

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/12

Luke and Acts (1-21:15)

Short Answer Questions

General comments

There were an encouraging number of good scripts. These candidates showed a thorough and detailed knowledge of the texts. Overall, there seemed equal preparation by candidates on the two texts, which was encouraging, as in previous years there had been evidence of an under preparation of the Acts of the Apostles text.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

(a) and (b) The majority of candidates answered this correctly. The most common error was to only refer to the Holy Spirit.

Question 2

(a) Fewer than half the candidates answered this correctly. There seemed some evidence of guesswork with the most common wrong answers being Jerusalem and Galilee.

(b) The majority of candidates answered this correctly.

Question 3

(a) and (b) The most common error was to reverse the order of the two women's names.

Question 4

(a) and (b) Most candidates gained at least one mark. The most common wrong answer was to make some reference to the woman receiving more than she had given.

Question 5

(a) Fewer than half the candidates answered this correctly. Wrong answers included Paul, Pontius Pilate or Cleopas.

(b) This question produced the most 'no responses'. The most common wrong answer was Simon Peter.

Question 6

(a) Candidates seemed unsure of this answer as it produced a variety of cities that Paul visited on his various missionary journeys. Cyprus was also a common wrong answer.

(b) This question produced the most correct answers, though some candidates put both the wife and the husband's names, whilst others confused them with Aquila and Priscilla.

Question 7

(a) and (b) This question was generally well answered.

Question 8

- (a) Only a third of candidates were able to give the correct answer. There may have been some confusion between this Herod and his father, Herod the Great, as many candidates referred to him killing people.
- (b) This was generally well answered. The most common wrong answers referred to his persecution of Christians.

Question 9

(a) and (b) Candidates showed good knowledge of this account and so were able to recall the details accurately.

Question 10

(a) and (b) Most candidates found this question difficult. A significant number gave 'no response' whilst fewer than a third of candidates gained the full two marks available.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) Two thirds of the candidates gave the correct answer. Common wrong answers included Capernaum and Jerusalem.
- (b) There was some indication that not all candidates had been prepared for this question area, even though it is in the specification.
- (c) This question produced the lowest number of correct answers. Many candidates confused it with the events at Lystra.

Question 12

- (a) Very few candidates remembered that Herod had been in Jerusalem at the time, and wrong answers were usually based on Pilate's reluctance to find Jesus guilty. However, most candidates gained at least one mark.
- (b) This question produced the second highest number of correct answers.
- (c) In contrast to part (b), fewer than one third of candidates gained the full two marks available. Many seemed to guess from the various groupings possible amongst the religious hierarchy.

Question 13

- (a) (b) and (c) These questions were generally well answered.
- (d) Although the actual event was well known by most candidates, most struggled to clearly identify and analyse the implications.

Question 14

- (a) Candidates who gave wrong answers tended to confuse the events with Paul at Athens.
- (b) Most candidates gained one mark, but failed to gain the full three marks available as they only gave part of the answer. Candidates are encouraged to give as full an answer as possible.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/13

Luke & Acts (1-21:15)

Short Answer Questions

General comments

Almost the full range of marks was achieved. Although it was a small entry, there were a significant number of scripts that reflected good knowledge and understanding of the text.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This question achieved a high number of correct answers.
- (b) In contrast, this question produced one of the lowest number of correct answers. Candidates tended to address the question in terms of why Luke had written his gospel rather than what he had done to ensure that he had written an orderly account. Hence many wrong answers were of the form “so that they may know what had happened”.

Question 2

- (a) and (b) The majority of candidates gained one mark, but many responses were weakened by omitting the reference to “him only shall you serve”.

Question 3

- (a) Those who gave wrong answers usually omitted the reference to “not even in Israel” and so just referred to great faith.
- (b) Most candidates correctly identified the person as the widow’s son. However, a common wrong answer was confusing the event with that of Jairus’ daughter.

Question 4

- (a) and (b) This was generally well answered.

Question 5

- (a) and (b) Some gave the answer as blasphemy or claiming to be the Son of God. However, two thirds of candidates gave a correct response.

Question 6

- (a) This question was answered correctly by almost all the candidates.
- (b) Again, this was well answered with Paul/Stephen being the main wrong answers given.

