

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Cambridge Ordinary Level

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2015 series

2048 RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

2048/23

Paper 2 (The portrayal of the birth of the early church),
maximum raw mark 80

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1 (a) Acts 3: 1–10

- (i) Peter and John going to Temple at 9th hour; lame man from birth carried; laid daily at Beautiful Gate asking alms; Peter and John directed gaze at him when man asked for alms; look at us; he expected to receive something; I have no silver or gold but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk; took him by right hand – feet ankles became strong; leaping up – walked praising God; all people saw him walking and praising God
- (ii) some possible examples – healing of crippled man at Lystra (Acts 14:8–13); raising from dead of Eutychus (Acts 20:7–12)
- (b) e.g. healing at Beautiful Gate – crowd were amazed and filled with wonder as to what had happened; later questioned as to what power or name they did the miracle; cripple at Lystra – saw them as gods; healing of the slave girl – brought before magistrate
- (c) **agree:** God is sovereign and can intervene; accounts have witnesses to the events; would expect a loving God to intervene and bring healing; God is above the laws of nature.
- disagree:** laws of nature fixed and cannot change; we now can explain the “miracles”; unreliability of accounts; accounts are symbolic; exaggerations

2 (a) Acts 5: 1–11

- sold property; kept back some and gave rest to apostles; lied to Holy Spirit; was at your disposal but lied; lied to God not man; Ananias fell down dead; wife arrived not knowing about death; she lied about money; she died
- (b) expect devotion to apostle’s teaching; fellowship/breaking bread/prayer/miracles and signs; shared/sold to give to those in need; met together in temple courts; preached; conversions; numbers added; start of organisation with the Seven and elders; worshipped in synagogues, where accepted apostles observed the Jewish hour of prayer at temple initially; gradually separated and started own meetings (churches founded); Christians suffering persecution (not all aspects required for level 4)
- (c) **agree:** persecution led to fleeing Jerusalem and so dispersed the Christians; made Christians keen to spread their message
- disagree:** time of peace after Saul converted still led to growth of church; missionary journeys spread message; intention of God to spread church (e.g. Samaria) regardless of persecution; work of the Holy Spirit

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3 (a) Acts 9:10–25

Saul shown Ananias in vision; gave sight and filled with Holy Spirit; baptised; Saul preached to Jews; proved Jesus is the Christ; Son of God; threatened; fled over wall

(b) (i) tried to enter Bithynia; stopped by Spirit; went to Troas

(ii) vision – man from Macedonia begging; come over to Macedonia and help us; ready to visit Macedonia – concluded God had called him to preach to them

(c) agree: Paul's commission through Ananias was to preach to Gentiles; example of Pisidian Antioch, Philippi and Athens; also preached to pagans; Council of Jerusalem recognises Paul's mission to the Gentiles

disagree: examples of preaching to Jews first – went to synagogue; only after he had been rejected did he take it to the Gentiles; his commission at his conversion was to proclaim Christ's name to the Gentiles and their kings **and** to the people of Israel; even at Pisidian Antioch he spoke first in synagogue and was only when they rejected he turned to the Gentiles

4 (a) Acts 13: 6–12

Bar-Jesus (Elymas) tried to turn proconsul from faith; Paul accused him of being child of devil/deceitful; blinded him; proconsul believed – amazed at the teaching

(b) mother's house focus of Christian gatherings; travelled with Paul and Barnabas on first missionary journey; left early; Paul not wanting to take him on second missionary journey; Barnabas goes to Cyprus with John Mark and not with Paul; John Mark young cousin to Barnabas

(c) agree: preached gospel; conversions – both Jews and Gentiles; miracles worked; churches founded and elders appointed; expect examples

disagree: opposition; rejected by Jews – went to Gentiles; confusion at Lystra and forced to leave; discussion about "great" success

5 (a) Acts 15: 5–12

sharp dispute/debate about whether circumcision required for salvation; what is status of uncircumcised Gentiles; Peter spoke - reminded he had been called to preach to Gentiles; God gave Holy Spirit to Gentiles as to Jews; no distinction; tempting God to impose extra conditions for salvation; no need for burden of the Law (legalism); saved by grace, as we are; Barnabas and Paul relate their experiences

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(b) some went out without authorisation and disturbed you; troubling your mind by what they said; it seemed good to us to choose men and send them to you – with Barnabas and Paul as men who have risked life for name of Jesus; confirming this by word of mouth through sending Judas and Silas; Holy Spirit guides – no more burden except: abstain from food sacrificed to idols/from blood/from meat of strangled animals; from sexual immorality; do well to avoid these things

(c) **agree**: whole debate and tensions shown by need for Council of Jerusalem; Paul and Barnabas dispute; complaints by Grecian Jews

disagree: picture of life of church is fellowship and breaking bread together; cooperation and care for one another e.g. the Seven appointed; growth of churches and support for Paul from church leaders

6 (a) Acts 17: 5–9

(i) rushed Jason's house searching for Paul and Silas but not there; dragged out Jason and others to officials; accused welcoming Paul and Silas who were troublemakers; defying Caesar's decrees/another King – Jesus; turmoil; put Jason on bail and released them; Paul and Silas went at night to Berea

Acts 18:12–17

(ii) brought to court before Gallio – this man is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law; Gallio would not judge and they turned on the synagogue ruler instead; many converts; stayed 18 months teaching

(b) jealousy; threat to beliefs; questioning keeping of Mosaic law; critical of the Jews e.g. accusing them of killing Jesus; speaking against Temple; accused of speaking blasphemy

(c) **agree**: expect examples especially Philippi and Ephesus; real persecutors were Jews and pagans; civil authorities appear in order to deal with riots etc. not as persecutors

disagree: they jailed Christians; Herod persecuted Christians; supported Jewish opposition in their ruling; allowed stoning and making Paul leave some towns