

General Certificate of Education (International)  
Advanced Subsidiary Level

**Syllabus**

DIVINITY 8041

For examination in November 2009

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# DIVINITY

## GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

### Syllabus 8041

**Available in the October/November examination only**

*Both the New International Version and the Revised Standard Version will be used for quotations included in question papers. There is, however, no wish or intention to dictate to schools which version should be used in the teaching of Divinity and schools are at liberty to use whichever they prefer. Examiners have been instructed not to set questions in which the answer depends on a rendering peculiar to a particular version of the Bible.*

This paper is dual-headed with GCE Advanced Level paper 9011/02. Results in AS Level may **not** be carried over to the A Level.

#### **8041/02 The Four Gospels**

(3 hours)

The aim of this paper is to encourage and develop a scholarly understanding of the life and teaching of Jesus as contained in the four gospels. A good, working knowledge of the gospel text is required. Candidates will be expected to know and comment upon differences between the gospels where these are plainly relevant to this understanding, but they will not otherwise be asked for detailed comparison of parallel narratives.

There will be **fourteen** optional questions on this paper, one of which will contain passages for comment. Candidates will be required to answer any **four** questions. The breakdown of the paper is as follows:

- The comment question will contain **eight** short texts (gobbets), two from each gospel. Candidates should state the context of any **four** gobbets (but not rewrite the story) and then comment on points of interest (religious, historical, political or social) or difficulties that arise *from that text*.
- There will be at least **two** questions on the paper directly concerned with each gospel.
- There will be **five** further questions on main gospel issues and themes.

Answers to all questions should demonstrate a thoughtful mixture of scholarly opinions, textual evidence and personal evaluation.

In preparing for this paper candidates should study the following:

- the relevant gospel texts
- the historical, social and religious background to the gospels
- the main questions and ideas raised by biblical criticism
- authorship, date, provenance and main themes of the gospels
- the main events in the gospels: birth narratives, John the Baptist and his relation to Jesus, baptism, temptations, confession of Peter, transfiguration, miracles and mighty works, entry into Jerusalem, last supper, trials, crucifixion and resurrection
- the teaching of Jesus (especially by means of parables and miracles) with special attention to: salvation, forgiveness, the kingdom of God, future judgement, discipleship and commitment, wealth and possessions, prayer, ethics, discussions with Jewish authorities and his self-understanding
- the main events and teaching peculiar to John's gospel (e.g. the Prologue, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the 'signs', the "I am" sayings)
- the christological titles (son of God, son of man, son of David, etc.)
- the views of contemporary scholars.