

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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**Paper 2048/01**

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

## **General comments**

The full range of marks was achieved and there were an encouraging number of good scripts. These reflected good knowledge and understanding of the text, which suggested good preparation by Centres. It was noticeable that Centres that only entered one or two candidates often produced weaker scripts and it was not clear how much direct teaching the candidate(s) had received.

As in previous years, the section on Luke was generally better answered than the section on the Acts of the Apostles.

## **Comments on specific questions**

### **Section A**

#### **Question 1**

- (a) The majority of candidates answered this correctly.
- (b) A surprisingly large number of candidates wrongly gave the answer as 'Nazareth'.

#### **Question 2**

- (a) This event seemed well-known and most candidates scored well on this question.
- (b) This caused many candidates difficulties, with very few knowing the answer. A variety of alternatives were suggested, with Psalms being the most popular.

#### **Question 3**

- (a) There was some confusion with other healing miracle stories. Also, many candidates wrote the same answer for both parts.
- (b) Generally well answered.

#### **Question 4**

- (a)&(b) This question was generally well answered.

#### **Question 5**

- (a)&(b) A surprisingly large number of candidates wrote about religious charges rather than political ones, and so could not be awarded marks.

#### **Question 6**

- (a) Question 6 was generally well answered. Some candidates referred to 'voting' which was not acceptable.
- (b) A number of candidates offered two names for this question rather than one.

**Question 7**

- (a) Some candidates struggled to answer this question.
- (b) Very well known by candidates. Both Saul and Paul were acceptable.

**Question 8**

- (a) Few candidates were able to answer this question about Simon the Sorcerer. Many candidates attempted a guess at a variety of alternative places.
- (b) The question asked specifically about the apostles in Jerusalem and the answer was about sending out Peter and John. A number of answers suggested that all the Jerusalem apostles went to Samaria.

**Question 9**

- (a) This question produced a mixture of names, the most popular being Barnabas and Timothy.
- (b) Again a number of names were offered, with Barnabas and Timothy being the most popular.

**Question 10**

- (a)&(b) There were some good answers to this question. Some candidates, however, did not seem to know the incident at all.

**Section B**

**Question 11**

- (a) Some candidates seemed to confuse this parable with the house built on sand/rock.
- (b) Part (b) was generally better answered than part (a).
- (c) This was well answered by most candidates.

**Question 12**

- (a) Most candidates referred to the portrait but only a few also mentioned the inscription.
- (b) Most candidates seemed to know this incident and scored the full two marks.
- (c) A popular wrong answer to this question was 'angry'.

**Question 13**

- (a) This was a well known incident, though some candidates wrote that Ananias kept all the money.
- (b) Most candidates scored one mark rather than two on this question, even though there were a number of possible answers.
- (c) Almost every candidate gave the correct answer for part (c).

**Question 14**

A significant number of candidates either did not attempt this question or gained few marks. There was some confusion with the incident of Jesus sending out the disciples and the content of the kerygma.

- (a) Those who attempted this question generally referred to the issue of circumcision but omitted to relate it to salvation.
- (b) Again, some answers showed confusion about the incident to which the quotation referred. Few candidates gained the full three marks.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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Paper 2048/02

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

## General comments

The marks covered the full range with evidence of some excellent answers. Some candidates had detailed knowledge of the text and good understanding of the material. Their answers were focused and clearly expressed. However, there were also a large number of Centres where candidates scored very few marks. These very poor scripts showed little evidence of the candidate having studied the course. Often, though not exclusively, these Centres had very small entries of one or two candidates. Centres are reminded that the questions for 2048 Bible Knowledge require more than general biblical knowledge; they require detailed study including background and critical knowledge.

Many candidates selected their fifth question from **Section B**. It may be that was because **Section B** contained three well known incidents (namely **Questions 6(a), 7(a) and 8(a)**). However, only on **Question 8** was **Part (b)** well answered.

