

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit G (RSS07) *New Testament*

June 2009 Examination Candidate Exemplar Work:

- Candidate A



2009 (June) Unit G *New Testament*

Example of Candidate's Work from the Examination

Candidate A

- 1 (a) Examine the relationship between the three synoptic gospels.

(30 marks)

A01

Candidate Response

1a)	The Synoptic Gospels in the Bible are Matthew, Mark and Luke. They are referred to as the synoptic Gospels because they are similar to each other; synoptic meaning similar. They are all gospels written after Jesus' death and resurrection.
	The purpose of all the Synoptic Gospels are to evangelise; bring good news and
	to convert people. However each gospels has its purpose, and intended audience. Mark's purpose was to write a straight forward account of Jesus, he is writing for the Jews non-jews. We can tell this as Jewish customs are explained in Mark. In Mark Jesus is humane and gets angry. He tells off disciples and has human emotions. Scholars believe that Mark was written first and Luke and Matthew have based their gospel on Mark.
	95% of Matthew is Mark and 55% of Luke is Mark. Streeter came up with the 4 document hypothesis explaining the relationship and how sources were used within the document Synoptic Gospels. He believes that

Mark is mainly relied by Matthew and ~~the~~ Luke. He also thinks that Matthew and Luke had access to a ~~the~~ some source other than Mark, ~~sheeter~~ named this source Q, standing for Quelle. This is because there are certain information not in Mark but present in both Matthew and Luke. (See last page)

Bardays says that Luke seems to be smoothing out Mark's version. As Luke and Matthew were written for certain purposes they edit Mark to suit their purpose. Matthew

and Luke were writing when the second sitz im Leben (early church) were being persecuted. They (Mt and Lk) did not want something that would embarrass the early church so they took out information which would embarrass the early church.

~~Therefore~~ The synoptic Gospels were trying to convert and win over people but each gospel has its intended audience. Mark was writing for non-Jews, Jewish customs are explained. Matthew was writing for Jews, he had Jewish background and wrote a lot about the Old Testament and how Jesus is the promise of God. Luke wrote for Theodorus and Christians who needed strength for their faith and to answer questions, he also wanted to correct false teachings.

Scholars believe Mark was written first and priority since Mark is the shortest. Also the order of Luke and Matthew follows Mark. Therefore it is fair to say that Matthew and Luke based their Gospel on Mark and source Q. However they had their own source L and M.

Also each evangelist had their own view and beliefs. They were all written for a purpose to record Jesus' life and teachings. Their main purpose is to spread the word of God and to evangelise. Although there are many ways how the synoptic gospels are similar to each; for example the sources, purpose and certain aspects of Jesus' teaching. They all are individual gospels within their rights. Each gospel has its view and the author (evangelist) had their own belief within the gospel. They were written to serve the early church needs and there are many

* Q1 a) - Griebach also tried to figure out the relationship by putting the gospels side by side. He came up with the conclusion that Matthew was written first and Luke and Mark are summaries of Matthew.

* Q1 a) ... many relationships are present between the 3 synoptic gospels. Their source and unit of oral tradition "Pericope" where the gospel entries collected and put them in order. Like pearls on a string according to Schmidt.

Commentary

AO1 (30 marks)

The focus of the question was an examination of the relationship. The danger was that candidates would write in very general terms about aspects of the synoptic gospels but not fine tune the information towards addressing the focus of "relationship".

This candidate begins with a general introduction and then discusses purpose. However, there is no clear linking of the material to the focus even though it is relevant. It has been left to the examiner to make the necessary links.

A brief outline of the two document hypothesis is then given. The candidate has mistakenly referred to it as the four document hypothesis and has also made an error by transposing Matthew and Mark in the first sentence of the paragraph. Mistakes such as the transposing of names can be regarded as accidental errors and ignored. However, if others were to occur it could be seen as evidence that the candidate does not actually understand the material and is not aware that they are errors.

Support for the theory is given in very general terms and no evidence is given from the actual text. Again, the question of purpose is revisited with reference to readership, but there is no clear linking back to the focus of the question. Some additional notes inserted and written at the end of the answer book refer to Matthew as being the first gospel.

Certainly there are some key ideas and facts. There are some examples in terms of readership and purpose but none from the actual text. An attempt has been made to address the focus, though at times the material has not been made clear as to how it relates to the question.

Because of its breadth it was regarded as a satisfactory though not thorough treatment within the time available and was awarded a top level 5. The candidate could have easily improved this answer by some rearrangement, clearer linking to focus and some examples from the text to support argument.

Level 5 (23 marks)

- (b) 'There would be more advantage in having a single gospel than having three similar gospels.' Assess this claim.

(15 marks)

AO2

Candidate Response

1b ~~the~~ The two views for the statement one that it is better to have one gospel and another saying it's better to have 3.

