



## Cambridge O Level

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**RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)**

**2048/22**

Paper 2 The portrayal of the birth of the early church

**May/June 2023**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 80

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**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.

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

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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.

**Level descriptors for 2048**

## 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><b>Outline the choosing of Matthias as an apostle, from after Jesus is taken into heaven.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Acts 1:15–26</p> <p>After Jesus had been taken into heaven, Peter stood up among the approximately 120 believers and reminded them that the Holy Spirit had spoken through the Scriptures about Judas and the role he would play.</p> <p>Peter referred to the Psalms and reminded the listeners that another should take his place of leadership. He said that it is therefore necessary to choose one of the men who had been with them the whole time the Lord Jesus had been living among them from John’s baptism to the ascension and this person must be a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.</p> <p>Two men were nominated - Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. They prayed, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go to where he belongs.’</p> <p>They cast lots and the lot fell to Matthias and so he was chosen.</p>	6
1(b)	<p><b>Explain what this incident shows about the role of Peter in the Acts of the Apostles.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>This incident introduces Peter as a clear leader in Acts. He is named first in the list of apostles in the passage that precedes the account and is the only speaker. He unlocks the Scriptures for the believers.</p> <p>Not only is he a leader of the group of apostles but he is also a leader of all the believers. However, as an apostle, it is clear from the passage that his role primarily is to be a witness to the resurrection as one who had known Jesus through every part of his earthly ministry.</p> <p>Peter’s role provides the continuity from Jesus but also provides a continuity from the Old Testament times to the New Testament times. However, it is clear from this passage that this all involves the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and so Peter must be mindful of this in his work.</p> <p>Some candidates might comment on the choice of a new apostle from a group of men and observe that Peter’s role as a man is significant.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
1(c)	<p><b>‘It does not matter who replaced Judas as an apostle.’ 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 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses may include some of the following:</p> <p><b>To agree:</b> Some candidates might argue that the Holy Spirit could have worked through any replacement for Judas. Some might suggest that as long as it was a man who had been in the ministry from the start, they could have been a good witness to the resurrection. They might suggest that this is seen in the fact that the choice is made by the casting of lots.</p> <p><b>To disagree:</b> Some candidates might reject the statement and argue that the Holy Spirit is clearly in control of the situation and the choice is made by prayer and so it matters because it is clear that it is God’s choice. They might suggest that the retelling of an historical incident such as this means that it matter because it is important that we know accurately what happened in the early church.</p> <p>Some candidates might emphasise the fulfilment of Scripture in the story of Judas and suggest that it is more important that people focus on those elements than over an apostle who is not mentioned by name again in the New Testament.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	<p><b>Give an account of the incident involving Ananias and Sapphira.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Acts 5:1–11</p> <p>Ananias, with the full knowledge of his wife Sapphira sold a piece of property and kept back part of the money for himself, bringing the rest to place at the apostles' feet.</p> <p>Peter asked him how Satan had so filled his heart that he has lied to the Holy Spirit and kept for himself some of the money received for the land. Didn't it belong to him before it was sold and wasn't the money at his disposal after? What made him do such a thing? He has lied not only to human beings but to God.</p> <p>Ananias heard this, fell down and died and a great fear seized all who heard about this. Some young men came and wrapped up his body and carried him out and buried him.</p> <p>About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in and Peter asked her if this was the price that she and Ananias got for the land. She said it was.</p> <p>Peter asked how she could conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord. The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door and they will carry you out also. She fell down and died and was taken out by the young men and buried beside her husband.</p> <p>Great fear seized the whole church and others who heard about the events.</p>	<b>6</b>

