

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/12
Luke and Acts (1-21:15)
Short Answer Questions

General comments

There were a number of good scripts that showed thorough and detailed knowledge of both the texts.

Centres should be aware that the exam is assessing Bible Knowledge and so accurate knowledge of the text is vital.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) and (b) Most candidates managed to name Elijah but less were able to identify Elisha. The most common wrong answer was Isaiah.

Question 2

- (a) and (b) There was some confusion about which healings were performed by Jesus on the Sabbath. A number of candidates referred to Jesus working on the Sabbath by picking ears of corn but this was done by Jesus' disciples and not by Jesus.

Question 3

- (a) The most common error was to just refer to the house as belonging to a Pharisee rather than to name the actual person i.e. Simon.
- (b) Various descriptions were accepted that identified the parable. Common wrong answers included the Good Samaritan and the Lost Sheep.

Question 4

- (a) The majority of candidates clearly knew the event but omitted any reference to the Son of Man.
- (b) Again, the event was known but many candidates omitted reference to swords and spoke in more general terms of fighting.

Question 5

- (a) Although most candidates referred to Joseph they did not identify which Joseph. The other most common wrong answer was Mary.
- (b) The majority of candidates answered this correctly.

Question 6

- (a) and (b) Generally well answered though there were difficulties with the spelling of the name Barsabbas. The most common confusion was with Barnabas.

Question 7

- (a) and (b) This was one of the least well answered questions. Most candidates referred to Stephen saying Jesus, rather than the Son of Man, was standing at the right hand of God.

Question 8

- (a) Most candidates were able to name the god as Zeus. A few candidates referred to Hermes, which was the god the people referred to for Paul.
- (b) Generally well answered with a variety of possible details from which candidates could select.

Question 9

- (a) A significant number of candidates gave Lystra as the answer, rather than Corinth.
- (b) The most common wrong answer was Titius Justus.

Question 10

- (a) Most candidates answered this correctly.
- (b) A number of answers were possible, with the most popular one being loss of trade.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) All candidates were able to gain at least one mark, but some omitted reference to Son of God and so could not gain the full two marks available.
- (b) This question produced the most correct answers.
- (c) The majority of candidates correctly identified the Old Testament book as Deuteronomy. The most common wrong answers were Psalms and Isaiah.
- (d) This was generally well answered.

Question 12

- (a) Although the parable was well known, a number of candidates confused the details with the accounts in Matthew and Mark, where some of the servants are killed.
- (b) This part was generally well answered.
- (c) This was the least well answered question on the paper and the question that produced the highest number of no responses. It required a very detailed knowledge of the parable.
- (d) In contrast to the above, this part was well answered.

Question 13

- (a) (b) and (c) All these three parts were well answered. Part (c) produced the second highest number of correct answers.
- (d) Less than half the candidates gave the correct answer. The most common wrong answer was Isaiah.

Question 14

- (a) Many candidates were aware of some connection with circumcision but often did not clearly link it to Gentiles and being saved. Candidates are encouraged to give as full an answer as possible.
- (b) A number of answers were possible and the majority of candidates gained the mark.
- (c) Most candidates gained the mark for Silas but very few were able to gain the full two marks by naming Judas (Barsabbas). The most popular wrong answer was Timothy.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/13
Luke and Acts (1-21:15)
Short Answer Questions

General comments

Although it was a small entry, there was a significant number of scripts that reflected good knowledge and understanding of the text.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This question required the name Caesar Augustus rather than just the name Caesar.
- (b) This question produced the lowest number of correct answers. Again, the name Caesar was insufficient to gain the mark.

Question 2

- (a) The majority of candidates gave the correct answer and this question produced the highest number of correct answers.
- (b) Again, this was generally well answered with candidates showing good knowledge of the events.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates gave the correct answer.
- (b) There were a high number of correct answers and the miracle story was clearly well known to candidates.

Question 4

- (a) Candidates gave a variety of species of birds, but only a few referred to the correct answer of ravens.
- (b) This illustration was much better known.

Question 5

- (a) and (b) The exam tests detailed knowledge of the text so candidates who only gave part of what Jesus said did not gain the mark. For instance, a number of candidates referred to "Father, forgive them" but did not complete the rest of the quotation.

Question 6

- (a) This question was answered correctly by almost all the candidates.
- (b) The reason for Stephen's appointment was less well known by candidates.

