

**EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF
ESWATINI**

JC

EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

YEAR

2021

JC Religious Education

Paper 533/02

General Comments

The overall performance of the candidates was fair. The paper assessed all three domains (knowledge, understanding and interpretation and evaluation) of the subject. A majority of the candidates were able to access it as they could understand the language used. Religious Education educators are greatly commended for their selfless dedication and effort in guiding, shaping and equipping the candidates with all the necessary skills entailed in the subject. The performance of the candidates ranged from 0 to 58 out of 60 marks.

Candidates managed the time allocated to the paper quite well. Rubric errors were very minimal, instructions were followed, and all aspects of each question were answered. Most candidates were able to answer questions in English although a few opted to use Siswati words, for example, 'emalwimi', 'khesaru', 'gibhithe', 'pilatu'. Others used slang, for example, 'wanna' instead of 'wants to', 'gonna' instead of 'going to', 'ur' instead of 'your', 'skul' instead of 'school' and 'lyfe' instead of 'life'. Short messages with cellphone numbers were also noted where candidates were pleading for favors from examiners in return for money; something that is strictly prohibited.

Candidates made use of the spaces provided by giving specific answers with a few exceptions of those who wrote outside the spaces provided in the question paper. It was evident from the candidates' responses that they made use of the Revised Standard Version Bible and their prescribed text as points of reference. Worth mentioning, however, is that some candidates did not bother to attempt the questions at all but simply wrote their names and candidates numbers only.

Examiners noted a significant improvement in the answering of all the parts of each question. Most candidates used continuous writing although a few used bullets. It was noted that some candidates demonstrated lack interpretation skills. In addition, some candidates were unable to give both sides of the argument in the evaluation questions.

Educators are encouraged not to only teach the biblical accounts but also assist candidates with characterization, lessons learnt, moral lessons and significances from the accounts. Educators are also encouraged to emphasize to candidates the importance of giving responses based on Christian aspects and avoid giving general responses in all the topics. Educators are also encouraged to explain the command words in the syllabus and to emphasize on the difference between God and Jesus as the candidates tended to use these words interchangeably.

Comments on Specific Questions

Question 1

The candidates' performance question was below average.

(a) (i) Narrate the conversation that the Scribes and Chief Priests had with Jesus. [4]

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates made no attempt to respond to the question which demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the conversation that the Scribes and Chief Priests had with Jesus.

Common wrong responses

The cleansing of the Temple, the Question on Jesus' Authority and the Parable of the Lost Coin.

Expected response

'Teacher, we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God; Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar or not? Jesus answered show me a coin, whose likeness and inscription has it? They said Caesar; he said render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God'

(ii) How did the Scribes and Chief Priests trap Jesus by asking Him the question? [2]

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates did not understand the word 'trap'. Other candidates continued to narrate the story about the Question of Paying Taxes to Caesar.

Expected response

If Jesus said no, they would charge Him for treason; if He said yes, they would charge Him for disloyalty to the Jewish nation and He would lose His following.

(b) (i) Explain why Pilate sentenced Jesus to crucifixion. [1]

This part of the question was fairly done.

Expected response

He was pressured by the crowds; crowds said He claimed to be king of the Jews.

(ii) What do we learn about Pilate from the trials of Jesus? [4]

The candidates' performance in this question was not impressive. Most candidates lacked the skill of characterization. Such candidates gave the role of Pilate in the trials without identifying his character. Others gave lessons drawn from the trials as well as Jesus' character. Some candidates had no knowledge of Pilate.

Expected responses

Pilate was morally weak; could not stand for the truth; concerned about himself only and his future.

- (c) If you were Pilate would you have sentenced Jesus to death knowing that He was not guilty? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [4]**

This part of the question fairly done. Most candidates could not provide evidence to substantiate why Jesus was not guilty hence they could not get full marks. Some candidates failed to assume the role of Pilate and tended to refer to Pilate in the third person. Other candidates used Jesus' role to justify why Pilate would not sentence Jesus forgetting that Pilate was a Roman governor who was unaware of Jewish religion.

Common incorrect responses

such as, 'Jesus came to die for people's sins'.

Expected responses

YES: A charge of treason was a death sentence; Jesus did little to defend Himself against the charges; I was trying to please the people for favors in future.

NO: because Jesus was not guilty; to uphold my integrity as a morally upright leader; cross examination from Herod back me up (Herod who found him not guilty as well).

Question 2

This question was fairly done.

- (a) (i) Narrate what happened when Moses saw a burning bush. [4]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates demonstrated knowledge of the account of the burning bush even though they could not get full marks because they omitted one important aspect of the answer where God introduced Himself to Moses.

Expected response

Moses saw a burning bush that was not consumed (at Mount Horeb); he turned aside to see why the bush was not consumed; God called to him out of the bush; God told him not to come near but to put off his shoes for he was standing on holy ground; God introduced himself; God appointed to free the Israelites Moses.

- (ii) Give one of Moses' excuses to God's call and the response God gave. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to identify the excuses but they could not pair them with the correct responses hence they could not score maximum marks. The

Expected responses

Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt- I will be with you,

If the people of Israel ask me the name of my God, what should my response be- I Am Who I Am;

But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, they will say, 'The Lord did not appear to you- what is in your hand;

(Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either heretofore or since thou hast spoken to thy servant; but I am slow of speech and of tongue-I will send Aaron with you.)

