



## Cambridge O Level

---

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

2048/22

Paper 2 The Portrayal of the Birth of the Early Church

May/June 2020

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 80

---

**Published**

Students did not sit exam papers in the June 2020 series due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

This mark scheme is published to support teachers and students and should be read together with the question paper. It shows the requirements of the exam. The answer column of the mark scheme shows the proposed basis on which Examiners would award marks for this exam. Where appropriate, this column also provides the most likely acceptable alternative responses expected from students. Examiners usually review the mark scheme after they have seen student responses and update the mark scheme if appropriate. In the June series, Examiners were unable to consider the acceptability of alternative responses, as there were no student responses to consider.

Mark schemes should usually be read together with the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers. However, because students did not sit exam papers, there is no Principal Examiner Report for Teachers for the June 2020 series.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the June 2020 series for most Cambridge IGCSE™ and Cambridge International A & AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

---

This document consists of **14** printed pages.

**Generic Marking Principles**

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:**

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:**

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:**

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:**

Rules must be applied consistently e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:**

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:**

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Question	Answer	Marks
<b>Level descriptors for 2048</b>		
AO1 (Knowledge and Understanding)		
Level	Mark	Level Descriptor
4	6	A thorough, well-developed and substantial response. A comprehensive account of the range and depth of relevant material demonstrating an extensive and highly accurate knowledge and understanding of the subject. There is detailed explanation. The answer is well structured.
3	4–5	Demonstrates a clear understanding of the question. The information is quite detailed. Generally, accurate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. Covers the main points accurately. The information is in a structured format.
2	2–3	Demonstrates some understanding of the question. A fair, mainly relevant but generally undeveloped response. The candidate demonstrates some factual knowledge and understanding, which is fairly accurate but may lack specific detail. Some of the main points are covered but lack substance. The information will be presented for the most part in a structured format.
1	1	An attempt to answer the question, but demonstrates little understanding of the question. Very limited knowledge of the subject. Response includes only a small amount of relevant material. Information is reported in basic outline only or as a list, with little or no explanation. Mainly inaccurate, though some credible points may be made.
0	0	No attempt whatsoever to answer the set question, or the candidate provides a wholly irrelevant response.
AO2 (Evaluation)		
Level	Mark	Level Descriptor
4	7–8	Recognises and explains the significance of the issue(s). A personal response is fully supported. A range of points of view supported by justified arguments/discussion. The information is presented in a clear and organised way. Evidence of informed insights.
3	5–6	Understands the significance of the question. Seeks to move clearly beyond a purely descriptive approach. Justified arguments/different points of view supported by some discussion. Evidence of appropriate personal response. Some evidence of informed insights.
2	3–4	Understands the question but the response is mainly descriptive. Only one view offered with limited support or discussion. Limited or no evidence of informed insights.

Question	Answer	Marks
1	1–2	The candidate's response is descriptive with no attempt to discuss or evaluate the material at all. Viewpoints are unsupported.
0	0	No response submitted, or clearly lacks any understanding whatsoever of the subject matter.