Question 7

- (a) and (b) This question was one of the least well answered. Many candidates seemed to confuse the events at Iconium with the events at Ephesus.

Question 8

- (a) This question was well answered.
- (b) Most candidates gave the correct answer to this question.

Question 9

- (a) and (b) This story was well known and most candidates gave correct answers.

Question 10

- (a) and (b) Wrong answers about the reaction of the people often included being angry and wanting to kill Paul.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) This story was well known and most candidates could name the two men. The few wrong answers tended to refer to James and John, or Abraham.
- (b) This detail in the story was less well known with wrong answers commonly referring to the ascension or the coming of the Kingdom of God.
- (c) Most candidates gained some credit. The most common omission was reference to beloved/chosen.

Question 12

- (a) Many candidates made reference to Jesus overturning the tables. This, however, is not recorded by Luke but by the other gospel writers.
- (b) Only one third of the candidates answered this correctly. The common wrong answer referred to the leaders fearing the crowd. Luke gives a more specific reason.
- (c) This was generally well answered, although some candidates seemed to confuse temple with synagogue and made reference to the Sabbath and Nazareth.

Question 13

- (a) This question produced the highest number of correct answers.
- (b) This was also well answered.
- (c) In contrast, this question produced one of the lowest number of correct answers. This was because candidates did not accurately quote the text.

Question 14

- (a) Many candidates knew the person but not the place. Many candidates guessed at Jerusalem.
- (b) This question produced the highest number of no responses and the lowest overall number of correct answers. Although there were a number of possible answers, most candidates confused the story with that of Paul and Barnabas at Lystra.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/22
Luke and Acts (1-21:15)
Essay Questions

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.

As in previous years, a significant number of candidates did answer the part **(b)** questions well. The level descriptors make clear that Levels 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.

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. Most candidates scored at least 4 marks but many failed to gain Level 3 or 4 because they omitted the angel’s prophecy about Jesus’ future (e.g. God will give him the throne of David and he will reign over the House of Jacob forever). Another common omission was the reference to Elizabeth and that nothing was impossible with God.
- (b) Most candidates made some reference to the difficulty that Mary was a virgin and that the power of the Most High was said to overshadow her. However, there was limited discussion of these difficulties and very few other areas of difficulty were touched on. The question invited a wider discussion as it referred to the account of Jesus’ birth generally.

Question 2

- (a) This question was only attempted by a few candidates. There was a lot of material contained in the relevant passage in Luke 6 but not all was required in order to gain a Level 4. The most common material was the illustrations about turning the other cheek. Only a few made reference to the parallel with the actions of sinners, and to judgment and forgiveness.
- (b) There were some good answers with candidates discussing a number of relevant examples. Weaker answers made reference to the example but did not explain how it illustrated the teaching.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question had good knowledge of the details, though there was evidence of some conflation with the accounts of the same miracle in the other gospels.
- (b) Most candidates struggled to say much beyond a very simple statement. Some candidates tended to deliver a mini sermon rather than address the question asked.

Question 4

- (a) Candidates who related the parable tended to know the details and gained high marks. A detail that some candidates omitted was the chasm between the two places and there was some confusion about warning others.
- (b) This was generally well answered and overlap between the two parts was acceptable.

Question 5

- (a) Many candidates knew the details in the text regarding Jesus showing how he was not a ghost. However, Jesus reminding the disciples about how his suffering was written about in the law of Moses and the prophets, and his promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit were frequently omitted. This resulted in many candidates failing to get beyond Level 2.
- (b) There were some good discussions that went beyond just repeating some of the details given in part (a).

Section B

Question 6

- (a) In part (i) there was confusion with the healing by Paul at Lystra. Part (ii) was often not known by candidates and guessed at.
- (b) The question required some sort of evaluation since it asked "to what extent". However, many candidates merely recited incidents in Peter's life without any comment. Other candidates made reference to events recorded about Peter in the gospels and so were not relevant to this question.

