



General Certificate of Education

Religious Studies (2060)

RSS07 New Testament

Report on the Examination

2010 examination - January series

Further copies of this Report are available to download from the AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk

Copyright © 2010 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

COPYRIGHT

AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered centres for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

The Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number 3644723) and a registered charity (registered charity number 1073334). Registered address: AQA, Devas Street, Manchester M15 6EX
Dr Michael Cresswell Director General.

General Comments

There were some very good answers that reflected a high level of knowledge and understanding of the unit topics. Although there were fewer weaker scripts, there were still some candidates who did not read the questions carefully and answered on the wrong part of the text.

A significant number of candidates wrote out the actual question. There is no point in doing this and candidates are penalising themselves by reducing their time available to answer the questions.

Question 4 was the least popular question answered and question 1 was the most popular.

Question 1

Part (a)

This was generally well answered.

Weaker candidates tended not to develop or comment on the reasons but merely stated them. Many candidates focussed just on the general reasons whilst some also discussed redaction and the purpose of the individual gospel writers.

The higher level answers gave evidence to support the reasons selected. A significant number of candidates discussed reasons why the gospels were **not** written down. Although much of the material could have been valid if used appropriately candidates often failed to do so.

Part (b)

Candidates continue to struggle to present high level AO2 answers and fail to reason and critically analyse. Far too often, answers drift into listing arguments for and against a view/claim with no attempt at weighing up how successful those arguments are.

The claim in the question focussed on the time gap issue, but only a few candidates really addressed that aspect in any detail.

Question 2

Part (a)

There were some good answers displaying understanding of the purpose of parables and using a parable to illustrate. The higher level answers focussed on “purpose” while the lower level answers focused on the narration of the parable with some general teaching comments about “purpose” occurring in their explanation of the parable. Only a few candidates made any reference to Mark 4:10-12.

A significant number of candidates continue to use the healing of the centurion’s slave/servant as an example of a parable.

Part (b)

Many candidates misread the question and ignored the first three words. In such cases, discussion was in more general terms about the difficulty of understanding parables. Only a few candidates made any reference to modern biblical criticism and the layers of transmission.

Question 3

Part (a)

There were some good answers identifying the differences and giving some explanation. Lower level answers tended to summarise text but did not clearly identify what the differences were. The trigger in the question was “Examine...”. This requires more than just listing the differences.

Surprisingly, a few candidates did not seem to understand what text they were meant to be considering, and so answered on the arrest and trials of Jesus rather than Jesus’ crucifixion and death.

Part (b)

There were some good evaluative answers given with most candidates focussing on source and redaction criticism to explain the differences between the gospels. However, many candidates failed to address the “no satisfactory explanation” aspect of the claim.

Question 4

Part (a)

This was the least popular question on the paper. It might have been the phrase “scholars’ views of the theological message” that put some candidates off from attempting this question. However, the phrase is clearly given in the specifications and candidates should be familiar with it. Again, “examine” is the trigger and support from the text is expected for higher level answers.

Part (b)

Most candidates focussed on the “historical” aspect of the claim. Very few addressed the “To what extent” aspect and so rarely argued for both historical **and** symbolic conclusion. Most answers tended to be one-sided and therefore had limited reasoning and critical analysis.