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	<p><b>Give reasons to support the argument that Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are connected.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>Both texts are addressed to Theophilus, which suggests that they have been written for the same individual.</p> <p>The opening of Acts refers to a former book, which many argue to be Luke's Gospel. This also suggests a continuation of the Gospel, which has recorded 'all that Jesus began to do and teach'; Acts, it is suggested, records what happens next.</p> <p>There are similar themes in both texts, for example, that the message of the early church is a continuation of the saving plan of God.</p> <p>The language used by the author is similar, and there is a similar concern with recording geographical details and historical style information.</p> <p>It is suggested that the author of both books is Luke, who may have been a travelling companion of Paul.</p>	6
1(b)	<p><b>Explain why Matthias became an apostle.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>Peter pointed out that the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as a guide for those who arrested Jesus.</p> <p>Peter continues to explain that it was written in the Book of Psalms; 'May another take the place of leadership'. So, it was therefore necessary for one of the men to be chosen who had been with the apostles the whole time.</p> <p>They nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.</p> <p>They prayed for the Lord to show them who had been chosen, cast lots and the lot fell to Matthias, guided by the Holy Spirit.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
1(c)	<p><b>‘The Holy Spirit is the reason for the spread of the early church.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Candidates agreeing with the statement may suggest some of the following arguments:</b></p> <p>The Holy Spirit filled the believers which enabled them to speak and spread the church.</p> <p>Decision making for the early church was guided by the Holy Spirit, including appointing new leaders.</p> <p>The Holy Spirit guided the work of the apostles and for example determined some of the places that Paul should go on his missionary journeys.</p> <p>Conversions of individuals such as Saul were guided by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enabled the apostles to heal.</p> <p>Receiving the Holy Spirit was a mark of new believers joining the church.</p> <p><b>Candidates disagreeing with the statement may suggest some of the following arguments:</b></p> <p>The message of the church began in the time of Jesus before Pentecost. There were many who had not received the Spirit who nonetheless were believers and had been baptised with water.</p> <p>There are alternative reasons for the spread of the church; persecution, Paul’s missionary journeys, the work of the apostles, conflict, speeches, etc.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	<p><b>Describe the stoning of Stephen.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Acts 7:54–60</b></p> <p>After Stephen had spoken they were furious and gnashed their teeth.</p> <p>Stephen looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, he said, ‘Look’, ‘I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God’.</p> <p>They covered their eyes and yelling at the top of their voices, they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.</p> <p>Witnesses laid their coats at Saul’s feet.</p> <p>Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus receive my spirit’, after which he fell to his knees and cried out, ‘Lord do not hold this sin against them’.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	<p><b>Explain why the early Christians were persecuted.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>The apostles spoke out against the Jewish leaders and accused them of failing to recognise Jesus as the Messiah and killed him.</p> <p>They were persecuted because the authorities felt threatened by their increasing popularity.</p> <p>The apostles attracted large crowds and were gaining a number of new followers, the Jewish authorities are presented as being jealous of this and the political authorities are arguably concerned with how to respond.</p> <p>They were persecuted to prevent the message of Jesus Christ and the good news from being spread even further.</p> <p>The persecution of Stephen was met with approval, which encouraged the authorities to continue.</p>	6
2(c)	<p><b>'It is easier to be a Christian today than it was during the time of the early church'. To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Candidates agreeing with the statement may use some of the following arguments:</b></p> <p>It is easier today as fewer Christians face persecution, in the sense that they have to risk their lives.</p> <p>As Christianity is a popular religion, recognised around the world it is relatively easy to access and become a believer.</p> <p>There are no real requirements to give up possessions or share everything in common with other believers.</p> <p>There are also no real expectations that you should dedicate your life as a Christian in service to others.</p> <p><b>Candidates disagreeing with the statement may use some of the following arguments:</b></p> <p>Many Christians in various parts of the world, do face clear persecution and in fact risk their lives for their faith.</p> <p>Increasing secularisation, may make it hard for Christians to stand up as a Christian in society.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
2(c)	To avoid causing offence, many Christians do not speak much or show their faith.  There are many other distractions that people face today, and people are much less focussed on obedience to God.	

