

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Paper 2048/12

Luke and Acts (1-21:15) Short Answer Questions

## General comments

There were an encouraging number of good scripts that showed thorough and detailed knowledge of the texts. There seemed equal knowledge by candidates on the two texts, which was encouraging, as in previous years there had been evidence of a greater knowledge of the Luke text.

Centres should be aware that an accurate knowledge of the text is vital.

## Comments on specific questions

### *Section A*

#### Question 1

- (a) The majority answered this correctly. A common wrong answer was “to the churches”.
- (b) This was the least well answered question on the paper. Most candidates ignored the focus of “**the reason** for writing the gospel”. The reason for writing the gospel was so they may know the truth (or certainty) of the things they had been taught. Instead, most candidates wrote about Luke giving an account of the events, which is more about the content/theme of the gospel.

#### Question 2

- (a) The most common error was to mention only that they had caught nothing and so omitted that it had been all night that they had been fishing.
- (b) This was the question to which most candidates gave the correct answer.

#### Question 3

- (a) The most common wrong answer was “hell”. Many candidates gave the answer to part (b) in part (a) then repeated it in part (b).
- (b) The majority of candidates answered this correctly.

#### Question 4

- (a) and (b) Again most candidates gained at least one mark. The most common wrong answer was to refer to the Johannine account of Jesus and the women at the well in Samaria. A significant number of candidates only gave one example which was usually the parable of the Good Samaritan.

#### Question 5

- (a) and (b) This was well answered with a number of possible details that could gain the two marks.

#### Question 6

- (a) Most candidates answered correctly. The most common wrong answers were Barnabas or Timothy.

- (b) Few were able to answer this question correctly. Many wrote about being with Jesus but this was too vague to gain the mark.

**Question 7**

- (a) Generally well answered though there were difficulties with the spelling of the name.  
(b) Most candidates gave the correct answer.

**Question 8**

- (a) and (b) Generally well answered with a variety of possible details from which candidates could select.

**Question 9**

- (a) A significant number of candidates omitted to answer this question. Others confused it with other accounts of visions or they only gave part of the answer.  
(b) Again, the main problem was that candidates only gave part of the answer and omitted the fact that Paul was to preach to them.

**Question 10**

- (a) Most candidates answered correctly though there were some variations in the spelling.  
(b) This question produced the highest number of no responses.

**Section B**

**Question 11**

- (a) Candidates were generally confident with the details of Peter's confession  
(b) Some candidates gave the answer as "Son of God" but most gave the correct answer.  
(c) Again, this was generally well answered. Common wrong answers were "not to give in to temptation" and "not to listen to non-believers".

**Question 12**

- (a) Very few candidates remembered that Herod had been in Jerusalem at the time and wrong answers were usually based on Pilate's reluctance to find Jesus guilty.  
(b) and (c) Both these parts were well answered.

**Question 13**

- (a) Generally well answered on identifying Stephen but candidates struggled to identify the specific audience.  
(b) It was important not to confuse this with the trial of Peter. Some candidates struggled to find enough detail to gain the full three marks available.

**Question 14**

- (a) Candidates remembered the event but not the location.  
(b) Most candidates gained one mark but failed to gain the two marks available as they only gave a part answer. Candidates are encouraged to give as full an answer as possible.  
(c) This was generally well answered with most candidates getting the full two marks.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

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Paper 2048/13

Luke and Acts (1-21:15) Short Answer Questions

## General comments

Although it was a small entry, there was a significant number of scripts that reflected good knowledge and understanding of the text. All candidates attempted all the questions. Therefore no candidate gave a 'no response' to a question.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section A**

#### **Question 1**

- (a) This question achieved the highest number of correct answers. The most common wrong answer was Abraham
- (b) About half the candidates gave the correct answer. The most common wrong answer was that Zechariah was praying.

#### **Question 2**

- (a) The majority of candidates gave the correct answer. The most common wrong answer was "pick up your bed".
- (b) Again, this was generally well answered.

#### **Question 3**

- (a) A few variations such as Nazareth or Capernaum, but most gave the correct answer.
- (b) A common wrong answer was that Jesus felt sad.

#### **Question 4**

- (a) and (b) Most candidates gained at least one mark but many could not be awarded the full two marks because they only gave part of the answer.

#### **Question 5**

- (a) Some gave the answer 'the prisoner' but this was too general to gain the mark.
- (b) This was generally well answered.

