



Cambridge O Level

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

2048/22

Paper 2 The Portrayal of the Birth of the Early Church

October/November 2020

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 80

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

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This document consists of **15** 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.

Levels of Response

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.
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>Give an account of Saul’s time in Damascus, after he regained his sight.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Acts 9:19b–25</p> <p>Saul spent several days in Damascus with the disciples. He immediately began to preach in the synagogues, declaring Jesus to be Son of God. Everyone who heard him was astonished, asking if he was the man who had caused havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on ‘this name’. ‘Hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?’</p> <p>Saul grew more and more powerful and continued to baffle the Jews in Damascus in proving that Jesus is the Christ. After some time, the Jews conspired to kill him but Saul learned of their plan. They kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him, both day and night. Saul’s followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.</p>	6
1(b)	<p>Explain the importance of Barnabas to Paul’s ministry.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Barnabas is best known for his having given Paul a ‘quick start’ or a ‘step up’ in his early relationships and contacts. He introduced Paul to the apostles and told them his story, thus ensuring he was accepted by the church.</p> <p>Many candidates might observe that Barnabas was something of a mentor to Paul. Indeed, Acts names Barnabas first (Barnabas and Paul), before the order (of importance) is switched around to Paul and Barnabas.</p> <p>Barnabas trained Paul in the ways of missionary journeys, which was central to Paul’s work.</p> <p>Barnabas went to find Saul from Tarsus to bring him to Antioch (11:25f.).</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
1(c)	<p>‘Paul’s conversion experience made his ministry a success.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest some of the following:</p> <p><i>Agree</i></p> <p>Some might argue that his conversion experience gave him an absolute acceptance of the Christian message, which would have given him certainty and zeal when encountering people. It also ensured that Paul understood that he had been commissioned by Jesus – as also shown in his adoption of the title ‘apostle’. As Paul had been a persecutor of Christians, people might have been more convinced by his change in lifestyle and would have seen him as a role model.</p> <p><i>Disagree</i></p> <p>It could be argued that Paul’s success came not from his conversion ministry but from his personal gifts and talents. For example, he was a charismatic and impressive individual who was also clearly intelligent and educated.</p> <p>Candidates might argue that the conversion experience should be separated from his future ministry. Other candidates might suggest that Paul’s success came from the mentoring provided by Barnabas or the support of the church community or the ongoing help of the Holy Spirit.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	<p>Outline Peter’s explanation to the church for eating with uncircumcised men.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>Acts 11: 4-18</p> <p>Peter explained everything as it happened. He was in Joppa praying when, in a trance, he had a vision. He saw something like a sheet let down from heaven by its four corners with animals and birds on it. A voice said, ‘Get up, Peter, kill and eat.’ Peter said no, he had never eaten anything impure or unclean. The voice spoke again saying not to call anything impure that God had made clean. This happened three times and then the sheet went back to heaven.</p> <p>At that moment three men from Caesarea called at the house Peter was staying in. The Spirit told him to go with them and so six others and Peter went with the three men and entered a man’s house. The man had seen an angel who said, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter who has a message through which you and your household will be saved’. As Peter began to speak, the Holy Spirit came upon the people as it had in the beginning and then he remembered what Jesus said about being baptised with the Spirit. So, if God gave them the Spirit, who was he to oppose God?</p>	6
2(b)	<p>Explain why the mission to Gentiles divided the early church.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Christianity grew out of Jewish tradition and the very early Christians probably considered themselves a sub-section of Judaism. As such, they maintained adherence to the Jewish Law and the customs of Judaism.</p> <p>Some of the early church felt that this should be maintained, but the issues of circumcision and food laws were particularly divisive. Circumcision was very difficult for adult converts practically and the food laws required a complete change in lifestyle.</p> <p>There were also issues with cleanliness laws because interaction between Jews and Gentiles rendered them ritually unclean. Members of the early church would therefore have felt that interaction with the Gentiles may have restricted their ability to worship.</p> <p>Candidates might also discuss why some of the early church favoured the mission to Gentiles, mentioning the guidance of the Holy Spirit, direct revelation from God and the example of Jesus.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
2(c)	<p>‘Without Gentiles, the church would have disappeared.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest some of the following:</p> <p><i>Agree</i></p> <p>If the apostles had only preached to the Jews, then their message would have remained in Israel and the church would not have grown, as many Jews did not convert. Judaism would have influenced the message and practices of Christianity, and so Christianity would have been seen as a strand of Judaism rather than a separate religion. It was the Gentiles that spread Christianity around the world.</p> <p><i>Disagree</i></p> <p>The church was spreading beyond its Jewish origins before the message went to the Gentiles. It may not have spread as quickly, but people were going further afield and preaching to the Jews in many places. Some Jews were accepting the message in most of the places the apostles went, and so gradually the church was growing.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)(i)	<p>Describe:</p> <p>Peter's arrest by Herod <u>and</u></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Acts 12:3–4</p> <p>Herod saw that his arrest of James had pleased the Jews. Herod seized Peter during the Feast of Unleavened Bread and then put him in prison. Herod then handed Peter over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each.</p>	6
3(a)(ii)	<p>Describe:</p> <p>the angel's visit to Peter in prison.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Acts 12:7–10</p> <p>An angel appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on his side and woke him up. He told him to quickly get up and the chains fell off. The angel told Peter to get dressed and Peter did so. The angel told Peter to wrap his cloak around him. The angel then told Peter to follow him. Peter followed the angel out of the prison. He did not know that what was happening was real. Peter thought he was having a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gates leading to the city. The gates opened themselves and they went through it. (After walking down one street the angel left.)</p>	

