

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/11

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

General comments

The full range of marks was achieved. A number of scripts reflected good knowledge and understanding of the text, which suggested good preparation by some Centres. In general, candidates found **Questions 4, 6b 10 and 14** the most difficult. Some candidates left some questions blank. The question most omitted was 14c.

A significant number of candidates used material from other gospels. It should be noted that the syllabus is based on the gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

(a) and (b) The majority of candidates answered this correctly. The most common wrong answer was Elizabeth.

Question 2

(a) and (b) A number of candidates confused the healing of the man with leprosy with other healing stories. Another confusion was the view that Jesus told the man to tell others about what had happened. A few candidates could only identify one thing that Jesus ordered the man with leprosy to do.

Question 3

(a) and (b) Very few candidates referred to the extra tunic. Again, quite a few candidates only identified one thing.

Question 4

(a) A common wrong answer was "the Pharisees".

(b) Quite a few candidates omitted this question.

Question 5

(a) There seemed some confusion about what was written above the cross. Many candidates gave the answer as "Jesus of Nazareth".

(b) A variety of answers were given. The most common were Peter, the guards, and the disciples.

Question 6

(a) This question is a good example of where candidates used information from other parts of the New Testament and ignored the material that was in the text they were studying - in this case the Acts of the Apostles. As a result many candidates referred to Judas returning the money rather than purchasing a field.



- (b) Very few candidates gave the correct answer. The most common wrong answer was Deuteronomy.

Question 7

- (a) and (b) A surprising number of candidates did not seem aware that Cornelius was a Gentile or a centurion.

Question 8

- (a) Generally well answered with John being the most common wrong answer.
(b) Generally well answered.

Question 9

- (a) Most candidates answered correctly.
(b) Many candidates identified the servant girl correctly by name.

Question 10

- (a) and (b) Many candidates confused this incident with other imprisonments of Paul. The actual reasons why they were imprisoned were often given in very general terms and were too vague to be credited.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) Most candidates answered this correctly.
(b) Again, this was generally well answered.
(c) There were two aspects to what Jesus said. Most candidates managed to identify one aspect (usually "It is not the healthy but the sick that need a doctor") but only a few could quote both ("not come to call righteous but sinners").

Question 12

- (a) A variety of answers were given. The most common wrong answer was "Jesus".
(b) Surprisingly, few candidates seemed to know this parable with a significant number answering that the tenants welcomed the owner.
(c) Again, some candidates clearly did not know the parable and wrote about how the tenants gave the harvest to the owner.

Question 13

- (a) Although the story seemed well known, many candidates struggled to cover the three points required to gain the full three marks available. A number of candidates just answered that some of the money was kept back but did not go on to refer to Peter accusing them of lying to the Holy Spirit and to God. The amount of marks available to score in a question should act as a guide to the length/detail expected in the answer.
(b) Most candidates answered this correctly.
(c) Most candidates answered this correctly.

Question 14

- (a) Many candidates answered that Priscilla and Aquila left Rome because they wanted to join Paul.
- (b) Candidates struggled to answer this question. Though Acts of the Apostles tells us a number of things about Apollos, a significant number of candidates did not attempt the question.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/12

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 some Centres. In contrast, a few Centres showed limited evidence that candidates had been prepared for the examination and in such cases many answers were left blank. It was also noticeable that those questions that were left blank were most often ones on Acts of the Apostles.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) The majority of candidates answered this correctly. The most common wrong answer was Mary.
- (b) Again this was generally well answered.

Question 2

- (a) The most common error was to mention only one part of Jesus' answer.
- and (b)**

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates answered this correctly, though quite a few candidates said the people were
- and (b)** amazed rather than afraid. A few candidates confused the Gerasene demoniac story with the Beelzebub debate.

Question 4

- (a) The majority of candidates answered this correctly.
- (b) The question asked about Jesus' last words before he died, according to Luke's Gospel. However, a number of candidates gave either words recorded in another Gospel (especially John's Gospel) or else words that Jesus spoke whilst on the Cross, but not his final words.

