



**General Certificate of Education
January 2011**

Religious Studies

RSS07

New Testament

AS Unit G

Final

Mark Scheme

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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Examination Levels of Response

Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

Level	AS Descriptor AO1	Marks	AS Descriptor AO2	Marks	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in AO1 and AO2
7	A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available. Information is accurate and relevant, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence / examples	28-30	A well-focused, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and argument. There is some critical analysis. An appropriate evaluation is supported by reasoned argument.	14-15	Appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of information; appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility; high level of accuracy in spelling punctuation and grammar.
6	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / example(s)	24-27	A mostly relevant, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and argument. There is some analysis. An evaluation is made which is consistent with some of the reasoning.	12-13	
5	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, with some development, showing reasonable understanding through use of relevant evidence / example(s).	20-23	A partially successful attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. Some attempt at analysis or comment and recognition of more than one point of view. Ideas adequately explained.	10-11	Mainly appropriate form and style of writing; some of the information is organised clearly and coherently; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; satisfactory legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4	A generally satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing some understanding and coherence.	15-19	A limited attempt to sustain an argument, which may be one-sided or show little ability to see more than one point of view. Most ideas are explained.	7-9	Form and style of writing appropriate in some respects; some clarity and coherence in organisation; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar adequate to convey meaning.
3	A summary of key points. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding and limited relevance. Some coherence.	10-14	A basic attempt to justify a point of view relevant to the question. Some explanation of ideas and coherence.	5-6	
2	A superficial outline account, with little relevant material and slight signs of partial understanding, or an informed answer that misses the point of the question.	5-9	A superficial response to the question with some attempt at reasoning.	3-4	Little clarity and organisation; little appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar barely adequate to make meaning clear.
1	Isolated elements of partly accurate information little related to the question.	1-4	A few basic points, with no supporting argument or justification.	1-2	
0	Nothing of relevance.	0	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0	

RSS07: New Testament

Question 1

- 01 Examine reasons for translating the original Greek synoptic gospels texts into other languages.**

Need to spread gospel message to wider communities than Greek speaking. (e.g. Jerome's Latin Vulgate and the Peshitta)
Spread of Church (e.g. to Egypt) so an Egyptian (Coptic) version needed.
Need for a standard text that could be used and recognised by everyone.
Importance of reading in own language.
Modern day reasons for translating.

(30 marks) AO1

- 02 'A translation can never be the Word of God.' Assess this claim.**

In support:
Difficulties of translating into another language/ dynamic equivalence \neq literal original language
Problems of cultural understanding
Don't have original manuscripts

Against:
Adaption to language and culture will still maintain meaning/ dynamic equivalence
Work of the Holy Spirit

(15 marks) AO2

Question 2

- 03 Examine the teaching found in the Parable of the Sower.**

Jesus brings in the Kingdom

Enter Kingdom through the word (Gospel)
Some opposition to message but rich harvest
Growth certain
Allegorical interpretation linked to types of hearers
Possible original meaning linked to Jesus' ministry

Possible later needs it was meeting:
Falling away
Persecution

(30 marks) AO1

- 04** **'Without the help of scholars, the parables cannot be understood.'**
Assess this claim.

In support:

Different culture/era/language to present day readers so requires experts to help guide us.

Complex theological teaching needs experts to explain

Expect some illustrations from text as to how scholars can help given their expertise/insights to time of Jesus.

Against:

Alternative view may include -can understand- basic common sense accounts./ Don't require that detailed understanding from scholarship/word of God speaks to reader

Some parables explained by Jesus.

Spiritual truths require God not scholars to reveal meaning.

(15 marks) **AO2**

Question 3

- 05** **Examine the main differences between the accounts of Jesus' arrest and trials in Mark and Luke.**

Expect different events in each gospel (e.g. Mark has details of a trial before the high priest, Luke omits this; Luke has list of the three accusations that the Jews presented to Pilate and the trial before Herod and a second trial before Pilate)

Differences within the same event (e.g. At arrest Luke says Jesus healed the high priest's servants ear; Mark records young man fleeing from the scene; details of trial before Pilate; Luke has the emphasis on innocence of Jesus).

Answers should identify clearly the differences and examine them.

(30 marks) **AO1**

- 06** **'Jesus could have avoided his crucifixion.'** **Assess this claim.**

In support:

Action of Jesus at his trial. Refusal to answer. Pilate left with no choice despite his reluctance. Pilate did not see him as threat.

Against:

Pressure of Sanhedrin. Pilate had no choice as he feared his own position with Rome.

It was God's plan that Jesus should die and so all other explanations are incidental.

(15 marks) **AO2**

Question 4

- 07 Explain how the accounts in Matthew and Luke of Jesus' resurrection and later appearances support the view that these accounts were historical.**

e.g. Tomb empty/ story of guards on tomb
Walked with them on road to Emmaus/Talked with them/Broke bread
Recognised him/Not a ghost
Showed hands and feet
Ate broiled fish
Physically left them (ascension)
Many eyewitnesses.

(30 marks) AO1

- 08 'The resurrection narratives have little importance for Christian faith.'
Assess this claim.**

For support of view:
E.g. the resurrection narratives are myth and therefore of no importance, the accounts are unreliable / symbolic/ importance is right behaviour

For challenge to view:
E.g. Authenticates Jesus/ shows he was successful in his mission/ forgiveness/ barrier to God removed/ guarantees future life.

Expect some reference to "little importance".

(15 marks) AO2