#### **Question 6**

- (a) This question was answered correctly by almost all the candidates.
- (b) Again, this was well answered with Paul/Saul being the only wrong answers given.

**Question 7**

**(a) and (b)** Both parts were well answered. The details of the story of Philip and the Ethiopian was clearly well known.

**Question 8**

**(a)** This question produced one of the lowest numbers of correct answers. A common wrong answer was that Peter was teaching the gospel to Gentiles.

**(b)** Candidates seemed more confident about this part of the story with over half the candidates giving the correct answer.

**Question 9**

**(a)** Candidates struggled with the details of the event. They knew someone was healed from blindness but not who it was.

**(b)** A number of candidates were unable to give the correct answer. Many guessed at Athens or Jerusalem while some even suggested Greece as the city.

**Question 10**

**(a) and (b)** Both parts were well answered.

**Section B**

**Question 11**

**(a)** The most common wrong answer was 'Jesus' return'.

**(b) and (c)** Again, these were generally well answered and candidates seemed to have good knowledge of the details of the Transfiguration.

**Question 12**

**(a)** A variety of answers were given. The most common wrong answer was "Are you King of the Jews?"

**(b)** This question produced the least number of correct answers. It required very detailed knowledge of the text.

**(c)** Again, some candidates clearly did not know the details and less than half the candidates gained the two marks available. The most common wrong answer was 'blasphemy'.

**Question 13**

**(a) (b) and (c)** Most candidates showed good knowledge of Saul's conversion and many of the candidates gained the full five marks.

**Question 14**

**(a)** Many candidates did not seem to connect the text with the Council of Jerusalem even though the Council was mentioned in the part **(b)** question. About half the candidates gained the two marks available.

**(b)** Candidates fared better on this part of the question and most candidates gained the full three marks.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

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Paper 2048/22

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

## General comments

Candidates from some Centres showed very detailed knowledge of the text and good understanding of the material. Their answers were focused and clearly expressed.

The level descriptors make clear that “understanding” and “discussion” rather than a “purely descriptive approach” is required for AO2 part (b) questions. The focus of the question needs to be addressed in order to achieve the higher levels.

## Comments on specific questions

### *Section A*

#### Question 1

- (a) This was a popular question. Candidates needed to answer both parts of the question.

Often candidates knew the broad outline of the two accounts, but few were able to give details about the angel’s message. To gain the higher levels candidates needed to include statements such as in (i) about Jesus being called the Son of the Most High, Jesus being given the throne of David and that his kingdom would never end. In (ii) candidates could have made reference to Jesus being referred to as Saviour and Christ the Lord.

- (b) To get beyond a Level 2 candidates needed to discuss the appearance of angels and the prophecy aspects as well as the fact that Mary was a virgin and therefore it was impossible for her to have a baby.

#### Question 2

- (a) A number of candidates selected this question to answer and generally showed good knowledge of the instructions Jesus gave his disciples. Candidates needed to answer the second element of the question about the report the 72 gave to Jesus on their return to go beyond Level 3.

- (b) The responses ranged between a few candidates giving lengthy accounts covering most of Jesus’ teaching, to a number of candidates giving vague comments or recounting relevant parables but without comment or explanation. A significant number of candidates only answered part (a). Candidates should note that omitting a part question can significantly lower the overall mark and so reduce the final grade. Both parts of a question should be read before deciding whether to answer that question.

#### Question 3

- (a) This was generally well answered though some candidates conflated the dropsy and the withered hand healing accounts.

- (b) Some candidates gave developed answers that covered several points such as not observing the Sabbath in a legalistic manner and that human well-being was more important than Sabbath observance of the law. A few candidates referred to the quotation “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath” without mentioning it in part (a).

#### Question 4

- (a) The Lost Son parable was the most popular question answered. It was mostly very well answered with many candidates achieving the highest level.
- (b) Again, this was generally well answered with the most able candidates making clear reference back to the parable to illustrate their discussion.

#### Question 5

- (a) Again, this was a two part question but some candidates only answered one part. Candidates answered part (i) much better than part (ii).
- (b) Most candidates made reference to present day practice of Holy Communion/Mass but did not explain why it was important. A few referred back to Jesus' death and discussed the significance of the symbolism.