Question	Answer	Marks
3(b)	<p>Explain what Peter’s return to the house of Mary might teach about the early church.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Peter probably returned to the house of Mary because he knew that there would be a gathering of believers there. This reinforces the idea of house churches found earlier in Acts.</p> <p>The house is named as the house of Mary, showing the role of women in the early church, possibly as leaders of communities.</p> <p>The believers were gathered in prayer. Communal prayer was central to the life of the early church.</p> <p>The gathering was in secret. They were fearful when Peter was knocking at the door. As a result of the persecution, the relationship between the early church and the authorities was terrifying for the Christians. There seems to be an assumption that Peter had been or was going to be executed.</p> <p>There is a sense of leadership in the community. Peter is greeted with great joy and, also, he asks for the message to be passed on to James.</p>	6
3(c)	<p>‘The Acts of the Apostles was not written to be a history book.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest some of the following:</p> <p><i>Agree</i></p> <p>Luke’s plan could arguably have been to describe the continuation of salvation history. He could have also wanted to describe the spread of the early church from Jerusalem outwards and thus be more of a theology book. Alternatively, Luke’s focus could be said to have been on the working of the Holy Spirit or to continue his theme from the Gospel of universalism.</p> <p><i>Disagree</i></p> <p>The author presents extremely detailed accounts of key events in the life of the early church; for example, Paul’s conversion is related three times. The speeches and interactions with people in authority are presented as factual accounts. This shows that Acts takes place in a real point of history. Some might point to the prologue to both Luke and Acts.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	<p>Outline two events in the Acts of the Apostles that end with someone being baptised.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>There are many baptisms in Acts, such as 2:41; 8:12–16, 36–38; 9:18; 10:47–48; 16:15, 33; 18:8 and 19:5.</p> <p>Candidates may choose and outline, in appropriate detail, any two of the passages above. Credit should be given for the sections of the passages that focus on the moment of baptism. Baptism by water and/or the Holy Spirit are creditable.</p>	6
4(b)	<p>Explain the importance of baptism for the early church.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Acts of the Apostles begins with Jesus promising the Holy Spirit and distinguishes this from the baptism offered by John, that of water. Baptism by water is for the forgiveness of sins. It comes with some gifts of the Holy Spirit such as faith, trust in God and confession of Jesus.</p> <p>There is also a unique baptism of the Holy Spirit which accompanies the apostles' preaching. This is connected to water baptism but is different. The last words of Jesus recorded in Acts are: 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' This promise was first fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles like tongues of fire, they began to speak in tongues. The second time that believers were baptised with the Holy Spirit was in Samaria when Peter and John laid hands on the believers. The third incident is at the house of Cornelius when the Holy Spirit falls on those who heard Peter's sermon. This is the start of the inclusion of Gentiles into the early church. The last time is when Paul lays hands on twelve Ephesian disciples.</p> <p>The twin understandings of baptism as initiation/a sign of belief and cleansing are both found in Acts and are central to modern Christian understandings of baptism.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
4(c)	<p>'It is not necessary to be baptised to be a Christian today.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest some of the following:</p> <p><i>Agree</i></p> <p>Baptism is just an outward sign of belief, there are other ways that a Christian can show they believe, for example, attending church regularly, reading the Bible and praying. Following God's commandments is more important than a one-off ceremony with historical symbolism. Baptism with the Holy Spirit was rare in Biblical times so should not be deemed as necessary in modern Christianity.</p> <p><i>Disagree</i></p> <p>Jesus said that unless you are baptised of water and the Holy Spirit you cannot enter the kingdom of God. Baptism is about the forgiveness of sins, not just an outward sign of being a Christian. Baptism is the recognised rite of initiation for most Christians. It is important that members of the Christian community all share one common moment of initiation.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)(i)	<p>Describe what the Acts of the Apostles says about:</p> <p>Timothy and</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Acts 16:1–4</p> <p>Timothy was the son of a Jewish mother and Greek father from Lystra. He was well-regarded by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium, and so Paul wanted him to be a travelling companion. Paul therefore circumcised him, and Timothy accompanied him in their communication of the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Timothy is also mentioned briefly as a companion of Paul, staying behind at Berea and then being summoned by Paul (17:14–15), and which he does at 18:5. In 20:4, Timothy is in a list of travelling companions of Paul.</p>	6
