



**General Certificate of Education
January 2013**

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 How the synoptic gospels came into being**

0	1
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 Explain the evidence that the Gospel of Mark was the first gospel to be written.

Expect reference to Mark being the shortest gospel, only 31 verses of Mark not in Matthew or Luke. Evidence of style/theological changes by Matthew and Luke. Alternative theories are more problematic. Expect some reference to text and explanation as to why the data suggests Mark is therefore the first gospel.

(30 marks) AO1

0	2
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 **‘To understand the meaning of the synoptic gospels, it is necessary to understand how they came in to being.’
How far do you agree?**
Possible arguments to support view may include:

History of transmission helps us see layers and the different levels of meaning. Need scholars to reveal these layers and interpret the different *Sitze im Leben* to understand original meaning and context.

Possible arguments to challenge view may include:

The contents are understandable in their own right.
God speaks through gospel for today so transmission history irrelevant.
The scholars are wrong and misleading about transmission history.

(15 marks) AO2**Question 2 Aspects of Jesus’ teaching and action, parables and healings**

0	3
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 Examine the theology and teaching found in the accounts of the healing of the Centurion’s Slave (Servant).

Expect theology and teaching to include Kingdom open to Gentiles – centurion/Jews expelled/judgement/concern for all. Kingdom involves completeness/wholeness – healing. Entry to Kingdom – faith
Jesus’ role in Kingdom – authority/power of command by word
Jesus – supernatural powers to heal at distance/compassion/concern for all/judge

Maximum Level 2 if there is just a summary of the text.

Maximum level 4 if there is no reference to the text to support teaching/theology

(30 marks) AO1

0	4
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'The purpose of the healing miracles is to prove that Jesus is the Messiah.'
Assess this claim.

Possible arguments in support might include:

Fulfilment of prophecy as stated to John the Baptist's disciples and Jesus at synagogue in Nazareth. Evidence of arrival of Kingdom and the Messiah's role in the bringing in of the Kingdom. Evidence that the powers of the New Age were manifested in Jesus

Possible arguments to challenge might include:

Alternative views of the purpose of the healing miracles, e.g. proof of Jesus' divinity, proof of Jesus' superiority over rival miracle workers. Emphasis on Jesus as teacher.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 3 The arrest, trial and death of Jesus

0	5
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Examine the main differences between the accounts of Jesus' trials in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Expect differences of events (Matthew has a trial before Caiaphas, Luke omits this; inclusion by Matthew of Pilate's wife's dream); and within the same event (details of trial before Pilate).

Answers should identify clearly the differences and examine them.

(30 marks) AO1

0	6
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'The differences in the accounts of the trial of Jesus in Matthew and Luke do not mean that their accounts are historically unreliable.'
How far do you agree?

Possible arguments to support may include:

Differences are insignificant – the main events occurred. Differences can be explained/harmonised. There are no differences.

Possible arguments to challenge may include:

Differences show writers added to and made up material to fit theological purpose or audience. Material much later than events and has been changed. Doesn't fit historical situation.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 4 The resurrection of Jesus

0	7
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Explain the problems raised by the final chapter of Mark's Gospel (Mark 16).

Expect discussion about the ending of Mark and the various alternatives. Raises questions about authority/word of God and truth. Significant as earliest gospel and resurrection account limited. Supernatural element questioned. Is it literal?

(30 marks) AO1

0

8

‘A literal understanding of the resurrection narratives is not essential to the Christian faith.’

To what extent do you agree?

Possible arguments in support of view might include:

The importance for Christians is right behaviour not belief in myths and supernatural stories. Christianity is about a way of life. It is the death, not the resurrection, that is important. There is truth in symbolism without having to accept the literal.

Possible arguments that challenge view might include:

If the resurrection narratives are myth they are of no importance since the accounts are unreliable/symbolic and the symbolism has no significance . There is no evidence of life after death. Literal account authenticates Jesus/ shows he was successful in his mission/ forgiveness/ barrier to God removed/ guarantees future life.

(15 marks) AO2

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