

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/01

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

General comments

A good range of marks was achieved and there were an encouraging number of good scripts and far fewer weak scripts. Overall, the scripts reflected good knowledge and understanding of the text, which suggested good preparation by Centres. There were far fewer candidates who answered only the Luke questions which suggests that most Centres are now covering the whole syllabus. This is 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 Quirinius and Herod.
- (b) Again this was generally well answered, though some candidates familiar with the Matthew Birth narrative, gave "the wise men" as the answer.

Question 2

- (a) and (b) This was well answered and the mark scheme allowed paraphrase. Some candidates confused the things John the Baptist told soldiers, with the things he told the multitude and the tax-collectors. A number of candidates answered in terms of the things he said about Jesus.

Question 3

- (a) and (b) Most candidates answered this correctly.

Question 4

- (a) and (b) Again, this was well answered. Some candidates suggested Abraham, or two of the disciples but the majority gave the correct answers.

Question 5

- (a) Well answered. There was good knowledge shown about the Roman background to the trial of Jesus.
- (b) There were some answers that suggested guesswork by the candidates and Herod Antipas was often confused with Herod the Great. A number of candidates stated that the reason Herod was pleased to see Jesus was because he wanted to kill him. However a significant number of candidates gave an answer that was a close approximation to the text.

Question 6

- (a) and (b) The most common error was to refer to a violent wind rather than to the **sound** like the blowing of a violent wind.

Question 7

- (a) and (b) Many candidates confused the words of Stephen with Jesus' words from the cross. For instance, the answer to **part (a)** was often given as "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Question 8

- (a) Generally well answered though some candidates clearly guessed at the answer suggesting a variety of Old Testament prophets..
- (b) The identification of Herod was required to gain the mark. A significant number of candidates just said "Herod" which was not specific enough..

Question 9

- (a) This event was often confused with Paul's vision at Joppa (Acts 10:9f). Those that did correctly identify the correct vision often gave a very brief or general statement about it (e.g. Paul saw a man from Macedonia). More was required to gain the mark.
- (b) Again, many candidates gave very brief answers such as "He must go to Macedonia". For the mark to be awarded, it was necessary that candidates made a reference to God calling Paul to preach the Gospel to them.

Question 10

- (a) Most candidates answered this correctly.
- (b) Generally well answered, though a number of candidates did not state that **all Jews** were ordered to leave Rome.

Section B

Question 11

- (a) and (b) Both these parts were generally well answered. Clearly this is a story that catches the imagination and a significant number of candidates were able to quote verbatim.
- (c) A number of candidates only gained one of the two marks available, usually because they omitted the reference to the faith of the centurion being greater than any found in Israel.

Question 12

- (a) This event seemed well known and most candidates gained the two marks.
- (b) Most candidates only gained one out of the two available marks because they confused Mary, mother of Jesus, with Mary, mother of James.
- (c) Generally well answered.

Question 13

- (a) (b) (c) Again, this story is one that catches the imagination and is well known, so most candidates were able to gain full marks.

Question 14

- (a) (b)(c) Unlike **Question 13**, this event did not seem to be known by many candidates. A significant number of candidates did not even attempt to answer it. Of those who did attempt an answer, some gave the correct answer of Jason in **part (a)** but did very little else. Often candidates confused this event with the story of Peter's imprisonment.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paper 2048/02

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

General comments

The marks covered the full range with some candidates producing some excellent answers. Overall, there seemed evidence of a general higher standard of performance than seen in previous years, with far fewer very weak scripts.

Many candidates selected their fifth question from **section A**. It may be that was because **Section A** contained three well known passages (namely **Questions 1(a), 2(a) and 3(a)**).

Although candidates continue to struggle to gain full marks on **part (b)** questions, there are signs of some improvement and a growing awareness of the demands of this assessment objective. As has been reported before in the Examiners report, the level descriptors make clear that Level 3 and 4 involve more than “a purely descriptive approach”. There needs to be “a willingness to engage with and discuss the material”.

Again it is pleasing to report that very few candidates broke the rubric.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This was a popular question. However, the details of the account were less well known than expected, and candidates often gave only a brief summary that limited their marks to Level 2 or lower Level 3.
- (b) Many candidates merely repeated material that was in **part (a)**. The question demanded some discussion showing a depth of understanding. Comment on the text is the feature of a **part (b)** whilst **part (a)** is more about the details of the text itself.

Question 2

- (a) Another popular question. Some marks were awarded for story of the woman who touched Jesus, but full marks could be gained without such reference. Some candidates were confused with the details of the story and added details from other miracle accounts.
- (b) Answers were often rather vague and general with such statements as “with faith anything is possible”. What was required was a more detailed comment relating the points to aspects of the miracle account.

Question 3

- (a) Many candidates produced a good detailed account and gained good marks. A few omitted the last part of the parable about warning others and reference to Moses and someone coming back from the dead.
- (b) There were a number of teachings that could be discussed though often candidates only focused on one or at best two. Five marks are available for **part (b)** questions and therefore the answers should be of a reasonable length. Two sentence answers are not adequate for a higher level mark.

Question 4

- (a) Surprisingly this question was not popular and attracted a wide range of quality of answers. Again candidates often summarised the parables into one or two sentences which is not sufficient for this 7 mark question. A few candidates only gave one parable.
- (b) This question led some candidates into vague general comments whereas the question specifically requested that the two parables related in **part (a)** were to be discussed.

Question 5

- (a) The Examiners regarded this question as attracting the weakest answers in **part A**. Very few candidates achieved full marks. The details did not seem to be well known.
- (b) This question seemed to cause some confusion with candidates not being clear what was being asked. There were two parts to the **Question: (i)** why they wanted to trap him and **(ii)** How his answer avoided the trap. Rarely were both aspects addressed.

Section B

Question 6

- (a) This was by far the most popular question in **part B**. Candidates generally answered well showing good knowledge.
- (b) Again this was quite well answered but many candidates tended to be very brief and general. The question focused on the relevant material from any part of Acts and therefore higher levels required some breadth in coverage.

Question 7

- (a) Weaker candidates wrote about Saul's conversion and did not read that the question focus was on Saul in Damascus rather than on road to Damascus.
- (b) Answers tended to be very brief and few candidates managed to reach Level 4.

Question 8

- (a) A popular question and because the story is quite short, full details were needed for a Level 4.
- (b) Again, candidates need to read the question carefully. This question required reference to at least two other miracles. Also different effects on the people were to be discussed. Often candidates discussed only one effect and one miracle.

Question 9

- (a) A significant number of candidates who attempted this question got the different occasions confused. This resulted in angels appearing where they should not and Peter coping with earthquakes that never happened.
- (b) This was either omitted and only **part (a)** was answered, or answers were very brief and lacked detail. Candidates need to read both parts of a question to make sure they can answer both parts, before they select that question.

Question 10

- (a) The story is quite short and so full details were needed for a Level 4.
- (b) Some candidates gave a very full and detailed discussion, making good reference to the event to support their points. Other candidates wrote general thoughts about evil spirits with no reference to **part (a)** story. Again, some candidates did not seem to be aware of the links between **part (a)** and **part (b)** of questions.