

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/01

Luke and Acts (1-21:15) Short Answer Questions

General comments

The full range of marks was achieved and there were an encouraging number of good scripts. These reflected good knowledge and understanding of the text, which suggested good preparation by Centres. As in previous years, Examiners commented that some candidates only answered the questions on Luke and left blank many on the Acts of the Apostles. This may suggest that this part of the course is not always covered as comprehensively as the Luke's Gospel text. However, it was also noticed that this criticism applied to fewer candidates this year, indicating an encouraging improvement.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) The majority of candidates answered this correctly. The most common wrong answers were Jerusalem and Nazareth.
- (b) Many candidates ignored the reference in the question to "this particular city" and so answered more generally in terms of Joseph and Mary going because of the census. However, this information was already given in part (a) and it did not address the reason why they went to Bethlehem in particular. What was expected was some allusion to Bethlehem being Joseph's origin/home town.

Question 2

- (a) Generally well answered and only a few candidates confused Matthew with Zacchaeus.
- (b) Generally well answered.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates answered this correctly.
- (b) Generally well answered.

Question 4

- (a) This was sometimes confused with Gethsemane and reference made to sweat like drops of blood.
- (b) Many candidates only gave the first part of what the voice said and omitted the reference "Listen to him." Others confused with the baptism of Jesus and quoted "in whom I am well pleased."

Question 5

- (a) Generally well answered.
- (b) There were some conflation from other gospels, but many candidates gained the mark on this question.

Question 6

(a) & (b) Generally well answered.

Question 7

- (a) This event seemed well known and most candidates scored well on this question.
- (b) Candidates often named other books from the Old Testament, rather than the correct answer of Isaiah. The most popular ones were Genesis and Deuteronomy.

Question 8

- (a) Generally well answered.
- (b) Again, the incident was well known by most candidates.

Question 9

- (a) The most common wrong answer was Silas.
- (b) Many candidates gave very full information here, but still only gained the one mark as this was the maximum allowed.

Question 10

- (a) Some candidates confused Paul with Jesus and gave cabinet maker or carpenter as Paul's trade.
- (b) Generally well answered, though a number of candidates suggested the names of Cornelius and Timothy.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) & (b) Both these parts were generally well answered. Though most made reference to Messiah or Christ in part (b), there were a number of candidates who referred to the Son of God.
- (c) Despite the wide range of possible correct answers, a significant number of candidates only gained one of the two marks available on this question.

Question 12

- (a) This event seemed well known and most candidates gained the two marks.
- (b) Most candidates just focused on the slave who lost his ear and therefore only gained one of the two available marks.
- (c) Generally well answered.

Question 13

- (a)(b)(c) A number of candidates clearly found this question difficult and the reference in the question to "Holy Spirit" made them guess at Pentecost as the event that was being referred to. Candidates should note the text reference that is given at the end of the quotation to help guide them in their answer. In such cases as wrong identification of the event, candidates often gained marks in parts (b) and (c) by chance, for example, through reference to speaking in tongues.

Question 14

(a)(b)(c) Like **Question 13**, this event did not seem to be well known by many candidates. A number of candidates confused this with Paul at Athens. Indeed, as with **Section A**, the questions on the Acts of the Apostles caused the candidates more difficulty and resulted in them gaining lower scores than for the Luke questions.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/02

Luke and Acts (1-21:15) Essay Questions

General comments

The marks covered the full range. Many candidates exhibited excellent knowledge of the text, particularly in *Section A* on Luke's Gospel. There were noticeably more candidates than last year who selected their fifth question from *Section B*, which was an encouraging trend.

Examiners also noted that part **(b)** questions were generally better answered than in previous years. In the part **(b)** questions there were fewer answers that were merely descriptive, and many candidates produced some good discussion. There were only a few instances where candidates treated part **(b)** questions as a vehicle for moral messages.

Some candidates still write out the question before answering. This is unnecessary and wastes time in the exam. Very few candidates failed to observe the rubric.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This was generally well answered and quite a popular choice as a question. Many candidates are confused about the difference between the Temple and synagogues. However, the event was well recounted with lots of appropriate detail included.
- (b) Candidates need to note the focus of the question for discussion. For this question, it was the teaching *about* Jesus. Many candidates ignored this focus and only incidentally mentioned what the event teaches us about Jesus.

Question 2

- (a) This was a surprisingly unpopular question. Some candidates who did attempt it, often conflated accounts with the Gerasene demoniac and the epileptic boy. Candidates need to be encouraged to read questions more carefully. This question had two aspects to it for part **(a)**: description of exorcism *and* how the people reacted. Some candidates only gave the first part.
- (b) Very few candidates linked exorcism with the Kingdom of God or the fight against evil. The majority centred on the liberation of people from suffering.

Question 3

- (a) This was generally well answered with most candidates being able to recount the details of the excuses and the two requests to bring uninvited guests to the banquet. The words said at the end of the banquet were not so well known.
- (b) Many candidates limited universalism to just the poor. More able candidates took the wider understanding and included Gentiles as well as other rejected groups.

Question 4

- (a) This was well known story and often vividly retold. What was not so well known was the statement about son of Abraham and that the Son of Man had come to seek and to save what was lost.
- (b) Some candidates had no difficulty linking salvation to the story of Zacchaeus, whilst others seemingly saw no such connection. Those who saw no connection either wrote in general terms about salvation or only answered part (a).

Question 5

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question gave a full account though reference to the angel and the words Jesus said to the disciples were often omitted. Some candidates conflated with Matthew's account whilst a few confused it with the Transfiguration.
- (b) There were some good answers which focused on the person and work of Jesus.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) Many candidates gave a very full and vivid account, especially of Judas' death.
- (b) This was generally poorly answered. Many candidates identified the task of spreading the Gospel but very few other areas were mentioned.

Question 7

- (a) A well rehearsed account and candidates gained good marks. A significant number of candidates continued the account beyond that required by the question and unnecessarily included Peter's speech.
- (b) This was not well answered. Often the question elicited only vague statements.

Question 8

- (a) Events were often recounted in the wrong order and although candidates knew Stephen had been stoned to death and they knew some of the words he had spoken, the rest of the details were omitted.
- (b) Blasphemy was the general answer given, but few candidates went on to explain or develop this answer.

Question 9

- (a) This question had two aspects to be answered: *who Cornelius was* and *what the events were*. The candidates who did not recall the details tended to go on to the more familiar territory of Peter's vision and subsequent events.
- (b) This was generally well answered and included discussion about the significance of the conversion of a Gentile.

Question 10

- (a) Many candidates could recall the contents of the letter and the general circumstances that gave rise to it. However, few could identify the role of Paul and Barnabas in the dispute.
- (b) The Judaizing controversy was discussed by many of the candidates.