As last year, a significant number of candidates found **Part (b)** questions more challenging. Centres are advised to work on developing the AO2 skill further with their candidates. It may help candidates to appreciate what is expected in the exam if they are provided with a copy of the level descriptors.

The level descriptors make clear that Level 3 and 4 involve more than “a purely descriptive approach”; there needs to be “a willingness to engage with and discuss the material”.

Very few candidates failed to adhere to the rubric.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section A**

#### **Question 1**

- (a) This was a popular question. However, there was some confusion with the story of Jesus' visit to the Jerusalem Temple when he was twelve years old. Candidates who made this mistake therefore discussed Jesus being lost and his parents searching for him. No marks could be awarded to such answers. Those candidates who did select the correct incident often wrote only about Simeon and omitted Anna. In addition, what Simeon actually said about Jesus was only briefly discussed.
- (b) As expected, those candidates who gave a good answer to **Part (a)** tended to do quite well on **Part (b)** as well.

#### **Question 2**

- (a) This was surprisingly poorly answered. Candidates were either confused and wrote about the cleansing of the Temple, or else did not get much further than saying that Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah.
- (b) A number of candidates appeared to guess at the answer to this question and argued that their anger was caused by Jesus' claim to be God's Son. Few discussed the reference to Elijah and Elisha and God going to the non-Jew.

**Question 3**

- (a) The correct incidents were usually chosen in response to this question, but the dialogue was often confused. The wrong dialogue was inserted into the wrong incident, for example, the dialogue from the healing of the paralytic.
- (b) Candidates struggled to say much in answer to this question beyond a very simple statement about Jesus doing good on the Sabbath. Again it should be noted that **Part (b)** answers require AO2 skills rather than just AO1 knowledge.

**Question 4**

- (a) As expected, this was a popular question. However, it did require detailed knowledge. A significant number of candidates were confused between the different types of soil. As a result, their answers muddled what happened to the seeds that fell on different soils.
- (b) This was generally well answered.

**Question 5**

- (a) Many candidates conflated material that was in other gospels, especially John's Gospel. It should be noted that this exam is focused on Luke's Gospel only. Most gave accounts of Jesus appearing and showing his hands and feet, and eating. However, very few seemed to be aware of the conversation he had with the disciples about fulfilment of prophecy.
- (b) This question was not well-answered. Many candidates wrote very generally about the Resurrected Lord, rather than focusing their answer on the text and what it reveals about Jesus' resurrected body.

**Section B**

**Question 6**

- (a) This was a well-known miracle story that was often recounted with accurate details.
- (b) This part of **Question 6** was generally poorly answered, with most candidates making very general comments about teaching and healing. The work of the Apostles was far wider than just those two aspects. The question required linking to Peter for evidence.

**Question 7**

- (a) Philip's meeting with the Ethiopian was another well-known and often accurately recounted event. However, many candidates omitted the conversation that took place between the Ethiopian and Philip. In particular, they omitted the conversation about the passage that the Ethiopian was reading.
- (b) Many candidates found this question challenging and merely commented on the very basic idea of spreading faith by speaking to people.

**Question 8**

- (a) Surprisingly, Peter's vision seemed better known than Paul's vision. It may be that because the question made no reference to Paul's conversion, the incident being asked about was not recognised.
- (b) Those candidates who knew the events in **Part (a)** generally did well in **Part (b)**.

**Question 9**

- (a) This was not a popular question, but those who did answer it knew the material quite well. However, the speech given by Paul concerning the living God who made heaven and earth and who does not leave himself without testimony was often omitted.

- (b) This answer required some breadth or overall assessment. Most candidates merely recounted another incident and could not be awarded many marks. The question required some judgement to be made rather than just a narrative account.

**Question 10**

- (a) Very few candidates attempted this question. Possibly the material was not well-known, or there were other questions more attractive on incidents that were more familiar. Those candidates that did answer this question tended to miss the reference to “both Jew and Gentiles”.
- (b) Those candidates who did attempt this question generally showed little understanding of why Paul may have preached first to the Jews when he visited a new place.