the statement because of the number of descriptive accounts of things that the church did. They might point to the organisation of the church and events such as the passage in this question. They might argue that Acts is a history book, rather than a theological one. Some might disagree because the growth of the church was the main purpose of the early church and so by looking at the stories of the early Christians, we can see how the church grew. They might also chart how the book looks at the influence of the Holy Spirit in growing the church and suggest that the Spirit's movement and the expansion of the church out of Jerusalem is the central theme. All relevant arguments should be credited.	8