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	<p><b>Describe the healing of Tabitha (Dorcas) in Joppa.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Acts 9:36–43</b></p> <p>Tabitha (Dorcas) died and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.</p> <p>Lydda was near Joppa, and Peter was close by in Lydda, so the disciples sent two men to him and urged him to come at once.</p> <p>Peter arrived and was taken to the upstairs room. The widows stood around him crying and showed him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas (Tabitha) had made while she was still with them.</p> <p>Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed.</p> <p>He turned towards Dorcas and said, ‘Tabitha, get up’. She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.</p> <p>He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet, and presented her to the believers, especially the widows, alive.</p> <p>This was then known all over Joppa and many people believed in the Lord.</p>	6
3(b)	<p><b>Explain what might be learned about life in the early church from the incident with Ananias and Sapphira.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>The incident suggests that sharing possessions and having all things in common was key in the early church in order to ensure that there was no one in need.</p> <p>The event suggests that Peter had authority in the church.</p> <p>The event suggests that the Holy Spirit guided every action and event within the early church.</p> <p>The incident suggests that the early church was organised and structured.</p> <p>They suggest that there will be punishments for those who act against the Holy Spirit or who allow themselves to be influenced by Satan.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)	<p><b>'The work of women in Acts suggests that women today should have more of a role in the church.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Candidates agreeing with the statement may use some of the following arguments:</b></p> <p>Women such as Priscilla and Lydia suggest that women did play a role in the organisation of the early church and may have set up house churches. This level of leadership should perhaps be seen in more denominations within Christianity.</p> <p>Women are seen to be important in spreading the early church, this should be an example for women today who wish to evangelise and continue to pass on the good news.</p> <p>There are suggestions in Acts of the Apostles that a number of women were influential in decision making in the church and perhaps this should be more apparent today.</p> <p>A number of women are well-regarded and their conversion thought to be significant, this should be further evidence to support the argument for women to have leadership roles in the church.</p> <p><b>Candidates disagreeing with the statement may use some of the following arguments:</b></p> <p>Whilst it is true that there are favourable portrayals of women in Acts, they do not have the authority to go on missionary journeys or speak in opposition to authorities or make decisions regarding the future of the church.</p> <p>The roles of leadership in the church often focus on the priest/vicar as a representative of Christ as a male, there is nothing in Acts that can challenge this.</p> <p>The portrayal of women in Acts suggests that they have clear roles in the household and domestic life, not as figures of authority.</p> <p>None of the women make speeches or demonstrated any authoritative roles in the early church.</p> <p>In some churches, women do have a significant role.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	<p><b>Outline what is known about Cornelius from the Acts of the Apostles.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Acts 10:1–8, 22–8</b></p> <p>Cornelius is spoken of as being in Caesarea.</p> <p>He is a centurion in what is known as the Italian regiment. He and his family were upright and god-fearing.</p> <p>He gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.</p> <p>He had a vision where he saw an angel of the Lord who told him to send men to Joppa to bring back Peter.</p> <p>Peter himself had a vision regarding Cornelius. Respected Peter’s authority.</p> <p>Empathised with Jewish customs.</p> <p>Later Cornelius received the Holy Spirit and was baptised.</p> <p>STM: Discuss balance between breadth and depth. Ensure parity with other part (a) questions.</p>	6
4(b)	<p><b>Explain why Peter’s vision in Joppa was important for the development of the early church.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>Peter had a vision of a large sheet filled with animals with instructions from the Lord to kill and eat. The voice of the Lord told Peter, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean’.</p> <p>In response to this vision, Peter realised that God does not show favouritism but accepts all, Gentiles and Jews.</p> <p>Peter could see from this vision and subsequent encounter with Cornelius that God has granted repentance that leads to life.</p> <p>Peter’s vision here also had an impact on the Council of Jerusalem, which made it easier for Gentiles to join the early church. There were no requirements to circumcise, only to avoid food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.</p> <p>Peter’s vision helped the early church to welcome the Gentiles into the early church and to accept them as members.</p> <p>This vision had an impact on the way in which Jewish law and traditions were seen as authoritative in the subsequent life of early Christians.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
4(c)	<p><b>‘Gentiles were more important to the development of the early church than Jews’. To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to AO2 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Candidates agreeing with the statement may use some of the following arguments:</b></p> <p>It is because of Gentile inclusion that the church was able to spread, e.g. the work of Cornelius.</p> <p>The Council of Jerusalem which did not insist on circumcision was a key decision which led to a vast number of Gentile believers being added to the church.</p> <p>Paul had great success among the Gentiles who were often more responsive than Jews.</p> <p>Jews were often an obstacle to the success of the early church and the authorities often persecuted them.</p> <p><b>Candidates disagreeing with the statement may use some of the following arguments:</b></p> <p>The apostles were themselves Jews and were highly successful in spreading the word of God and brought huge numbers of believers (for example on the day of Pentecost).</p> <p>Paul was a notable Jew and his missionary journeys proved to be successful with both Jews and Gentiles, for example in Iconium.</p> <p>The Gentiles sometimes struggled to understand the message of the early church, for example in Athens.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	<p><b>Give an account of what happened following the healing of the lame man in Lystra.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Acts 14:11–20</b></p> <p>The crowd shouted in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in human form’.</p> <p>They called Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes as he was the chief speaker.</p> <p>The priest of the temple brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifices to them.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	<p>When Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd.</p> <p>They told the crowd that they are only human but bring them good news. They explained that God let the nations go their own way but continued to show them kindness by giving them rain, crops, etc.</p> <p>They had difficulty stopping them from sacrificing to them.</p>	
5(b)	<p><b>Explain why performing healings helped the apostles in their mission.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>At the Beautiful Gate many people witnessed the healing miracle and heard that it was through the power of Jesus Christ that this had been made possible and on hearing this good news a large number became believers.</p> <p>As a result of many of the healings performed, the apostles spoke about the event, enabling them to pass on key messages about Christ and salvation, which were important for the spread of the early church.</p> <p>Healings brought crowds which led to large numbers being converted.</p> <p>Even in cases where the healing led to conflict, these still led to new believers and converts, for example in Philippi where the healing of the slave girl led to the imprisonment of Paul and Silas, but led to the conversion of the jailers.</p>	6
5(c)	<p><b>‘People are not miraculously healed today.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Candidates agreeing with the statement may use the following arguments:</b></p> <p>Miraculous healings do not occur, as it is not possible to break laws of nature. Where there are healings, these can be explained by medical science or by chance.</p> <p>Events of healings recorded in Acts, may have just been coincidences rather than miraculous.</p> <p>Miraculous healings are not needed for people to believe today, the message of salvation is enough, a demonstration is not required.</p> <p>Many people do not believe in God, and therefore do not believe that such miraculous healings are possible.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
5(c)	<p><b>Candidates disagreeing with the statement may use the following arguments:</b></p> <p>There are plenty of things that science cannot explain, for example people suddenly recovering from a life-threatening illness, these could be described as miraculous healings.</p> <p>In many churches, individuals have the power to heal and many miraculous healings are carried out.</p> <p>God is still present in the world today and so miraculous healings can still take place.</p> <p>Miraculous healings can result from focussed prayer.</p>	

