



Cambridge O Level

BIBLICAL STUDIES

2035/22

Paper 2 The Portrayal of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels

May/June 2025

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 [].



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This document has **4** pages.

Section A

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

EITHER

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

Mark 2:23–24, NRSVA

One sabbath he [Jesus] was going through the cornfields; as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, ‘Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?’

- (i) State the reasons why the Pharisees were angry at the disciples. [2]
- (ii) Identify how Jesus responded to the Pharisees. [4]
- (b) Explain how Jesus’ teaching about the Sabbath differs from that of the Pharisees. [6]
- (c) ‘The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not relevant for Christians today.’ Discuss. [8]

[Total: 20]

OR

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

Luke 19:36–38, NRSVA

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power they had seen, saying,

‘Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!’

- (i) Identify the event being described in this passage. [1]
- (ii) Describe how the Pharisees reacted to this event. [2]
- (iii) State what this event might show about the person of Jesus. [3]
- (b) Explain why belief in the ascension of Jesus is important to Christians. [6]
- (c) ‘God’s overall plan for humanity cannot be understood without Jesus’ resurrection.’ Discuss. [8]

[Total: 20]

Section B

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

3 (a) Describe what happened when the boy Jesus visited the temple. [6]

(b) Explain the differences between the Pharisees and the Sadducees. [6]

(c) Assess the view that the portrayal of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel is very different from that in Luke's Gospel. [8]

[Total: 20]

4 (a) Give an account of the parable of the lost sheep. [6]

(b) Explain what the parables about receiving the kingdom might teach Christians. [6]

(c) 'Jesus understands the kingdom of God as something that will come in the future.' Discuss. [8]

[Total: 20]

5 (a) Outline what Jesus teaches about the importance of perseverance in prayer in Matthew's Gospel. [6]

(b) Explain what the Sermon on the Mount teaches about almsgiving. [6]

(c) 'The Sermon on the Mount teaches that the Old Testament laws were wrong.' Discuss. [8]

[Total: 20]

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