Some people may argue to say it is better to have 1 gospel as the 3 does not always agree and confuses people. For example how many angels appeared at Jesus' tomb, 2 or 1. Christians and any other readers may get confused and not know ~~the~~ which one to believe.

However by having 3 Gospels it's better as it backs each other up as well. It confirms certain aspects of the bible. By having it stated 3 times. The bible becomes more reliable and may become easier to find the truth.

On the other hand by having 3 Gospels it's pointless, the same story worded and ordered differently is useless and some people may argue that there is no point of having the Gospels repeated 3 times as it's basically the same core message.

Nevertheless 3 Gospels is better as it means 3 views or even 3 eye witnesses. By having 3 Gospels we have 3 different versions of the account of Jesus. It means different people can choose to their needs as each evangelist wrote for a purpose so they can relate to the Gospel on a personal level.

In Conclusion there are many advantages of having 3 gospels, it can be easier for scholars to find the true (exact words of Jesus). It can also mean that we know for certain it happened. Also people can relate it to a certain gospel for their need. However the disadvantages are there as well. Readers may become confused which one to believe as some parts of the Gospel contradict each other and people may not know which one to believe. As as everyone puts her own spin on words it becomes hard to find the truth anyway, regardless how many versions there are.

L 4

It is maybe better to have one gospel where everyone could follow and agree.

Commentary

AO2 (15 marks)

The answer consists basically of two arguments for and two arguments against but placed alternately. The arguments are not really developed and the conclusion section (which is almost half the answer) is a repeat of the arguments.

It does express two views, which is an element of the descriptor of level 5. However, that is not sufficient to place it in level 5 since those views are not developed and limited in coverage. Hence, it was awarded a level 4 where the descriptor refers to "a limited attempt to sustain an argument".

Level 4 (8 marks)

- 2 (a) With reference to one healing miracle, explain the role and purpose of healing miracles in the synoptic gospels.

(30 marks)

A01

Candidate Response

2a) ~~the~~ Miracle is defined as ~~as~~ "a marvellous event due to supernatural agency; a remarkable occurrence" by the Oxford dictionary. St Augustine says that "miracles are ~~as~~ not contrary to nature but what we know about the nature." OTH is a new word for miracle.

There were many miracles recorded in the synoptic Gospels and there are 4 main types of miracles healing miracle; such as making the blind see and the deaf hear. Nature miracle; there one miracle which goes against nature; such as Jesus walking on water. Exorcism; Jesus healing the demon possessed man is an example where Jesus deals with evil spirits. Finally there is the raising the dead miracle; when Jesus raised Lazarus; when he was dead.

There are many purposes of miracles. Alan Richardson says it is to show that Kingdom of God has arrived on Earth. Buttmann says it is to show Jesus superior to other miracle workers. Miracles have other purposes as well; they are to show people that the Messianic age has arrived. Jesus is fulfilling Old Testament prophecy such as Isaiah 35 "the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstoppered". He is proving himself; that he is a Messiah. He is showing God's power and how God interacts with the world. Miracles are referred to as 'semeia' and 'dynamis'. Semeia means signs and dynamis means power. By those definitions miracles purpose is to show that Jesus is showing

† God's dynamics and is a semion of Kingdom of God among. Jesus is doing God's work or ~~the~~ ~~work~~ ~~of~~ ~~God~~. Also another purpose is to show the human sides of Jesus and his personality. Through miracles we can see he is compassionate and unreserved.

One healing miracle is which I've studied is the "Faith of the Centurion". It's in Matthew and Luke. In this particular miracle it's one where Jesus deals with a gentile; a non-Jew; non believer. By Jesus dealing with the Centurion we can see he is universal.

Jesus was the ultimate miracle worker; like Bultmann said we know this as he can cure and heal people without sacrifices or chants. He can do it without a ritual or seeing the person. Such as the faith of the Centurion; here Jesus is told a centurion's servant is ill, Jesus is ~~asked~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~faith~~ and says that the servant shall be cured ~~and~~ ~~he~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~reborn~~.

† In this miracle, Jesus also teaches that the Kingdom of God is open to all, regardless of any nations or birthrights (Jews). The

role of the miracle is to show that Jesus is universal and a ~~the~~ ultimate miracle worker. It also shows that Jesus is divine and holy, he can heal people.

Another role of healing miracle is that is a token of thank you to those who believe in him. He heals people because of faith; although faith is important it is not present in all miracles.

Going back to Alan Richardson theory, about how miracle's purpose is to show Kingdom of God has arrived on Earth. There are 3 belief about the Kingdom of God, these are referred to as the eschatology. They are future eschatology, realised eschatology and inaugurated eschatology.

Future eschatology are the beliefs of Jews; they believe that the Kingdom of God has not arrived yet and neither has the Messiah they believe in the future, the promised Messiah will come on a day when the Kingdom of God will arrive.