Question 7

- (a) and (b) Both parts were well answered. Details of the story of Philip and the Ethiopian were clearly well known by most of the candidates.

Question 8

- (a) The healing of Aeneas was known by a few candidates. A common wrong answer was Tabitha.
- (b) Candidates seemed more confident about this healing story with over half the candidates giving the correct answer.

Question 9

- (a) This question produced the highest number of no response.
- (b) Many candidates were unable to give the correct answer, referring to Jesus as a King or Messiah.

Question 10

- (a) A number of candidates struggled to name the person and often just referred to him as a young man. This was insufficient to gain the mark.
- (b) The common wrong answer was Simeon.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) Some candidates only mentioned sinners. Reference was also needed to Tax collectors.
- (b) Candidates needed to give all of Jesus' reply to gain all the marks.

Question 12

- (a) and (b) The parable was well known but full answers were needed for the full marks available.

Question 13

- (a) Most candidates referred to Saul's persecution of Christians in Jerusalem. The fact that Saul had travelled to Damascus with authority to arrest followers was rarely stated.
- (b) Candidates referred to Saul being God's chosen instrument to reach the Gentiles. However, the fact that Saul would also experience suffering was mentioned by only a few candidates.
- (c) This question was not answered well.

Question 14

- (a) There were a variety of answers possible and the majority of candidates gained the full two marks.
- (b) Most candidates referred to the owners of the slave girl losing money. Fewer made reference to Paul being accused of throwing the city into uproar and advocating unlawful customs for Romans.
- (c) This was generally well answered.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/22

Luke and Acts (1-21:15) Essay Questions

General comments

The marks covered the full range with evidence of some excellent answers. As in previous years, there was a growing number of candidates displaying detailed knowledge of the text and good understanding of the material. Their answers were focused and clearly expressed.

There was also improvement in candidates' ability to answer the **part (b)** evaluative questions. The level descriptors make clear that level 3 and 4 involve more than a "purely descriptive approach". There needs to be a willingness to engage with the material and a need to be selective, noting the focus of the question.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This was a popular question. However, the focus on "what the angel reveals about the person and future work of John" was often omitted. Instead, a narrative about Zechariah in the Temple and the angel saying that Zechariah would be blind until the naming of the child was given. A similar problem arose when recounting events about the angel visiting Mary. The actual statements about Jesus were often very limited.
- (b) Some candidates seemed unable to go beyond stating that angels were messengers from God. However, there was a significant number who used material from Luke's entire Gospel and produced some very good answers.

Question 2

- (a) This was another popular question. However, a number of candidates confused the transfiguration with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Of those that did recount the transfiguration event, a number ended with Moses and Elijah disappearing and omitted the voice from heaven stating Jesus as God's Son and the need to listen to him. Nevertheless, the majority of answers were detailed and accurate.
- (b) There were some good answers with candidates addressing both aspects of the question, though some were often limited in depth. A few candidates discussed the significance of the appearances of Moses and Elijah.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question had good knowledge of the details, though some confused the parable of the Mustard Seed with other parables about growth.
- (b) The explanation of the Sower was generally well done, but some candidates struggled to comment on the parable of the Mustard Seed.

Question 4

- (a) Those candidates that related this miracle story were often confused with some of the details. In particular, the discussion between the synagogue ruler and Jesus was often conflated with other illustrations about the Sabbath.
- (b) This was generally well answered with good references made to other Sabbath conflict stories in Luke's Gospel. To access the full range of marks candidates needed to discuss more than the story they related in **part (a)**.

Question 5

- (a) A number of candidates conflated material that was in other gospels. Others covered material that often ranged from the Last Supper to, and including, Jesus' death.

This was not a popular question but there were some accurate answers.
- (b) This was generally well answered with a number of candidates showing a good knowledge of the background.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) This was a popular question and generally well answered, especially relating the events about the choosing of Matthias.
- (b) Many candidates limited their answer to just covering material in Acts 2:42-47 and omitted material such as persecutions, miracles and the growth of the church requiring developing organisation.

Question 7

- a) Both accounts were well known and generally well answered.
- (b) A number of candidates ignored the focus on "the influence on Peter and Paul" and tended to write in more general terms. There were also some good answers showing understanding of the situation of the expanding church.