Question 5

- (a) Generally well answered with a number of possible details that could gain the mark.
- (b) Most candidates answered this correctly

Question 6

- (a) A significant number of candidates confused this with the Day of Pentecost. Candidates did not
- and (b)** seem confident about the details and often gained only one of the two marks available for this question.



Question 7

- (a) Generally well answered though there were difficulties with the spelling of the name.
- (b) There were various paraphrases, but many failed to cover the full force of the reason stated for the apostles rejoicing.

Question 8

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

Question 9

- (a) Most candidates answered correctly. Tax-collector and fishermen were the most common wrong answers.
- (b) There was some confusion with Ananias and Sapphira.

Question 10

- (a) Some candidates confused the incident with Paul at Athens. Those that did correctly identify the
- and (b)** story still struggled to gain both marks for their answers.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) The most common error was to discuss about the building of the foundations rather than about estimating cost and seeing if he has enough to complete it.
- (b) Some candidates failed to mention the larger army aspect of the saying.
- (c) Generally well answered.

Question 12

- (a) Very few candidates remembered the prophecy about Jesus being turned over to the Gentiles. However many scored full marks because of the variety of possible details from which candidates could select.
 - (b) Many candidates seemed to have relied on guesswork and were not aware of the “non-
- and (c)** understanding” aspect in part **(b)** and the “meaning being hidden” in part **(c)**

Question 13

- (a) Generally well answered, with only a few candidates confusing Paul with Jesus in part **(b)**.
- and (b)**
- (c) Wrong answers mostly resulted from confusion with the Damascus Road experience. Some candidates struggled to find enough detail to gain the full three marks available.

Question 14

- (a), (b) This event did not seem to be known by many candidates. A significant number of candidates did
- and (c)** not attempt the question. Some did know the story but were very hazy about the details.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/13

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. In contrast, a few scripts showed limited evidence that candidates had prepared for the examination and in such cases many answers were left blank. It was also noticeable that those questions that were left blank were most often ones on Acts of the Apostles.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) The majority of candidates answered this correctly. The most common wrong answer was Mary.
- (b) Again this was generally well answered.

Question 2

- (a) and (b) The most common error was to mention only one part of Jesus' answer.

Question 3

- (a) and (b) Most candidates answered this correctly, though quite a few candidates said the people were amazed rather than afraid. A few candidates confused the Gerasene demoniac story with the Beelzebub debate.

Question 4

- (a) The majority of candidates answered this correctly.
- (b) The question asked about Jesus' last words before he died, according to Luke's Gospel. However, a number of candidates gave either words recorded in another Gospel (especially John's Gospel) or else words that Jesus spoke whilst on the Cross, but not his final words.

Question 5

- (a) Generally well answered with a number of possible details that could gain the mark.
- (b) Most candidates answered this correctly

Question 6

- (a) and (b) A significant number of candidates confused this with the Day of Pentecost and many did not seem confident about the details.

Question 7

- (a) Generally well answered though there were difficulties with the spelling of the name.
- (b) There were various paraphrases, but many failed to cover the full force of the reason stated for the apostles rejoicing.

Question 8

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

Question 9

- (a) Most candidates answered correctly. Tax-collector and fishermen were the most common wrong answers.
- (b) There was some confusion with Ananias and Sapphira.

Question 10

- (a) and (b) Some candidates confused the incident with Paul at Athens. Those that did correctly identify the story still struggled in their answer.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) The most common error was to discuss about the building of the foundations rather than about estimating cost and seeing if he has enough to complete it.
- (b) Some candidates failed to mention the larger army aspect of the saying.
- (c) Generally well answered.

Question 12

- (a) Very few candidates remembered the prophecy about Jesus being turned over to the Gentiles. However many scored full marks because of the variety of possible details from which candidates could select.
- (b) and (c) Many candidates seemed to have relied on guesswork and were not aware of the “non-understanding” aspect in part (b) and the “meaning being hidden” in part (c).

Question 13

- (a) and (b) Generally well answered, with only a few candidates confusing Paul with Jesus in part (b).
- (c) Wrong answers mostly resulted from confusion with the Damascus Road experience. Some candidates struggled to find enough detail to gain the full three marks available.