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	<p><b>Explain what this incident might teach Christians today.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>This incident might show Christians today that God is just as well as loving. Christians cannot simply rely on God to forgive them or rely on the aspects of God that are easy to hear. God knows the secrets of peoples' hearts and they must not lie to him.</p> <p>Some Christians might learn from this that the church has the authority to judge and punish Christians who need it.</p> <p>Some candidates might discuss the fact that Peter gave Ananias's wife the opportunity to tell the truth for herself and the fact that this shows fairness but also that we are punished for our own sins and not the sins of others.</p> <p>Some might speak about the power of God being shown in different ways. Others might mention the fact that in the early church, the community shared its wealth and not just its time, something which has been lost by most Christians today.</p>	6
2(c)	<p><b>'Stories about tensions in the early church should not have been included in the Acts of the Apostles.'</b> <b>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 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p><b>To agree:</b> Some candidates might argue that the purpose of Acts is to evangelise and be a book of theology. Stories about tension such as this or the council of Jerusalem or disagreements between Paul and Barnabas do not portray the church in a good light and should not have been included. It will not help a new believer to know that the apostles struck someone down dead, for example.</p> <p><b>To disagree:</b> Some candidates may argue that Acts is an historical account and so it is valid to include this material. It shows the church as a human attempt to continue the work of Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Candidates might compare these stories with other types of story in Acts (speeches, miracles etc.) and suggest which forms of writing are important, or that they are equally important.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	<p><b>Describe what happened after Peter had escaped from prison in Jerusalem and the angel had left him.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Acts 12:11–17</p> <p>Peter came to and said that he now knew that the Lord sent his angel and rescued him from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping for. At this he went to the house of Mary, mother of John Mark where many had gathered and were praying.</p> <p>He knocked on the door and Rhoda the servant-girl came to answer the door. She recognised Peter’s voice and was so happy that she did not open the door and ran back to exclaim: ‘Peter is at the door!’</p> <p>They thought she was out of her mind and when she kept insisting that it was him, they decided it must be his angel.</p> <p>Peter kept knocking and they opened the door and saw him and were astonished. He motioned for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had delivered him from prison. He instructed them to tell James and the other brothers and sisters about it and then left for another place.</p>	6
3(b)	<p><b>Explain the role of Herod in the Acts of the Apostles.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>In Acts, Herod is symbolic of the Jewish persecution of the early church. His character shows that opposition to Christians came from the top and was also violent (e.g. in the murder of James, brother of John). The extremity of his violence (e.g. the execution of the guards on duty when Peter escaped) is also significant.</p> <p>Acts also portrays Herod as a contrast to the right judgement of God. At his death, he is struck down by God because despite dressing up in royal robes, he does not give praise to God when he is acclaimed as a god.</p> <p>Some candidates might suggest that Herod plays a role in Acts of someone through whom the work of God can be shown. Because of his actions, Peter is thrown into jail and escapes and God’s power is demonstrated.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
3(c)	<p><b>‘All Christians should believe in angels.’</b>  <b>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 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses may include some of the following:</p> <p><b>To agree:</b> Angels are well-attested throughout the Bible, including in the Gospels and Acts and so there is sufficient reason for Christians to believe in angels. The passage in this question demonstrates that the early church believed in them. It is also reasonable that God would have a method such as this of communicating with his people.</p> <p><b>To disagree:</b> There seems to be little evidence of angels in modern times and many Christians do not believe in angels while accepting the remainder of the Christian message. Some Christians might argue that the idea of there being angelic beings is in itself nonsense.</p> <p>Some candidates might explore the idea that angels were a tool used by God in Biblical times to communicate his message, but they are not part of modern life.</p>	<b>8</b>

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	<p><b>Describe what happened when Paul and Silas were in prison, from when they were seized until the jailer woke up.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Acts 16:19–27</p> <p>The owners of the female slave girl realised that their hope of making money was gone so they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them to the marketplace to face the authorities. They brought them to the magistrates saying, ‘These men are Jews and are throwing our city into uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practise.’</p> <p>The crowd joined in and so the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. They were severely flogged and thrown into prison and the jailer was instructed to guard them carefully, so he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.</p> <p>About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening. There was a violent earthquake, and the foundations of the prison were shaken. The prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up.</p>	6
4(b)	<p><b>Explain the importance of Silas in the Acts of the Apostles.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Silas was Paul’s companion on the second missionary journey. He was a leader in the church and as a companion of Paul would have provided support and further credibility to Paul’s work especially as part of their work was about communicating the decision of the Council of Jerusalem.</p> <p>Silas was a Roman citizen as well and so would have been a good choice of companion for Paul in this particular missionary journey.</p> <p>They faced considerable opposition together and Silas stayed with Timothy in Berea, showing the success of Paul’s work. When they returned to Paul, it allowed Paul to focus on preaching, suggesting other aspects of leadership were part of Silas’s role.</p> <p>Some candidates might explore the importance of Paul’s companions in general as part of their answer and this is a valid approach. They might say that good witnesses came in pairs and different companions brought different skills to the missionary work.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
4(c)	<p><b>‘The mission of the early church succeeded only because of the apostles.’ To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</b></p> <p>Mark according to the AO2 levels of response.</p> <p>Response might include some of the following:</p> <p><b>To agree:</b> Candidates might suggest that it was the apostles’ leadership which ensured that the church spread, and the message of the resurrection was heard by so many and accepted so widely. Examples of events might be used to develop the argument.</p> <p><b>To disagree:</b> Candidates might argue that it was a ‘team effort’ and the work of other leaders in the church, such as Paul’s companions, or the Seven should be seen as equally important. They might also suggest that it was the Holy Spirit that made the mission a success rather than the apostles.</p> <p>Candidates could also argue that the success of the church’s mission mainly came from Paul (or Peter and Paul), rather than the apostles in general and use the evidence from Acts to back this up.</p>	<b>8</b>