#### Section B

#### Question 6

- (a) It is important that candidates read the question carefully and not just a few key words in the question. This question did not ask for all the events that had led the apostles to be in front of the Sanhedrin. It was important not to confuse the account with Peter's appearance before the Sanhedrin earlier in Acts of the Apostles. Most candidates recounted accurately the part of the account involving Gamaliel.
- (b) A wide range of standards covering quite a range of examples. Some candidates limited themselves to the account discussed in part (a), though the question was wider based.

#### Question 7

- (a) There were some very good answers to this question.
- (b) Most answers just gave an account of the split with John Mark. It was important to see the development in their relationship, with Paul gradually taking a more dominant leadership role.

#### Question 8

- (a) This was the most popular of the B section questions. Generally it was well answered, with candidates giving full accounts of the two events.
- (b) Many candidates tended to give a list of different ways that the early church members spread their faith. For Level 4 to be awarded there needed to be some discussion and development.

#### Question 9

- (a) This question was the least popular in **Section B** but those that did answer gave full detailed answers.
- (b) There were some good answers that discussed such areas as the Jews being familiar with Messianic ideas and that Paul was a Jew.

#### Question 10

- (a) Those that answered this question often ignored the focus about Paul's advice to the Ephesian elders and so gave lots of correct but often irrelevant material.
- (b) Most candidates who attempted this question gave some good accounts about the role of elders in the early church.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

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Paper 2048/23

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

## General comments

There were some good scripts that showed detailed knowledge of the text and good understanding of the material.

The part **(b)** questions are not purely descriptive. Candidates should engage with the material and address the focus of the question.

## Comments on specific questions

### *Section A*

#### Question 1

- (a)** This was a popular question and those that identified the correct event generally gave a detailed accurate account. However, a number of candidates confused the account and wrote about either the visit by Jesus to Jerusalem when he was twelve, or the cleansing of the Temple. Candidates need to read the question carefully so they select the correct event.
- (b)** Those who had identified the correct account in part **(a)** generally answered well in part **(b)**.

#### Question 2

- (a)** Very few selected to answer this question. Candidates needed to include the Elijah and Elisha references.
- (b)** Candidates struggled to give good answers to part **(b)** as a result of not including references to Elijah and Elisha in part **(a)**. It was important that candidates made more comment than that the crowd did not accept Jesus because they had known him when he was a child.

#### Question 3

- (a)** This was a popular question and generally well answered. Some candidates conflated other statements made by Jesus from other Sabbath healing stories.
- (b)** The question referred specifically to the healing story in part **(a)**. However, many candidates wrote generally about Jesus' view of the Sabbath, quoting from other occasions. Again, it is vital that candidates take time to read the question carefully.

#### Question 4

- (a)** Very few candidates attempted this question. It was important not to confuse the parables with the parable of the lost coins.
- (b)** Again, if the candidate had selected the wrong parable in part **(a)**, then part **(b)** was also wrong.

### Question 5

- (a) This was another example where candidates did not read the question carefully. Although a popular question, many recounted events in the garden of Gethsemane prior to the time Judas approached. Therefore some of the answers contained a lot of material that was irrelevant though accurate.
- (b) This question produced some very good answers that showed good knowledge and understanding.

### Section B

### Question 6

- (a) This was generally well answered with many candidates being able to give detailed accounts.
- (b) Candidates made reference to breaking bread and sharing things in common. The mark scheme indicates a number of other things that could have been highlighted that would have widened the discussion.

### Question 7

- (a) Most candidates focused on Stephen's death. The more able candidates identified Stephen as one of the seven who also did miracles. They also discussed Stephen's arrest.
- (b) Those that answered this question tended to limit their answer to the accusation of blasphemy. Only a few referred to Stephen seen as insulting the Jews and questioning their beliefs.

### Question 8

- (a) As expected, this question was very popular and well answered. Many candidates displayed a thorough and detailed knowledge of the text, though a few conflated or confused the account with Paul's time in prison.
- (b) Candidates did not seem prepared for this and struggled to give any answer.

### Question 9

- (a) This was generally well answered by those who selected to answer this question.
- (b) Again, candidates struggled to answer a more general question that required knowledge from across the whole book of Acts. Most just referred to Paul going to the Jews first and then the Gentiles.

### Question 10

- (a) This was the most popular question selected in **section B**. The three part question in (a) guided the candidates through the material though not all kept to the structure. Part (a) (iii) was the least well answered.
- (b) There were some good detailed answers.