

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Religious Studies

Unit G (RSS07) *New Testament*

June 2009 Examination Candidate Exemplar Work:

- Candidate B



2009 (June) Unit G *New Testament*

Example of Candidate's Work from the Examination

Candidate B

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

(30 marks)

AO1

Candidate Response

Q	
a	<p>Throughout the gospels Jesus's healing miracles show his power and authority. In Matthew and Luke the Centurion's slave was a miracle that showed that without faith a miracle would not happen. Jesus did miracles to help people, no matter who they were, people with with outcasts, coppers, and women. Miracles showed that Jesus Christ had the power and authority to perform exorcisms and healings close to the victim or far away. In the centurion slave, an army leader asks for Jesus to heal his slave. However when Jesus goes to heal him, the centurion says "I am not worthy to "lord, I am not worthy to have you under my roof but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed." Jesus was amazed and he said, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith." The centurion had so much faith that Jesus didn't even go to the slave to heal him he just spoke.</p> <p>Jesus also performed miracles on the outcasts in society and women, who were seen as inferior in Jewish society. Jesus did not judge people, "do not judge, so that you may not be judged."</p> <p>Jesus performed miracles to fulfill prophecies, for example Isaiah 35:5, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened."</p>

Jesus also performed miracles to teach about the kingdom. Having faith is a very important part of miracles and receiving the kingdom. C.H. Dodd believed in realised eschatology, that the kingdom was here. Other scholars like Sanders believed in future eschatology, that the kingdom is coming.

Commentary

AO1 (30 marks)

This essay uses the centurion's servant miracle as the example to discuss the purpose of miracles. However, the purposes rarely get beyond the basic statement of "showing power and authority", and "to help people".

One third of the answer is taken up with narrative of the actual miracle story. There is a hint of further purposes in the final two paragraphs linking miracles to the Kingdom of God, but this is not developed.

Overall, the answer falls short of a generally satisfactory treatment of the topic (level 4) and so was awarded a level 3 (limited in depth or breadth).

Level 3 (12 marks)

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

(15 marks)

AO2

Candidate Response

b ~~Jesus~~ Some people believe that in a scientific age, Jesus' healings still have meaning. As like today, when people are ill they look to God and pray. This shows that because Jesus healed in the bible, he will heal ~~me~~ them. Even the meaning of Jesus' miracles can still be used today but just updated so that they are relevant to the situation. ~~The~~ The rules in the bible are all the rules that are needed to live by so the meaning of the miracles ~~is~~ are there to be adapted and updated to situations when needed.

A Other people, for example, form critics believe that miracles were performed to tell a short story. They say that miracles were performed ~~so the message~~ stories and that the bible is full of short stories and myths to portray Jesus' message.

A	Some people also believe that because of how technology has evolved, what Jesus performed thousands of years ago can be performed now but its not a miracle, so the miracle meaning is lost.
	A miracle today would have to be something astonishing that science and technology couldn't explain.
	Jesus' miracles today do not have the same meaning because of scientific age and technology
	In conclusion I believe that Jesus' miracles and the shall have meaning even if they do not amaze us as much as people present at that time. The Technology has evolved by but people who pray ^{and} believe that Jesus has healed them, they themselves believe personally that they have been made well by faith.

Commentary

AO2 (15 marks)

The focus of "In a scientific age" has not been a major focus in this candidate's debate. The answer given consists mainly of an argument for and an argument against miracles being meaningful today.

There are two points of view but just because this is referred to as part of the descriptor level 5 does not mean that it is automatically awarded a level 5. For instance, there is no attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. The two arguments are just stated without any analysis or reflection. There is no evaluation in that the arguments are not weighed against each other.

The answer was awarded a level 3 (a basic attempt to justify a point of view relevant to the question) as the aspect of "in a scientific age" was mainly absent. There was insufficient relevant comment to award it a level 4 (a limited attempt to sustain an argument).

Level 3 (6 marks)

- 4 (a) Explain what Mark and Luke teach about the person of Jesus in their accounts of his resurrection.

(30 marks)

AO1

Candidate Response

4	
a	<p>From the beginning of each of the gospels, the ress death and resurrection of Jesus are being foretold, preparing the reader for what is to come.</p> <p>Mark's gospel which is said to have been the first written gospel was shorter than Luke. In Mark's account of the resurrection 3 women went to the tomb, Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James and Salome. In Luke's account they were unnamed, but the significance of women being the first to see the risen Jesus, would have embarrassed been embarrassing. This showed Jesus as being the universal saviour, dying for the sins of others and rising again. The ultimate act of compassion.</p> <p>In Mark's account the women come across a man in dazzling clothes sitting on the right side in the tomb. He said to them, "Do not be alarmed" he is not here". This showed Jesus in his youth as a heavenly being, she telling the women what to do.</p> <p>In Luke's gospel the unnamed women came across two men, maybe symbolizing Jesus and Moses or apostles, or God. The women are named in verse 10 as Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James and Joanna. What the men two men told them the disciples didn't believe, showing that they still had little faith so Jesus appeared to them on the road to Emmaus to prove that he had risen, showing him as heavenly as well as confident that his disciples will go out and spread the word about him in Mark's account.</p>

Commentary

AO1 (30 marks)

Whenever a question includes a mention of a particular text, there is always a danger that the weaker candidate will be tempted to recount the text. In this instance, the question used the text of the resurrection. However, the focus was on what that text revealed about the person of Jesus.

This candidate has spent most of the answer recounting the events. There are two or three statements about the person of Jesus (e.g a universal saviour) but these are not developed. This particular focus is listed in the Specification so a detailed study is expected. The answer is beyond "isolated elements" (level 1) but below a summary of key points, limited in depth or breadth (level 3). Hence it was awarded a lower level 2 (a superficial outline account with little relevant material).

Level 2 (5 marks)

(b) 'The longer ending of Mark's Gospel (Mark 16⁹⁻²⁰) cannot be considered authentic.' Assess this claim.

(15 marks)

AO2

Candidate Response

b	Some people think that the longer ending of mark is authentic because without it Jesus did not appear, and and commission the disciples or ascend into heaven.
A	The ending had to be authentic because the basis of Christianity is focused on the death and resurrection of Jesus -
f	Other people believe that its not authentic, for example, E. Gould, because the it was written later at about the end century. He also the style of writing did not also said that 19 words of the 163 in the longer ending had never been seen in the gospel before.
	Many people believe that the author was either interrupted or therefore did not get to finish it, an accident occurred which led to it being lost, the a person who read the original did not like what they were reading so destroyed it or the author
	actually finished there. As the early church the evolved some people may have said that an ending needed to be added because the Christian faith is centered around Jesus dying and rising for the sins of the world.

I believe that one of the four points
about of accidentally losing of the
author being interrupted maybe
be reliable but as a christian I believe it
to be authentic.

Commentary

AO2 (15 marks)

The candidate begins by giving two weak arguments to oppose the claim. A more developed argument is given in support of the claim. There is no reflection on what has been argued and the conclusion is more of the form of an opinion.

It is similar to the answer to question 2(b), but there is a more developed argument on one side that is just sufficient to place it into the bottom of level 4 (a limited attempt to sustain an argument, which may be one sided).

Level 4 (7 marks)