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	<p><b>Outline what Paul says about himself in his farewell to the Ephesian elders.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Acts 20:17–35</p> <p>Paul reminds his audience about his lifestyle while he was with them - serving the Lord with great humility and tears despite severe testing by Jewish opponents. He reminds them that he has not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful and that he has preached both in public and from house to house. He has declared to both Jews and gentiles that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in the Lord Jesus.</p> <p>He then says that he has been compelled by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem and he is not sure what will happen to him there - but he knows that hardships are on their way. He considers his life worth nothing and he knows he needs to finish the race and the task he has been given (the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace).</p> <p>He then says that none of them will see him again. He has not hesitated to proclaim the whole will of God - over the course of three years. He has never coveted anyone's silver or gold, or clothing and he has shown that it is by hard work that we must help the weak.</p>	6
5(b)	<p><b>Explain how this farewell was different to other speeches Paul made in the Acts of the Apostles.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>In most speeches in Acts, Paul is trying to convert or persuade, and this speech is made to believers with whom Paul has spent a lot of time.</p> <p>As such, the speech is predominantly about him and how his lifestyle has been an example to them rather than about God, or the history of the faith through the Old Testament or about Jesus's life and resurrection.</p> <p>This speech is about encouraging a group of followers in their role as shepherds of the church and is very specific, whereas other speeches tend to be more general and about the overall message of Christianity.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
5(c)	<p><b>‘Paul only ever did what God asked of him.’</b>  <b>To what extent do you agree? Show in your answer that you have considered more than one point of view.</b></p> <p>Mark according to the AO2 levels of response.</p> <p>Answer might include some of the following:</p> <p><b>To agree:</b> Candidates might give examples of Paul’s work and how it shows the Holy Spirit guiding his life. They might refer to the farewell in Ephesus or to the fact that he was prepared to be beaten and imprisoned for God. They might mention his vision and conversion experience.</p> <p><b>To disagree:</b> Candidates might suggest that Paul’s faithfulness to God only started when he was converted and so he did not <u>only</u> do what God asked of him. They might argue that events such as the disagreement with Barnabas, for example, cannot have come from God.</p> <p>Some candidates might argue that heading towards his death was his choice and not God’s and he could have done a lot more good had he stayed alive.</p>	8

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	<p><b>Outline the early church’s strategy in its mission to the Gentiles.</b></p> <p>Mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Some might focus on the aspects of the missionary journeys - that the word was preached wider and wider with a local house church planted in each place.</p> <p>Others might explore the role of preaching / speeches and how they brought together key messages and salvation history in their presentation to their audiences.</p> <p>Some might mention the miracles performed and how they helped to show the power of God at work in the church.</p> <p>Some might discuss how the mission to the Gentiles varied according to the situation with responses to local issues forming a key part of the ministry.</p>	6
6(b)	<p><b>Explain what Christians today might learn from the missionary work of the early church.</b></p> <p>Examiners should mark according to the AO1 levels of response.</p> <p>Responses might include some of the following:</p> <p>Some candidates might pick up on the points raised in <b>part (a)</b> and explore the relevance of these approaches to the church today, while others might address the question in more general terms.</p> <p>Christians today might be inspired by the boldness of the early church as well as the faithfulness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This might lead them to preach in difficult areas in the world and examples may be offered of this.</p> <p>Some might feel that the quality of preaching today needs inspiration from the stories in Acts.</p> <p>Some might like the idea of the structure in the early church being used in Christianity today – small groups of people being sent out.</p>	6

Question	Answer	Marks
6(c)	<p><b>‘The mission to the Gentiles divided the early church.’</b>  <b>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 levels of response.</p> <p>Answer might include some of the following:</p> <p><b>To agree:</b> Candidates might point to the Council of Jerusalem and the internal debates in the church. They might observe that different leaders within the church had different views on the priority of the mission to the Gentiles and even during the mission, there were further disagreements (e.g. Paul and Barnabas).</p> <p><b>To disagree:</b> Some candidates might suggest that while there were disagreements about events, fundamentally, once a decision was made, the church was united. There is no real sense of disunity in Acts and the church clearly backed up Paul’s work.</p> <p>Some candidates might suggest that as the church was following the lead of the Holy Spirit, disunity was not really possible.</p>	<b>8</b>