Question 8

- (a) This was a popular question but the reference in the question to the healing of the slave girl seemingly distracted many candidates as they wrote at length of the healing rather than what happened after Paul and Silas were imprisoned. Candidates needed to avoid confusing the events in the prison with other accounts of miraculous escapes from prison.
- (b) Many candidates gave some good thoughtful answers. The higher level answers generally included references to other events in Acts concerning evil spirits. A few candidates wrote at length of events that are in Luke's Gospel and so could not be credited unless some general points were made that also applied to material in Acts.

Question 9

- (a) Only a few candidates attempted this question. Generally they gave good answers.
- (b) There were some good attempts at evaluating, considering both aspects of success and failure.

Question 10

- (a) This was only attempted by a few candidates. Most candidates displayed good knowledge of the text of the speech.
- (b) This produced some good answers with most candidates addressing both the "how" and the "why" aspects.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/23

Luke and Acts (1-21:15) Essay Questions

General comments

Some candidates had detailed knowledge of the text and good understanding of the material. Their answers were focused and clearly expressed. It should be noted that the focus of the questions require more than general biblical knowledge. They require a detailed study including background and critical knowledge.

As in previous years, a number of candidates did not find the part (b) questions easy. The level descriptors make clear that level 3 and 4 involve more than a “purely descriptive approach”.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This was a popular question. Some candidates knew the events but did not include the significant words, whilst others only wrote about Simeon and omitted Anna. Also what Simeon actually said about Jesus was only briefly discussed.
- (b) Answers required more than just repetition of the events as the focus of the question was “what do we learn about Jesus”. There were some good answers that highlighted Jesus’ awareness of his status, his wisdom and his righteous anger. Good use of the text supported the answers.

Question 2

- (a) This was another popular question. Again, many candidates showed good knowledge of the text of Peter’s confession but struggled more when it came to recounting the prediction of the passion and Peter’s denial.
- (b) Some candidates having answered the two parts in (a) did not then answer part (b). It is important for candidates to read all parts of the question before embarking on the question, to make sure that they can answer all the parts.

There is a lot of additional material that candidates could have selected from including Peter’s call, the transfiguration and Peter’s initial disbelief in the resurrection.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question had good knowledge of the details, though a few confused the parable of the two debtors with other parables.
- (b) Candidates needed to give more than a summary of the material in part (a). The question expected material to be drawn from the whole of Luke’s Gospel.

Question 4

- (a) Those candidates that attempted this question tended to know the details and gained high levels. The reaction of the people to the healing of the widow’s son was the most common omission.

- (b) Most candidates focused on Luke's interest in the poor, the outcasts and those seen by the religious as being rejected by God. A few referred to Luke's possible interest in healings as he was a doctor.

Question 5

- (a) Many candidates conflated material that was in other gospels. A few candidates confused the account with that of the Transfiguration.

However, there were also a number of very accurate answers.

- (b) This was generally not well answered. Most candidates struggled to go much beyond commenting that they were loyal to Jesus in being prepared to fight to save him.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) Candidates seemed confident in recounting the striking down of Ananias and Sapphira but struggled to say much about Aquila and Priscilla.
- (b) Many candidates just limited their answer to Acts 2:42-47 and omitted references to such things as the needs shown by the appointment of the Seven and the persecution that the followers experienced.

Question 7

- (a) This question was not popular. Candidates were unsure as to which prison escapes the question was referring to (as shown by some confusion by those who did answer this question).
- (b) This was not well answered with few candidates developing answers beyond stating that the writer was present at the times where the "we" passages occur.

Question 8

- (a) Very few candidates attempted this question. Those that did generally gave good answers.
- (b) Again, those few that attempted this question generally did well. They showed awareness of the different audiences and therefore the need to adapt the speech to suit the background and culture of the different listeners.

Question 9

- (a) There was some confusion as to which events were being referred to. Candidates seemed more confident about the events at Paphos than they did about the proceedings before Gallio.
- (b) This produced some good answers though some were limited in breadth. The higher level answers made reference to the text to support their argument.

Question 10

- (a) Candidates who attempted this question tended to limit their answer to either the sons of Sceva incident or Paul being accused of dishonouring Artemis.
- (b) Candidates tended to give only one view i.e. it was a success or it was a failure. Higher level answers considered that it had elements of both success and failure and attempted some weighing up as to which was the stronger outcome.