

O-LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/01

Luke and Acts 1-21:15 (Short-answer questions)

General comments

On the whole, candidates this year performed reasonably well. Many submitted scripts that demonstrated a wide knowledge of the set texts. Conversely, some candidates demonstrated a poor knowledge of parts of the texts. As with last year, knowledge of Acts is poorer than Luke, and **Section B** remains a problem for many candidates. In addition, too many candidates do not even attempt to answer some of the questions. For future examinations, it is recommended that centres pay particular attention to the book of Acts, as well as developing candidates' skills in responding to **Section B** questions. Some answers for **Section B** were a little vague, and centres should encourage candidates to provide fuller and more detailed responses. Too often, candidates are doing well in **Section A**, but then let themselves down in **Section B**. Nonetheless, there appears to be a slight improvement in candidates' performance since last year, and centres are to be commended for this.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

There were mixed results on this question. Too many candidates believed Herod was the Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth. However, few candidates were unable to answer part **(b)**.

Question 2

Generally well-answered with very few problems.

Question 3

There were again mixed responses. A number of candidates submitted incorrect answers, though most demonstrated at least some knowledge of the parable of the sower.

Question 4

Part **(a)** was answered correctly by the majority of candidates. However, quite a number of responses for part **(b)** were incorrect.

Question 5

Mainly well-answered, though some candidates cited Stephen's plea in Acts 7:60.

Question 6

Although most candidates managed to answer part **(a)** correctly, a number of candidates believed the disciples had *voted* on a replacement for Judas.

Question 7

Answers were mixed for part **(a)**. Part **(b)** was problematic for some candidates.

Question 8

There were very few problems with responses to this question.

Question 9

Many candidates managed to earn at least one point here.

Question 10

Although many candidates could not name the silversmith who caused a riot in Ephesus, they appeared to know the story well and were able to offer relevant answers for part **(b)**.

Section B

Question 11

This proved to be one of the better-answered questions in **Section B**. Most candidates were able to answer parts **(a)** and **(b)** correctly, as well as earn at least a mark for part **(c)**. However, answers for the last part about the rich man and Lazarus were sometimes a little vague.

Question 12

Responses for this question were generally poor. Answers for the first two parts often lacked clarity, while too many confused this narrative with the Transfiguration. Very few candidates scored full marks for **Question 12**.

Question 13

Parts **(a)** and **(b)** were well-answered. Again, however, responses for part **(c)** were often vague. Reference to speaking in tongues was especially overlooked.

Question 14

Although some confused Lydia with other characters in Acts, on the whole, candidates performed quite well on this question. This was one of the better-answered questions in **Section B**, with fuller and more detailed responses produced.

O-LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/02

Luke and Acts 1-21:15 (Essay Questions)

General comments

On the whole, responses to the essay questions were varied. Answers were equally divided between Luke and Acts, yet the Gospel responses were a little fuller and more accurate, indicating that candidates have a slightly better knowledge of Luke than Acts. For the future, advice to centres would be to concentrate more effort on the book of Acts in preparing candidates for the examination.

As last year, part (a) questions yielded better responses than those for part (b). For the second part of each question, too many candidates limited themselves to a simple descriptive account or re-telling of the narrative, without discussing the material. To achieve good marks for part (b) questions, some discussion is required, that is, responses must move clearly beyond the descriptive. In addition, a disproportionate number of part (b) responses were very short (often only a sentence or two). For future examinations, it is therefore imperative that centres pay particular attention to part (b) questions, encouraging fuller and more detailed discussion.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

This was one of the better-answered questions. Most candidates demonstrated at least some knowledge of the text, so that a large number were able to recount all three temptations with some accuracy. Some were also able to describe Jesus' responses to each of the temptations. However, part (b) caused some problems. Most candidates were able to offer some relevant comment, but very few really discussed the question of why the devil tempted Jesus as he did in any depth.

Question 2

This was not a popular question. Some candidates clearly knew the text, but others submitted rather vague responses. A large proportion of part (b) answers simply related the parable of the Good Samaritan, without discussing attitudes towards enemies. Very few candidates referred to the enmity between Samaritans and Jews.

Question 3

This was a popular question. On the whole, part (a) responses were accurate and detailed (though some candidates also drew on the Matthean parallel account). The responses for part (b), however, were disappointing. Many responses were either very short, vague, or did not relate their discussion to the narrative in part (a), instead making general comments about faith. It is important for centres to encourage candidates to remain focused on the question set.

Question 4

This question was not widely attempted. Many candidates instead related the parable of the Talents. There were a few reasonable attempts for part (b), but again, responses were often lacking in clarity.

Question 5

This was well-answered on the whole, though there was a fair amount of confusion between the Pilate and Herod trials. For part **(b)** responses were varied. Some candidates were able to offer some discussion of Pilate's character, but far too many failed to offer relevant material.

Section B

Question 6

This was quite a popular question. Unfortunately, many candidates simply described the events at Pentecost, without detailing the actual contents of Peter's speech. There was very little on the life and work of Jesus. For part **(b)** answers were sometimes unclear and much of the significance of Pentecost was lost.

Question 7

This question was attempted by many candidates. On the whole, answers were good for part **(a)**. Part **(b)** was also relatively well-answered, yielding some interesting discussion about why Stephen was stoned to death that earned candidates good marks.

Question 8

Unfortunately, many candidates confused the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15) with Acts 4:5-20 or 5:17-42. Nevertheless, most of the candidates who referred to Acts 15 were able to narrate the main points, and a high proportion succeeded in identifying all or most of the Jerusalem Quadrilateral. Part **(b)** answers, however, were less successful.

Question 9

This was the least popular question for this examination session. It was attempted by candidates from a few centres, with varying degrees of success.

Question 10

For part **(a)** many candidates were able to discuss the role of deacons, though many did not describe in great detail the choosing of the Seven. The role of elders proved far more difficult for the vast majority of candidates. Responses for part **(b)** were not strong, with few answers discussing the story of Agabus in detail.