Question 14

- (a), (b) and (c) This event did not seem to be known by many candidates. A significant number of candidates did not attempt the question. Some did know the story but were very hazy about the details.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/21

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

General comments

The marks covered the full range with evidence of some good 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 number of Centres where candidates scored very few marks. The focus of the questions require more than general biblical knowledge. They require a detailed study including background and critical knowledge.

As in previous years, a significant number of candidates did not find the part **(b)** questions easy. 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 the material and a need to be selective, noting the focus of the question.

However, it was encouraging that this year very few candidates broke the rubric and attempted more than five questions.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This was a popular question. However there was the inevitable confusion with the accounts of Jesus’ birth in Matthew’s gospel. As a result, a lot of candidates wrote not just about the shepherds but also about the star and the wise men and Herod ordering the killing of the children. Those candidates who conflated the account usually only included a brief paragraph on the shepherds and therefore gained few marks. The message of the angel to the shepherds was rarely fully given as was the reference to the angelic host.
- (b) Most candidates could answer why Jesus was born in Bethlehem but fewer were able to explain why his birth there was significant to Jews. Both aspects were required for a Level 4.

Question 2

- (a) Another popular question. However, many candidates confused the account with the account of the healing of Legion. Those that did recount the correct story often omitted most of the details of the conversation between Jesus and the demon.
- (b) There were some good answers, and even those candidates who had selected the wrong story in part **(a)** were still able to gain some marks on part **(b)**.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question had good knowledge of the details, though the centurion’s conversation with Jesus about authority was sometimes only covered in part.
- (b) This was generally well answered, with most candidates addressing both aspects of the question.



Question 4

- (a) Most candidates who answered this question stopped when they reached the part where Jesus told him to sell everything and so limited the level that could be awarded.
- (b) Again, there were two aspects to this question and so candidates who just discussed Jesus' teaching about wealth could not gain a Level 4.

Question 5

- (a) Many candidates conflated material that was in other gospels. Once again many candidates gave only a brief summary and did not distinguish between the three denials. However, there were also a number of very accurate answers that gained full marks.
- (b) This was well answered with a variety of evidence being given. Most Centred on Judas but some referred to the disbelief by the disciples of Jesus' resurrection. Others made reference to the disciples fleeing at Jesus' arrest.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) This was well answered.
- (b) Candidates were able to select from a wide variety of material and there were some good answers reflecting a wide knowledge of Acts of the Apostles.

Question 7

- (a) This was not a popular question and some candidates who attempted it did not distinguish between what Peter said about Jesus and what Peter said to the onlookers. Although candidates often wrote at length the answers were very general and it was clear that most did not know the details of the speech.
- (b) There were some good answers though many candidates covered wider causes beyond the material in part (a). However, this material could not be awarded since the part (b) question specified the event of the healing of the crippled beggar, rather than a general question about conflict.

Question 8

- (a) A popular question that was generally well answered.
- (b) There was a wide selection of material possible and many candidates showed good knowledge of the different ways in which the early church spread their faith. Many candidates gave good illustrations to support their answers.

Question 9

- (a) This was only answered by very few candidates and of those some confused the events with other events on Paul's missionary journeys.
- (b) This was poorly answered. It was a good example of a part (b) question that required critical insight rather than narrative.

Question 10

- (a) Again, a question that few answered. Those that did tended to restrict their answer to Silas accompanying Paul after the break with Barnabas.
- (b) Similar to **Question 9(b)** in that the critical aspect was poorly addressed.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/22

Luke and Acts (1-21:15) Essay Questions 22

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 number of Centres where candidates scored very few marks. The focus of the questions require more than general biblical knowledge. They require a detailed study including background and critical knowledge.

As in previous years, a significant number of candidates did not find the part **(b)** questions easy. 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 the material and a need to be selective’ noting the focus of the question.

However, it was encouraging that this year very few candidates broke the rubric and attempted more than five questions.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This was a popular question. However there was the inevitable confusion with the story of Jesus’ visit to the Jerusalem Temple when he was 12. Candidates therefore discussed Jesus being lost and his parents searching for him. Clearly no marks could be awarded to such answers. Those that did select the correct incident often wrote only about Simeon and omitted Anna. Also what Simeon actually said about Jesus was only briefly discussed.
- (b) As expected, those that gave a good answer to part **(a)** tended to do quite well on part **(b)**. Answers required more than just repetition of material in part **(a)**.

