



Cambridge O Level

BIBLICAL STUDIES

2035/02

Paper 2 The Portrayal of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels

For examination from 2024

SPECIMEN PAPER

1 hour 30 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **three** questions in total:
 - Section A: answer **one** question.
 - Section B: answer **two** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A

Answer **one** question. Answer all parts of the chosen question.

EITHER

- 1 (a) Read the following passage and then answer the questions:

Luke 2:1, 3, NRSVA

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered ... All went to their own towns to be registered.

- (i) State the purpose of all the world being registered as mentioned in this passage. [2]
- (ii) Suggest reasons why this registration was relevant to Luke's story of the birth of Jesus. [4]
- (b) Explain the Jewish attitude to the Roman occupation of Palestine at the time of Jesus. [6]
- (c) To what extent are the birth stories in the gospels the same story told in different ways? [8]

[Total: 20]

OR

- 2 (a) Read the following passage and then answer the questions:

Mark 4:39–40, NRSVA

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'

- (i) State the occasion when Jesus said this. [1]
- (ii) State what was happening on this occasion, just before Jesus spoke these words. [2]
- (iii) State what this incident reveals about the person of Jesus. [3]
- (b) Explain what this story might reveal about the faith of the disciples. [6]
- (c) Discuss the view that belief in miracles should be important to all Christians today. [8]

[Total: 20]

Section B

Answer **two** questions. Answer all parts of the chosen two questions.

- 3** (a) Give an account of the trial of Jesus before the High Priest. [6]
- (b) Explain why the religious leaders opposed Jesus and plotted to kill him. [6]
- (c) 'During his ministry, Jesus did not want people to know his true identity.' Discuss. [8]
- [Total: 20]
- 4** (a) Describe the miracle Jesus performed because of a Syrophenician woman's faith. [6]
- (b) Explain what the conversation between Jesus and the woman might teach about Jesus' relationship with gentiles. [6]
- (c) To what extent is this a story about the purpose of Jesus' ministry rather than about a woman's faith? [8]
- [Total: 20]
- 5** (a) Give an account of the parable of the rich fool. [6]
- (b) Explain what Jesus' parables about rich people might teach Christians today. [6]
- (c) Assess the view that Jesus' parables will always have something to teach Christians. [8]
- [Total: 20]

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- Question 2 Scripture quotation is from Mark 4:39–40, NRSVA New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. www.nrsvbibles.org. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

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