Question 7

- (a) Both parts were generally well answered with candidates clearly knowing the details. Often candidates covered material in (ii) that went beyond the material requested and these candidates spent time on irrelevant material.
- (b) This was poorly answered. Often material relevant to (b) was given in (a) where it was irrelevant, but material cannot be cross credited.

Question 8

- (a) Events at Lystra were well known but those at Iconium were not.
- (b) Again, the trigger "to what extent" was often ignored and a summary of Paul's missionary journey was given. Others included events from Paul's other missionary journeys even though the question specifically limited discussion to Paul's first missionary journey.

Question 9

- (a) Many candidates who attempted this question appeared to know very little about Gamaliel. The material about Barnabas was better known, although some candidates tended to limit it to travels with Paul on his first missionary journey and his later split with Paul.
- (b) This produced some good answers and often candidates referred to events that they had not included in part (a) (ii) but would have been relevant.

Question 10

- (a) Some candidates tended to include only the first part of Paul's stay at Corinth and so limited the marks that they could be awarded.
- (b) Many candidates struggled with this question and did not seem to understand what was meant by Paul's missionary strategy. However, there were some candidates who gave good answers.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/23
Luke & Acts (1-21:15)
Essay Questions

General comments

Although the entry was small, there was evidence of some excellent answers. Some candidates clearly had detailed knowledge of the text and good understanding of the material. Their answers were focused and clearly expressed.

Candidates and Centres should note that use of erasing liquid is not permitted on scripts. Wrong material should be crossed out rather than erased.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This was a popular question. However, many candidates included material irrelevant to (i) and recounted at length the events when Zechariah was in the Temple. Likewise in (ii) they recounted John baptising Jesus. Candidates waste time including material that is irrelevant.
- (b) There were some good answers that discussed both similarities and differences. Some candidates tended only to discuss differences and therefore limited the level that they could achieve.

Question 2

- (a) Responses to this question were weak. Candidates were either confused and wrote about Jesus visiting the Temple when he was 12 years old, or else did not get much further than saying that Jesus read from the scroll of Isaiah and the crowd made to kill him. There was confusion between the Temple and synagogues. Only a few candidates included the material about Elijah and Elisha.
- (b) Some candidates focused only on the accusation that Jesus was Joseph's son but made no reference to the hidden Messianic claim or the fulfilling of the Isaiah text from which he had read.

Question 3

- (a) This was a popular question but led some candidates to conflate accounts of the feeding miracle from other gospels, especially John's Gospel.
- (b) Candidates struggled to say much beyond a very simple statement that such an event was impossible. Very few candidates discussed any evidence of symbolism within the story of the feeding.

Question 4

- (a) This was another popular question. However, a significant number of candidates were confused about which stories the question related to, and recounted at length the parable of the rich man and Lazarus.
- (b) This was generally well answered.

Question 5

- (a) Many candidates conflated material that was in other gospels, especially John's Gospel. It should be noted that this examination is focused on Luke's Gospel only.
- (b) This was generally well answered, although most discussion centred on how Jesus could have avoided being crucified. The discussion required some awareness that there are arguments that suggest he could not have avoided death.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question detailed the events at Pentecost in Acts 2 but often struggled to find another occasion when the Holy Spirit was given.
- (b) Answers to this question were generally weak with most candidates just mentioning boldness in speaking and doing miracles.

Question 7

- (a) Many candidates tended to restrict their accounts to Stephen's death. His appointment as one of the seven and his possible influence on Saul were ignored.
- (b) Some candidates limited their discussions to Stephen. However, the question included why the early church was persecuted.

Question 8

- (a) This was answered by very few candidates. Those who did attempt it tended to focus only on the contents of the letter that was sent by James.
- (b) There were some good attempts at this question. Relevant events were selected to oppose the view, but candidates struggled more to make a case to support Peter rather than Paul.

Question 9

- (a) This was a popular question with many candidates showing good detailed knowledge of the text.
- (b) Most answers tended just to focus on Paul's refusal to take John Mark on the second missionary journey. However, some of these answers were well developed.

Question 10

- (a) This question was not generally well answered. The details were often lacking and answers tended to guess the sort of thing Paul might have said.
- (b) Candidates who attempted this question generally showed little knowledge of the roles. It did not seem an area for which candidates had prepared adequately.