Christians believe in either realised eschatology or inaugurated eschatology, realised eschatology is when they believe that Jesus was the Messiah and that

2b) the Kingdom of God is present right now. Inaugurated eschatology is a combination of the other 2 eschatology where they believe Jesus was the Messiah, Kingdom of God has arrived but will not or is not fully arrived until the future; usually death of people.

In conclusion, in the faith of the Gentrion we can see that there are many roles and purpose of the healing miracle in the Synoptic Gospel. It's role was to show that Jesus is universal, divine and compassionate. It's also to show that Kingdom of God has arrived. Purpose is to show that Jesus is the Messiah, the promised one and that God is working

	with the world. It shows erga and God's dynamis.	L6
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Commentary

AO1 (30 marks)

Many candidates are given revision/study notes by their centres for each topic. Though these have their place, there is always the danger that candidates rote learn them and reproduce them in the exam, regardless of the focus.

This exam answer suggests that such a problem may have occurred here. The first two paragraphs read like introductory notes on the topic of miracles. The answer could equally have started at the third paragraph and nothing of any significance would have been lost.

Indeed, the third paragraph contains some good material. However, the material would have benefited with some of the points being developed a little more.

The candidate has then gone on to use the healing miracle of the centurion's servant. It is a pity that the candidate has not linked the purposes already mentioned to this particular miracle account. However, some attempt is made to link the miracle account to role and purpose.

The excursus on eschatology is not made relevant to the question, but the final paragraph returns to address the focus.

Without doubt, the answer does have some irrelevant material (introduction and eschatology) but there still remains accurate information of some breadth and the candidate has moved away from the rather more basic discussions about compassion and helping people to a more theological understanding about Kingdom of God. There are a few inaccuracies in places but they do not detract from the scope of the material given.

The candidate clearly has understanding and some reference to contribution of scholars. In the time available it is a fairly thorough treatment, rather than just a satisfactory one, at AS level. Hence it was awarded a level 6.

Level 6 (25 marks)

- (b) 'In a scientific age, Jesus' healings still have meaning.' Assess this claim. (15 marks)

A02

Candidate Response

2b) There are 2 views of this, people agree and say that the healing miracles of Jesus still has meaning regardless of the scientific age and others who disagree.

There are many healing miracles in the Bible when Jesus makes the blind see and the deaf hear. Also demon possessed men and servants with leprosy. It still has meaning as it still remains the same regardless of what age we read the miracle. Jesus performed his miracles where there were hardly any science and it shows that Jesus was divine and holy. It does not change the fact these were miracles; even though we are in a scientific age as the fact remains Jesus healed people when there was no hope.

Others may argue and says there is no big impact now as it may have been back then. Jesus may have performed these miracles but they might not be regarded as "miracles" now as there are many scientific ways to give hope to people. Laser surgery for blind people transplants and surgery for deafness. It has no big impact on readers in the 21st century and its meaning are lost.

However when Jesus performed these miracles weren't just about Jesus performing miracles. It shows how we should be, ~~be that way~~ universal, caring and compassionate. When Jesus performs the miracle on the centurion's servant, it shows a rare occasion where Jesus dealt with a gentile. Its meaning is that it showed Jesus

It was universal. It still has meaning now (It's symbolic and way of telling us that we should be universal).

On the other hand Jesus' healing in the 2nd Century, where it's the scientific age, may lose its meaning. Further, a scholar says that close allegorical interpretation may mean we are losing insights and real meanings.

In the scientific age; people are trying to re-perform Jesus' miracle and it loses its impact and the fact they were fulfilments.

Nevertheless; the healing miracles remain to give meanings to people. It doesn't change the fact Jesus performed these and they were OT (Old Testament) fulfilments. His meanings still present. To prove Jesus' messiahship and that K of A has arrived.

In conclusions there are many views, people may argue to say in the scientific age we want real science and evidence not Jesus' old and people may lose insight. ~~They~~ They may be ~~classified~~ argue or say the "miracles" are no longer classified as miracles. However its meaning are here still; Jesus performed these to give hope and reader should relate to the time they were in; the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sitz'im leben. Its meaning of miracles are to give hope and still gives hopes to many people as it may mean a miracle could happen to them through God's power such as curing a cancer and other tragic diseases. Therefore its meaning are still here in this scientific age.

LS

Commentary

AO2 (15 marks)

A series of arguments are given expressing alternate views for and against the claim. There is some discussion about miracles having symbolic meaning but the thrust of “In a scientific age” is partially lacking in the debate. There also seemed some confusion in the debate as to whether miracles could happen and what repercussions that would have on the arguments.

Again, the candidate clearly has understanding and, with a slight refocus, could have easily gained a higher level mark. There is an attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. There is also some attempt at comment. The conclusion is a summary of the arguments rather than an evaluation of them.

Level 5 (10 marks)