5(a)(ii)	<p>Describe what the Acts of the Apostles says about:</p> <p>Paul’s vision of the man of Macedonia.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Acts 16:9–10</p> <p>Paul had a vision overnight of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him to come over to Macedonia to help. Paul immediately got ready to depart for Macedonia, thinking that this vision had been God’s call to them.</p>	
5(b)	<p>Explain why Paul’s visit to Philippi was both a success and a failure.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Paul visited Philippi in response to his vision to go to that region. The obedience to God’s guidance might be seen as a success.</p> <p>The time in Philippi might also be seen as a success because Paul made connections with the Christian community there. He baptised Lydia and her household. After his time in jail, there was a clear Christian community established (16:40).</p> <p>Paul converted a number of others and performed an exorcism, as well as witnessing to the jailer and other prisoners.</p> <p>However, Paul’s visit was a failure as he was imprisoned for his actions - this was his first proper imprisonment.</p> <p>He was also banished from the city (16:39).</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
5(c)	<p>‘Paul’s missionary strategy would not be successful today.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest some of the following:</p> <p><i>Agree</i></p> <p>It could be argued that Paul’s approach of turning up at new places with little preparation or warning is not transferable to modern society. Paul’s method also presumed that there were few or no Christians already in the places that he visited. Christian missionaries today are often working with people who have heard but rejected that Christian message. Paul relied on the lack of structures in the church. However, the widespread established church in modern times would present a different set of challenges.</p> <p><i>Disagree</i></p> <p>Paul had a systematic approach to his work, which is important in any context. He also adapted the way he spoke to people, depending on where he was based. Paul’s approach was to focus on the relationships he built first and foremost. He also built church communities and then ensured that they could be self-sufficient after he moved on. Paul relied on the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all he did, which is relevant to all Christians in all walks of life.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	<p>Give an account of what happened when Paul arrived in Ephesus, including his time in the synagogue.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Acts 19: 1–9a</p> <p>When Paul arrived at Ephesus, he found some disciples and asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed. They said that they had not even heard of the Holy Spirit and so Paul asked what baptism they had received. They replied, ‘John’s baptism’. Paul said that John’s baptism was one of repentance and that John had told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is Jesus. These disciples were immediately baptised in the name of Jesus. Paul laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.</p> <p>He then spent three months speaking in the synagogue, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. Some refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. Paul left them and took the disciples with him.</p>	6
6(b)	<p>Explain why it was important for Paul to warn the Ephesian Elders.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 level descriptors.</p> <p>Candidates may suggest the following:</p> <p>Paul’s warning came out of the fact that the Holy Spirit had warned him that hardships would come to his life. It also links to his reminder that he had been warning them daily, day and night (19:31).</p> <p>His specific warning to the Elders ensured that they were not complacent in their following of the Way. There would be difficult times ahead and it would be important that they were prepared for this, physically and spiritually.</p> <p>These difficult times would need to be identified both within and outside the church and Paul’s message was that strong leadership would help them through this process. This message included leadership both from the Elders (‘shepherds of the church’) and the Holy Spirit (19:28).</p> <p>It was also important because the Elders needed to be reassured that whatever happened was the will of God.</p> <p>There is a sense of panic in Paul here as he sees the end coming for him and would have sensed that years of hard work could be compromised by what was to come.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
6(c)	<p>‘Paul should have stayed longer in Ephesus.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO2 level descriptors. Candidates may suggest some of the following:</p> <p><i>Agree</i></p> <p>Paul had spent three years building up the Ephesian church and so some might argue that he had more work that could have been done. Also, the fact that he had to give such stern warnings to the Elders might suggest that he would have been a stronger leader had he stayed behind to support them. Some might point out that by departing from Ephesus, he hastened his trial and death. The emotional response from the Christians in Ephesus shows how well liked he was.</p> <p><i>Disagree</i></p> <p>The very idea that Paul began by appointing twelve disciples demonstrates that he was always intending to hand over his work to others. Some might make the point that Paul had overstayed his welcome in Ephesus. Using the riot would be evidence for the argument. Some candidates will observe that Paul moved and acted where the Holy Spirit took him and so, if it was time to go, it was important that he did. Paul’s vocation was that of a missionary, not a local church leader.</p>	8