

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 some Centres. As in previous years, Examiners commented that many candidates gave good answers to the Luke questions but did not seem so confident with the questions on Acts of the Apostles when they came to answer **Section B**. This may suggest that this part of the course is more rushed than the Luke's Gospel text.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) The majority of candidates answered this correctly. The most common wrong answer was Zechariah.
- (b) Again this was generally well answered. The most common wrong answer was Bethlehem.

Question 2

- (a) The most common error was to confuse the healing of the man with leprosy with another of Jesus' and (b) healings. However, it was generally well answered. A few candidates answered that the man was told to visit the Temple but did not then mention about showing himself to the priest.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates answered this correctly.
- (b) The answers tended to be rather vague and general, with few candidates referring to persevering or producing a good crop.

Question 4

- (a) A number of candidates remembered that she was poor but failed to identify her as a widow.
- (b) Many focused on the difference between her and the rich, rather than mentioning that she gave her all.

Question 5

- (a) Generally well answered though some candidates referred to the cock crowing three times rather than Peter denying Jesus three times.
- (b) Most candidates answered this correctly.

Question 6

- (a) Generally well answered.
- (b) Most answered correctly. Some candidates referred back to the disciples appearing as being drunk, but this was not credited as the question asked about the reactions of "others".

Question 7

- (a) The most common wrong answer was that the money was shared equally among the apostles.
- (b) This event seemed well-known and most candidates scored well on this question. Occasionally there was a problem over the spelling of the name "Ananias", but the mark was usually awarded if it was clear that the candidate knew the name rather than the exact spelling.

Question 8

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

Question 9

- (a) Some candidates referred to Jupiter rather than Zeus and this was accepted.
- (b) Again, most candidates answered correctly. Those that were wrong tended to give the reason for the name Hermes as being because Paul did miracles and healings.

Question 10

- (a) This story seemed to be well known.
- (b) Again, this was well answered.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) The reference to "a dead person" led many candidates to assume this referred to Jesus. Hence, Jerusalem was a common wrong answer. Such identification meant that many candidates did poorly on all three parts of this question.
- (b) Some candidates identified the event as the washing of Jesus' feet or the healing of the woman with the issue of blood.
- (c) Given the wrong answers in (a) and (b) it was inevitable that this part was often poorly answered. There was a wide tendency to identify Old Testament prophets who had been supposedly raised to life in the person of Jesus. Very few focused on the opinion that God had come to visit his people.

Question 12

- (a) This event seemed well known and the whole of this question was the best answered of **Section B**.
- (b) Most candidates focused on both the giving to Caesar what belonged to Caesar and the giving to God what belonged to God.
- (c) Generally well answered.

Question 13

- (a)(b) This event was confused with other accounts in Acts of an escape from prison. Hence, locations were often wrong as were the accounts of the escape.
- (c) A number of candidates identified Mary as the mother of Jesus, rather than Mary the mother of John Mark.

Question 14

- (a) (b) Like **Question 13**, this event did not seem to be known by many candidates. A significant number of candidates did not attempt the question. Some did know the story but were very hazy about the details.
- (c) A number of candidates wrote that Paul was dragged out of the city and stoned. Others only gave one reaction rather than the two required.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/02

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

General comments

The marks covered the full range. Many candidates exhibited good knowledge of the text, particularly in *Section A* on Luke's Gospel. As in previous years, most candidates selected their fifth question from *Section A*.

Examiners also noted a continuing improvement in the answering of **part (b)** questions. In the **part (b)** questions there were fewer answers that were merely descriptive, and a number of candidates produced some good discussion.

Some candidates still write out the question before answering. This is unnecessary and wastes time in the exam. Very few candidates broke 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 omitted the words of the angel concerning his preparing the way for Jesus. Some candidates did not read the question carefully enough, and continued on narrating events up to and including the birth of John.
- (b) Candidates need to note the focus of the question for discussion. In this question it was the significance of John the Baptist for Christians. Many candidates ignored this focus and just recounted events in the life of John the Baptist.

Question 2

- (a) This was mostly well answered. The main weaknesses concerned omission of the words of Jesus to the Pharisees, particularly the reference to the Son of man having authority on earth to forgive sins.
- (b) A number of candidates clearly found this quite demanding. Very few used textual evidence though there were a number of texts that could have been used (e.g. The six woes in chapter 11).

Question 3

- (a) This was generally well answered with most candidates being able to recount the details of the event. Only a very few confused the transfiguration with the events in the garden of Gethsemane.
- (b) Many candidates failed to comment on the significance of Moses and Elijah, but did refer to Jesus' death and his relationship to God.

Question 4

- (a) A parable that was well known and often vividly retold. However, a significant number of candidates omitted the reference to the elder son and his reaction to the return of the younger son.
- (b) Most candidates just focused on the idea of forgiving one another and omitted to discuss the idea of God's forgiveness. Few linked the teaching back to the text of the parable.

Question 5

- (a) Most candidates who attempted this question gave a full account though some ignored the limit of the account that was required and continued the story beyond Jesus disappearing.
- (b) A few good answers which focused on the beliefs about Jesus. Most referred to Jesus fulfilling scripture but very little discussion beyond that. Surprisingly few mentioned how the account could be seen as proof for the resurrection.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) This question proved difficult to many who attempted it. A lot of material that was relevant to **part (a)** appeared in **part (b)**.
- (b) This was generally poorly answered. Much was written about Stephen's speech and his death but not about why it provoked such a strong reaction from the Sanhedrin.

Question 7

- (a) This produced some good answers showing thorough knowledge of the text. The main weakness in the answers was caused by candidates not reading the question carefully and so missing the first part about why Saul journeyed towards Damascus. Many candidates also continued on with the account and included Saul and the visit to him by Ananias.
- (b) Candidates tended to focus on "what do we learn from this event about God" rather than on "what we learn about Saul". Also many candidates tended to recount the visit of Ananias without drawing out the significance of the visit. Hence answers tended to be narrative and AO1 skill rather than evaluative and AO2 skill.

Question 8

- (a) Very few answered this, and many who did attempt it thought it was a question about the Cornelius incident. Again, the two triggers (why and what) were mostly ignored.
- (b) Few candidates could identify specific details of the incidents in the controversy that gave rise to the Council.

Question 9

- (a) In contrast to **Question 8 (a)** this was a well answered question. There was good knowledge of the event including the details. A few candidates were confused with other escape accounts recounted in Acts. Some omitted the conversation between Paul and the jailer about what must be done to be saved.
- (b) Most candidates limited themselves to the prison incident rather than to the wider events that took place at Philippi.

Question 10

- (a) There were some good answers with most candidates who attempted this question showing good knowledge of both Timothy and Apollos.
- (b) This part led many candidates into a narrative account of the incident involving Eutychus. It was expected that candidates would draw out from the text evidence of Paul's power and authority. Once again it should be emphasised that **part (b)** questions focus on evaluation and discussion.