
RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

2048/23

Paper 2 The portrayal of the birth of the early church

May/June 2016

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 80

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

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- 1 (a) Give arguments to support the view that Luke’s Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles were written by the same person.

Both written to someone named Theophilus/Acts refers to the former treatise or account concerning all that Jesus began to do and teach (Acts1 v1, Luke1 v3)/external evidence names author as Luke for both books/internal evidence supports Luke for both books/both share common themes/linguistic and theological similarities

[6]

- (b) Explain why some argue that the author of the Acts of the Apostles accompanied Paul on some parts of Paul’s travels.

Reference to the 5 ‘we’ passages/switch from third person to first person plural/very sudden switch which reads as though person was a companion of Paul/writer is part of the story/reads like an eyewitness account with the detail of the narrative

[6]

- (c) ‘A more accurate title for the Acts of the Apostles would be the Acts of Paul.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.

For example:

Agree: Bulk of book is about Paul and his travels/Acts is account of mission to the Gentiles and spread of Church and that was Paul’s achievement/it is continuation from Luke’s Gospel

Disagree: Paul is only part of story/Acts is about the work of the Spirit and that involved all the Apostles/key events involve Peter as well as Paul/Peter is leader of the Church and Acts is about the spread of the Church

[8]

- 2 (a) How is life in the early church described in the Acts of the Apostles?

Acts 2:4 2–47

Devoted themselves to apostle’s teaching and the fellowship/breaking bread in their homes/prayer/miracles done/shared possessions and goods/sold possessions/money given to those in need/met together in temple courts/numbers increased/organisational structures formed such as deacons, elders, the seven

[6]

- (b) What was the dispute about Gentiles becoming Christians and what conclusion did the Council of Jerusalem reach?

Acts 15:1,5,1 9–20

Unless you are circumcised according to Law of Moses you cannot be saved/Gentiles required to obey the Law of Moses

Not make it difficult for Gentiles who are turning to God/abstain from food polluted by idols/abstain from sexual immorality/abstain from meat of strangled animals and from blood/letter sent

[6]

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- (c) 'The reason the church spread was because of the miracles that the apostles did.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.

For example:

Agree: miracles did produce followers (expect examples from text)/they saw the power of Jesus

Disagree: followed through the preaching that had no miracles (expect examples from the text)/miracles did not always lead to belief (examples)/followers through others than apostles/Pentecost not linked to miracles yet gained followers/persecution resulted in spread out from Jerusalem/work of Holy Spirit

[8]

- 3 (a) How and why did the apostles choose the Seven?

Acts 6: 1–6

Chose people full of the Spirit and wisdom/presented to apostles/prayed and laid hands on them

Numbers increasing/Grecian Jews complained against Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in daily distribution of food/the Twelve did not want to neglect ministry of the word and prayer in order to wait on tables

[6]

- (b) Give a brief account of the work of Philip in the early church.

Acts 6: 1–6; 8: 4–40

One of 'the Seven' attending to needs of church/preached and performed miracles in Samaria/Simon magus follower/led by Spirit to Ethiopian eunuch/preaching ministry

[6]

- (c) 'There was no difference between the work of the Seven and the work of the apostles.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.

For example:

Agree: Stephen and Philip recorded as doing things that apostles did, e.g. preaching, miracles, baptising (with water)

Disagree: tasks clearly different which is why they were selected/apostles did not wait on tables/apostles had authority/apostles only baptised with the Spirit, e.g. Samaria

[8]

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- 4 (a) Give an account of what happened in Cyprus on Paul's first missionary journey.

Acts 13: 4–12

Preached in Jewish synagogues at Salamis/at Paphos – Jewish sorcerer, attendant to Sergius Paulus, proconsul, attempted to hinder them in their conversion of Sergius Paulus/Bar – Jesus struck blind by Paul/Sergius Paulus believed

[6]

- (b) What was the strategy that Paul developed during his first missionary journey to convert non-believers and encourage new Christians?

Preached in Jewish synagogues on Sabbaths/message of Jesus as Saviour/repentance/raised from dead/spent time discussing with those interested/left when opposed/spoke also to Gentiles/returned later to visit towns to encourage and strengthen those who had come to believe/appointed elders for their churches

[6]

- (c) 'Paul's first missionary journey met with failure rather than success.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.

Agree: opposition forced him to flee from towns/cut short intended stay/his preaching produced opposition from the Jews/only a few converted

Disagree: preached message/both Jew and Gentile converted/did miracles and people believed/churches founded/officials also believed/word spread

[8]

- 5 (a) Give an account of the events that caused Paul and Silas to be imprisoned at Philippi.

Acts 16:1 6–24

Slave girl shouting out/these are servants of Most High telling you the way to be saved/happened many times/spirit cast out/owners realised hope of making money gone/seized Paul and Silas taken to magistrate/accused of throwing city into uproar by advocating customs unlawful/crowd joined in/beaten and thrown into prison in stocks

[6]

- (b) What does the Acts of the Apostles tell us about:

(i) Timothy

Acts 16: 1–5; 17:1 3–15; 18:5; 20: 4–5

Lived in Lystra/mother a Jewess/father was Greek/respected/Paul wanted to join journeys/because of the Jews Timothy was circumcised/later joined him at Corinth from Berea/later travelled with Paul to Jerusalem

[3]

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(ii) Lydia

Acts 16:1 3–15

From Thyatira/seller of purple/worshipped God/heard Paul speak/responded/
baptised/invited Paul to stay

[3]

- (c) 'It was what Paul did rather than what he said that caused people to oppose him.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.

For example:

Agree: examples of opposition because of miracles/ignoring authorities such as Sanhedrin/inclusion of Gentiles without demanding them to be circumcised/often his preaching was well received not opposed

Disagree: spoke out against the Jews/spoke out against religious authorities/
hindered people's idol worship through what he proclaimed

[8]

6 (a) What caused the silversmiths' riot in Ephesus?

Acts 19:2 3–29

Demetrius objects as Paul is hindering business of craftsmen/man-made gods are no gods at all/discrediting temple of Artemis/robbing her of her divine majesty/crowd furious/Great is Artemis of the Ephesians

[6]

- (b) What happened in Ephesus that caused some who had practised sorcery to burn their scrolls?

Acts 19:1 3–19

Seven sons of Sceva/using name of Jesus casting out evil spirits/spirits challenged them – Jesus I know, Paul I know but who are you/the man with evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them/when this became known people seized with fear/name of Jesus held in high honour/many who now believed confessed and burnt scrolls

[6]

- (c) 'The various healings recorded in the Acts of the Apostles all have natural explanations.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.

For example:

Agree: rejection of supernatural so must have natural explanation/people of the time lived in pre-scientific age/discussion about various healings to give them explanation/stories are myths and symbolic not literal

Disagree: Christianity based on supernatural events, e.g. resurrection/claim that healings still happen/can't be explained away

[8]