

O Level Religious Studies (Bible Knowledge) (2048)

The new syllabus 2048 will replace syllabus 2040 and 2041.

Why the change?

The two syllabuses 2040 and 2041 will be replaced by one syllabus because the entries for each are relatively small and there is some overlap between the two syllabuses.

When will the change take place?

- The current syllabuses 2040 and 2041 will be examined for the last time in **October/November 2004**.
- The new syllabus 2048 will be examined for the first time in **May/June 2005**.

What is the change?

- **2048** is the new syllabus code for the new syllabus replacing syllabuses 2040 and 2041.
- There will be **two** papers, **both** on the life and teaching of Jesus (as in the Gospel of Luke) **and** the growth of the early Christian church (as in the Acts of the Apostles 1-21:15).
- The papers will be split not by section of bible but by type of question:
 - Paper 1: Luke and Acts (1-21:15): Short-Answer Questions (1 hour 15 minutes)
 - Paper 2: Luke and Acts (1-21:15): Essay Questions (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Candidates **must** sit both papers.

How is it different to the current syllabus 2040?

Candidates will continue to study the gospel of St Luke. However:

- **Different but less content**
 - They will no longer need to study the gospels of Matthew and Mark.
 - They will need to study part of Acts, from chapters 1 to chapter 21, verse 15.
- **Two papers instead of one, with a different format**
 - There will be **two** compulsory papers instead of one, each with a different format.

How is it different to the current syllabus 2041?

Candidates will continue to study Luke and Acts, and continue to sit two papers. However:

- **Similar but less content**
 - They will study less of Acts – they only need to study up to chapter 21, verse 15.
- **Different format**
 - The two papers will be split not by section of bible but by type of question. So Paper 1 will be short questions on **both** Luke & Acts. Paper 2 will be essay questions on **both** Luke & Acts.

Will it be a better assessment?

The new syllabus has been improved in the following ways:

- The new format provides an **opportunity for both weaker and stronger candidates** to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.
 - For example, the assessment starts, in Paper 1, with questions that require only one or two word answers, then progresses to structured questions that require full sentences and, in Paper 2, culminates in questions that require essay-type answers.
 - Paper 1 has compulsory questions and assesses mainly the extent of candidates' factual knowledge. Paper 2, with its choice of essay questions, provides the opportunity for candidates to display their evaluative ability as well as knowledge and understanding.
- Two distinct parts of the bible (Luke and part of Acts) provide a **clearer focus**.
- Dropping Matthew and Mark **eliminates confusion** for current 2040 candidates caused by differences between the three Synoptic gospels on the same events and themes.
- The syllabus provides a **broader knowledge** for current 2040 candidates – the development of the early Christian church is considered to be as important as the life/teaching of Jesus.

- Two question papers provide a **better assessment** than one question paper.

How will it affect teachers?

Teachers need to be prepared to teach **both** Luke **and** Acts to **all** candidates.