Question 2

- (a) Another popular question. However, many candidates conflated the various Sabbath story accounts. Those candidates that described the picking grain action often failed to refer to Jesus’ claim about the Son of man being lord of the Sabbath. Those that referred to the various healing accounts confused Jesus’ various questions/illustrations about what was lawful to do on the Sabbath.
- (b) There were some good answers with candidates addressing both aspects of the question.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question had good knowledge of the details, though Jesus’ words to Jairus when he is told that the daughter has died (“Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well”) were often omitted.
- (b) Most candidates struggled to say much beyond a very simple statement. Examiners noted that some candidates tended to deliver a mini sermon rather than address the question asked.



Question 4

- (a) Those candidates that related the parable set in the question tended to know the details and gained high marks. However a significant number of candidates confused the parable with the parable of the Talents and, as a result, gained no marks.
- (b) This clearly depended on whether candidates had selected the correct parable in part (a). For a number of candidates, no marks were scored in (a) or (b).

Only a few candidates recognised the part the Jewish leaders played in the parable where Luke comments that the Teachers of the Law and chief priests knew the parable was about them.

Question 5

- (a) Many candidates conflated material that was in other gospels. Others confused the account with that of the Transfiguration. Many ignored the focus of “events on the Mount of Olives before the crowd arrived with Judas to arrest Jesus” and wrote at length of everything that happened from the Last Supper to, and including, the trials.

However, there were also a number of very accurate answers that gained full marks.

- (b) This was not well answered. Similar to **Question 3 (b)** it seemed to tempt some candidates into writing a sermon.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) This was another question that candidates tended to conflate with similar occasions when Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin. Hence, many candidates included material about Gamaliel.
- (b) Many candidates selected various reasons why the Christians were persecuted but ignored the focus in the question of “from this event” (i.e. the account in part (a)).

Question 7

- (a) This account was well known and generally well answered.
- (b) There was a great deal of material to select from and many candidates covered a range of points.

Question 8

- (a) Very few candidates attempted this question. Those that did, generally gained good marks.
- (b) Again, those that attempted it generally did well. However, some gave Barnabas attributes and actions that actually belonged to others.

Question 9

- (a) Many candidates who attempted this question appeared not to know the actual content of Paul’s speech at Athens. In contrast there were a few candidates who knew the speech in great detail and scored full marks.
- (b) This was poorly answered. Few noted the omission by Paul of Jewish Messianic hope and his starting where the people were and his ending on the central issue of the resurrection. It was a good example of a part (b) question that required critical insight rather than narrative.

Question 10

- (a) A popular and generally well answered question. Some candidates did not address the second part that focused on explaining the effect these events had on both the Jews and Greeks in the city.
- (b) This produced some good answers.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/23

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General comments

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As in previous years, a significant number of candidates did not find the part **(b)** questions easy. 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 the material and a need to be selective noting the focus of the question.

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Only a few candidates recognised the part the Jewish leaders played in the parable where Luke comments that the Teachers of the Law and chief priests knew the parable was about them.

Question 5

- (a) Many candidates conflated material that was in other gospels. Others confused the account with that of the Transfiguration. Many ignored the focus of “events on the Mount of Olives before the crowd arrived with Judas to arrest Jesus” and wrote at length of everything that happened from the Last Supper to, and including, the trials.

However, there were also a number of very accurate answers that gained full marks.

- (b) This was not well answered. Similar to **Question 3 (b)** it seemed to tempt some candidates into writing a sermon.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) This was another question that candidates tended to conflate with similar occasions when Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin. Hence, many candidates included material about Gamaliel.
- (b) Many candidates selected various reasons why the Christians were persecuted but ignored the focus in the question of “from this event” (i.e. the account in part (a)).

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- (b) Again, those that attempted it generally did well. However, some gave Barnabas attributes and actions that actually belonged to others.

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