



Cambridge O Level

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

2048/12

Paper 1 The Portrayal of the Life and Teaching of Jesus

May/June 2022

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 **18** printed pages.

PUBLISHED**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 |
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| 1(a) | <p>Describe the Jewish expectations for a Messiah at the time of Jesus.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following in quotation or paraphrase:</p> <p>The Jewish hope for a Messiah was that an ideal ruler would establish a reign of righteousness and peace throughout the world.</p> <p>During the Roman occupation and Herod's rule, the Messianic expectation was that God's agent, the anointed one, would come and would deliver the Jews from oppression and establish God's victory over evil. In first-century Palestine, Roman rule and oppression was identified with the reign of evil. The expectation was that the Messiah would be a warlike, political figure.</p> <p>Not all the Jews thought of the Messiah in the same way. Some expected the Messiah to be a human being, a prophet, a warrior king, a leader who would emerge from the line of David (the last great king). Others expected him to be a divine being who would descend from heaven and destroy the enemies of the Jews and lead the righteous to a transformed life in a new kingdom. A new age would begin.</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 1(b) | <p>Explain why the Roman occupation and government at the time of Jesus caused conflict.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>At the time of the birth of Jesus, Judea was under Roman government. It was a client kingdom ruled by the semi-independent Jewish King, Herod the Great. Roman rule was harsh, Pontius Pilate the Roman procurator (governor) had a reputation as a ruthless and cruel governor.</p> <p>Political unrest and religious tensions were fuelled by Roman occupation. There was a Roman garrison built next to the Temple. Flags with Caesar's head on them were flown in the Holy City and this enraged the Jews as they considered it idolatry and there were riots. Pilate raided the Temple treasury for funds for an aqueduct. Emperor worship was not enforced but sacrifices were made for the welfare of the Emperor: all contrary to the Jewish worship of the one God.</p> <p>Although the Sadducees tended to collaborate with Rome, other groups were more antagonistic to Roman rule – the Zealots often engaged in armed combat. The Pharisees kept themselves separate from the Romans and other gentiles. The Pharisees concerned themselves with the religious laws not politics and refused to be influenced by Greek/Roman culture. This division of people led to conflict.</p> <p>The Jews also resented Roman taxation, which is seen in the gospels.</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 1(c) | <p>‘Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 2.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>To agree with the statement: Jesus mainly referred to himself as the Son of Man and did not fully engage when called the Messiah. Jesus talked of God as his Father and frequently remarked that the power invested in him was from God – again, not a direct claim to be the Jewish Messiah.</p> <p>To disagree: if Jesus did not openly declare himself to be the Messiah, he did so by his actions: performing miracles, forgiving sins, making changes, and improving the Jewish laws (which were God given) and accepting worship.</p> <p>Some candidates may explore the idea that Jesus was a different Messiah than the one that was expected by the Jewish people at the time.</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 2(a) | <p>Outline the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness.</p> <p>Mark according to the levels of response for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following in quotation or paraphrase:</p> <p>After his baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights he was hungry.</p> <p>The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'It is written that man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'</p> <p>Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God throw yourself down and God will command his angels to lift you up again.' Jesus said, 'Do not put your Lord God to the test.'</p> <p>Thirdly, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you bow down and worship me. Jesus said, 'Away from me Satan, it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'</p> <p>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 2(b) | <p>Explain why it might be significant that the temptations took place before Jesus began his ministry.</p> <p>Mark according to level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>Jesus' baptism may have clarified certain issues about Jesus' identity and been a clear call to begin God's work, but Jesus needed time and solitude to discover a way to fulfil his mission and to prepare himself.</p> <p>At the end of this time of temptation, Jesus had a clear focus of the type of Messiah he was destined to be:</p> <p>By rejecting the temptation to turn stones into bread, Jesus was refusing to use his power to feed people (who would follow him if he did) or to use his power for his own glory or gratification. By refusing to call on God to protect and save him if he fell, Jesus was rejecting testing God instead of trusting him. By rejecting to worship Satan in return for earthly power over the kingdoms of the world, Jesus reinforced his full allegiance to God.</p> | 6 |
| 2(c) | <p>'The childhood and early life of Jesus are not important to the gospel story.' To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>To agree: Matthew's Gospel is a book written to persuade people that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah and fulfilled prophecy. This is shown through Jesus' ministry, first and foremost, which therefore must be the most important part of the gospel story.</p> <p>To disagree: the birth stories are important because they are the story of the incarnation, the beginning of the bringing of the good news of the promise of salvation and the context for the ministry and death of Jesus (e.g. the choice of gifts of the Magi).</p> <p>Some candidates may examine approaches relating to historicity and whether much can be known about the childhood and early life of Jesus.</p> | 6 |

| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 3(a) | <p>Give an account of the occasion when Jesus healed the paralytic.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following in quotation or paraphrase:</p> <p>Some men brought to Jesus a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart son; your sins are forgiven.’</p> <p>At this, some of the teachers of the Law said to themselves, ‘This fellow is blaspheming!’</p> <p>Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, ‘Why do you entertain such evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven” or to say, “Get up and walk?”</p> <p>‘But so that you may know the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.’ Then he said to the paralytic, ‘Get up, take your mat and go home.’ And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God who had given such authority to men.</p> | 6 |
| 3(b) | <p>Explain what this miracle might show about the person and work of Jesus.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>It might be explained how this healing shows the power of Jesus to perform miracles and forgive sins.</p> <p>Jesus saw people’s character; he immediately recognised the faith of the friends who had brought the man to be healed and the evil thoughts/intentions of the Pharisees. As soon as Jesus saw the man, lying on the mat, he was immediately compassionate for his plight (unlike the teachers of the law) and offered him encouragement. In Jewish belief sin caused sickness. By forgiving his sins, he was also convincing the man he had been healed physically. Forgiveness of sins was an authority reserved only for God.</p> <p>By using the title ‘Son of Man’ Jesus was giving an indication of who he was and that his authority was from God.</p> <p>In Matthew, miracles are linked to the coming of the kingdom, indicating that Jesus is the King (God) who brings in the kingdom (of heaven).</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 3(c) | <p>‘The opposition to Jesus increased because he performed miracles.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 2.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>To agree with the statement: when Jesus performed miracles it upset and created opposition from those who witnessed them. The opposition of the religious authorities increased because they thought he was a blasphemer, and they were in awe of or disbelieved what had occurred. The crowds who witnessed the miracles were often frightened because they did not understand and as with the healing in the Gadarenes, asked him to leave the district.</p> <p>To disagree: Jesus’ teachings were just as much a reason for opposition to him. Also, candidates could argue that the opposition increased not because of Jesus but because of the hard hearts of some of those he encountered.</p> | 6 |

| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 4(a) | <p>Give an account of what happened on the mountain at the Transfiguration.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following in quotation or paraphrase:</p> <p>Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him to a high mountain where he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus.</p> <p>Peter said: ‘Lord it is good to be here. If you wish I will put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’</p> <p>While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him.’</p> <p>When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. but Jesus came and touched them and told them not to be afraid. When they looked up, they saw no one but Jesus.</p> | 6 |

| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 4(b) | <p>Explain what the Transfiguration might teach about the person of Jesus.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>Following Peter’s confession that Jesus was the Messiah, the three disciples were witness to Jesus transformed from his earthly figure into a shining figure to confirm his real identity as a divine figure.</p> <p>Moses and Elijah appeared, two great figures from the Old Testament representing the Law (Torah) and the prophets. The event was confirmation for the disciples and reassurance for Jesus himself that he was the chosen one of God, the Messiah. According to Jewish belief both Moses and Elijah would appear before the Messiah’s coming.</p> <p>The voice from the clouds, the voice of God, as at the baptism, proclaimed, ‘This is my Son’ and told the disciples to listen to Jesus as the divine authority. The indication being that Jesus was greater than either Elijah or Moses.</p> <p>Peter had stated that Jesus was the Messiah and now the voice from heaven was confirming it.</p> <p>The event was so overwhelming that the disciples were terrified but when Jesus reassured them and told them not to be afraid, he was alone and had reverted to his human form.</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 4(c) | <p>‘The main weakness of the disciples was a lack of faith.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 2.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>To agree with the statement: it might be argued that there are numerous occasions in the gospels where the disciples lack faith and examples from the gospel might be used as evidence to support this. Immediately after the Transfiguration, Jesus accused them of having no faith when they could not heal the epileptic boy.</p> <p>To disagree: however, it might be argued that it was not weakness in faith but a failure to understand. They did not fully understand Jesus and in spite of the miracles he performed, the events they witnessed and his teaching, they did not guess at his true identity.</p> <p>Some other arguments might be that the disciples gave up their livelihoods and families to follow Jesus. Peter said, ‘We have left everything to follow you.’ And Jesus promised them reward, ‘a hundred times’. Some might argue that the disciples showed loyalty to Jesus and did their best to learn and understand his teaching. After Jesus’ death they preached the good news.</p> | 6 |

| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 5(a) | <p>Describe what happened in Jesus' parable when the servant whose debt had been cancelled met another servant who owed him money.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following in quotation or paraphrase:</p> <p>When the servant found one of his fellow servants who owed him 100 denarii, he grabbed him and began to choke him and demanded that he paid back what he owed.</p> <p>The fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me and I will pay you back.'</p> <p>But he refused and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay his debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they went and told the master everything.</p> <p>The master called the servant and told him that he had cancelled all his debts and that he should have had mercy on his fellow servant as the master had mercy on him and cancelled all his debt. In anger, the master turned the unmerciful servant over to the jailers and ordered that he should be tortured until he paid the debt.</p> <p>At the end of the parable, Jesus said that this is how the heavenly Father would act 'unless you forgive your brother from your heart.'</p> | 6 |

| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 5(b) | <p>Explain the meaning of this parable.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>Jesus told this parable after Peter asked a question about how many times he should forgive a person who had sinned against him.</p> <p>The parable contains one simple point: Christians should be prepared to forgive others, as they themselves are forgiven by God.</p> <p>When the man begged the King to be patient, the master was merciful and cancelled the debt. However, the man did not treat his fellow servant in the same way. Jesus is teaching the importance of treating others the way we would like to be treated.</p> <p>The King was generous, but he was also just, he ordered the unmerciful servant to be punished. He was prepared to forgive a debt, but he was not prepared to forgive the lack of forgiveness the man had showed in return. Jesus finishes the parable by comparing the way the King treated the man to the way God would treat the unmerciful. Jesus taught that people should act morally in life, not just to receive eternal life with God, but because humans should want to carry out good deeds for their own satisfaction and to help others.</p> <p>Christians believe that Jesus will judge people's behaviour and that they will be punished not only for sinning but also for failing to do good.</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 5(c) | <p>‘Forgiveness is only important to religious people.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 2.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>To agree with the statement: it might be argued that ‘forgiveness’ is a key concept in religion/Christianity and there is a lot in the gospel about needing/asking forgiveness from God. It is in prayers: ‘forgive us our trespasses’, and teaching: ‘forgive one another as I forgive you’. Religious teaching is that humans need to be forgiven for their sins and will be forgiven if they repent. Being forgiven for some Christians is vital to get to heaven.</p> <p>To disagree: the idea of forgiveness is part of every person’s experience and whether people are religious/Christian or not people understand what it means to forgive and be forgiven. People who have committed wrong deeds and are sorry also wish to be forgiven. Being able to forgive is seen as a quality in a person that is to be admired. Forgiving can lead to feeling lighter in yourself. Candidates might illustrate their points with examples.</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 6(a) | <p>Outline Matthew’s account of what happened when the women visited Jesus’ tomb.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following in quotation or paraphrase:</p> <p>After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.</p> <p>There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone, and sat on it.</p> <p>His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.</p> <p>The angel said to the women: ‘Do not be afraid for I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay and then go quickly and tell his disciples he has risen from the dead and is going ahead of them to Galilee.’</p> | 6 |

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| 6(b) | <p>Explain the purpose of Matthew’s resurrection accounts.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 1.</p> <p>Responses might explain some of the following:</p> <p>It might have been Matthew’s purpose to establish the fact of the resurrection of Jesus and also show how it happened, to dispel any suspicion that the body had been stolen by the disciples.</p> <p>The resurrection narrative is dramatic and detailed but short. Guards had been placed on the tomb and the stone at the entrance sealed because the Pharisees were afraid the disciples might steal the body and tell the people Jesus had been raised from the dead.</p> <p>The problem of the stone and the sealed entrance is solved by the appearance of an angel who rolls away the stone. The angel is also a messenger who tells the women that Jesus has been raised from the dead and as further proof shows them that the place where Jesus lay is empty.</p> <p>Then, to reaffirm the fact, Jesus himself appears and gives the women the same message for the disciples. Matthew hints that there is a change in Jesus for the women immediately worship him.</p> <p>To further dispel any doubts or rumours among the early Christians and Jews, Matthew adds to the account that the guards were bribed by the chief priests. They were instructed to say that the disciples came in the night and stole the body while they (the guards) were sleeping.</p> | 6 |

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| Question | Answer | Marks |
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| 6(c) | <p>‘The resurrection is not the most important part of Matthew’s Gospel for Christians today.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered different points of view.</p> <p>Mark according to the level descriptors for Assessment Objective 2.</p> <p>Responses might consider some of the following:</p> <p>To agree with the statement: candidates may argue that Matthew had other purposes as well as the resurrection for writing a gospel. In the early days, the apostles were too busy preaching the good news to have written records, at the time of Matthew the church was expanding rapidly and there was a need for a written record of everything that had happened at the birth, death and during the ministry of Jesus. Some candidates may choose specific areas of the gospel as more important or just as important as the resurrection.</p> <p>To disagree: it might be argued that the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of the Christian faith and the reason for writing the gospel(s). It was the resurrection and the great commission given to the apostles at the ascension that was the beginning of the Christian faith. The good news that they preached was about the miracle of the resurrection.</p> | 8 |