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	<p><b>Describe what happened in Thessalonica with Paul and his companions.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Acts 17:1–9</b></p> <p>Paul went into the synagogue in Thessalonica.</p> <p>On three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.</p> <p>He proclaimed that Jesus is the Messiah.</p> <p>Some of the Jews were persuaded as well as God-fearing Greeks and prominent women.</p> <p>However, other Jews were jealous and formed a mob, starting a riot in the city.</p> <p>They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd.</p> <p>They dragged Jason and other believers shouting, 'These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here'.</p> <p>They accused them of defying Caesar's decrees saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.</p> <p>They put Jason and the others on bail and let them go.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
6(b)	<p><b>Explain why Paul faced opposition from the silversmiths in Ephesus.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>He faced opposition because a silversmith called Demetrius who made silver shrines of Artemis, was angry because Paul's message had led to the diminishing of his business.</p> <p>He argued that Paul had led astray large numbers in Ephesus and in the province of Asia with his claim that man-made gods are no gods at all.</p> <p>He was concerned not only about the decline in trade, but also the discrediting of the temple of the great goddess Artemis. Demetrius was perhaps concerned that the God of whom Paul spoke was replacing the beloved Artemis and undermined her power.</p> <p>They were so angry that the city was in an uproar and shouted in unison, 'Great is Artemis of the Ephesians' and seized Paul's travelling companions.</p> <p>Paul was advised not even to appear before them and speak.</p> <p>However, those who were rioting were not all aware of what exactly they were rioting about.</p>	6
6(c)	<p><b>'Paul's missionary journeys would not be so successful today'. To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors.</p> <p><b>Candidates agreeing with the statement may use some of the following arguments.</b></p> <p>Speakers who hold different views to their audience are not always welcomed and allowed to express their views.</p> <p>It is hard and often dangerous to travel to places to pass on a message concerning religion.</p> <p>There are some places where religious beliefs cannot be freely expressed.</p> <p>People may not be so easily impressed by healings, etc.</p> <p>It is much easier for a message to be distorted today with the use of social media, fake news, etc.</p> <p><b>Candidates disagreeing with the statement may use some of the following arguments.</b></p> <p>The idea of fitting speeches to fit the audience that Paul was speaking to would still be highly effective today.</p> <p>Healings may still bring in crowds and give an opportunity to discuss the means by which these things can be possible.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
6(c)	Speaking to people is still an effective method of passing on a message, even in an age of technology and social media.  Travelling around to different locations would be even more straightforward today.	