(b) (i) Explain why God hardened Pharaoh's heart. [1]

Most candidates gave wrong responses such as, God wanted to punish Pharaoh; to test the faith of Moses; Pharaoh did not want to let the Israelites go.

Expected response

So that He could perform signs and wonders/demonstrate His power.

(ii) What can we draw about Pharaoh's character from the ten plagues? [4]

This part of the question was fairly done. Candidates who failed to attain high level marks brought Pharaoh's actions during the ten plagues without showing Pharaoh's character as demanded by the question.

Expected responses

He was stubborn; Heartless/evil; Selfish; Did not fear God; Relied on magic and people than God.

(c) God sometimes gives us difficult tasks to achieve. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [4]

This question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to give both sides of the argument. Others gave general responses which were not substantiated with examples from the Bible.

Expected response

Yes, I think God sometimes gives us difficult tasks to achieve because He wants to test our faith like He did with Moses. God told him to command Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go while He hardened Pharaoh's heart making him refuse to obey the command. /YES: Cite Moses' challenges; Abraham was moved from comfort zone; Jesus faced opposition in His ministry;

Others may say, No, God does not because the Bible tells us the He will never give us a burden beyond our power. Therefore, God knew that Moses would succeed. /No Through faith in God; nothing is impossible; People can do all things through Christ; As God was with Moses; He is always there to help us achieve; God does not give tasks beyond our ability; God's grace is always sufficient for us in all situations.

Question 3

This question was fairly done.

(a) (i) Give an account of the calming of the storm. [4]

This part of the question was fairly done. A majority of the candidates were able to give the correct account of the calming of the storm. Those who did not know the correct account instead narrated the story of the Great Flood and the story of Jesus Walking on Water with a few candidates giving the significance of the calming of the storm.

Expected response

Jesus was with his disciples in a boat crossing over to the other side; a storm arose while Jesus was sleeping; the disciples woke Him up asking if He did not care that they were perishing; Jesus rebuked the storm saying peace be still; the wind stopped.

(ii) State the disciples' reaction after Jesus calmed the storm. [2]

This part of the question was well done. Most candidates gave the expected reaction with a few candidates though failing to understand the term 'reaction'. Some incorrect responses given were, 'they were happy', 'they praised Jesus for the job well done'.

Expected response

They were filled with awe; they talked to one another; they wondered who Jesus was that even the wind and sea obeyed Him.

(b) (i) "... Teacher do you not care if we perish?" (Mark 4: 38)

What do we learn about the Apostles in the miracle of the calming of the storm? [1]

This part of the question was well done. A majority of the candidates gave correct responses although some candidates giving moral lessons instead of giving the character of the Apostles as demanded by the question.

Expected response

They were easily frightened; They had no / little faith.

(ii) Explain two moral lessons from the miracle of the calming of the storm. [4]

Most candidates had no knowledge of a moral lesson. The question demanded candidates to say how this story has influenced and made an impact on their individual behavior in everyday life. Other candidates tended to give the significance of the miracle.

Expected responses

We are going to face challenges in life; do not panic if Jesus is silent; Cry out for help; always have faith in God; God often uses storms of life to draw us closer to Him; In life, storms come even if we are doing God's will.

(c) Do you think that sometimes God does not care when we go through challenges of life? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [4]

Most candidates could not identify the challenge which they would use as evidence of whether God cares or does not care.

Expected response

Yes, I think sometimes God does not care when we go through challenges of life because some people pray and He delays to answer their prayers. Jesus delayed coming to the aid of his Apostles who were in danger of drowning. /YES: sometimes we feel like answers to our prayers have been delayed; sometimes it appears like God is silent when we are going through challenges; sometimes God allows the painful experiences in our lives.

Others may say, no, God cares because He is always with us. He will never allow anything bad to happen to us for He has good plans for us. /NO: God always responds when we call for help; sometimes people have no/little faith; sometimes we are not patient; sometimes we do not believe everything will work out for our good.

Question 4

This question was well done.

- (a) (i) Describe two Christian teachings on suicide. [4]**

This part of question was well done by most candidates.

Expected responses

Life is sacred; Life belongs to God; Only God has the right to take life; Taking life is a sin; Life is a gift from God; Suicide is similar to murder.

- (ii) Mention two people you would consult if you felt suicidal. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done.

Common incorrect responses

I would consult a mental health hospital, Judas Iscariot, neighbour, someone you trust, family members. The expected responses were: Church leader; teacher; parent or a professional (police, counselors / psychologists).

- (b) (i) "You shall not kill" Exodus 20: 13. Explain one reason why we should help people who are suicidal? [1]**

This part of the question was well done. Most candidates were able to give correct responses. The expected responses were: It is a commandment from God that we have no right to take life. Taking life is a sin.

- (ii) Explain practical Christian actions a person can take to deal with suicidal thoughts. [4]**

Most candidates were able to identify the practical actions to be taken. However, they could not explain how those practical actions could help the suicidal.

Expected responses

The person can pray to God for deliverance; can read scripture about the sanctity of life; report challenges to someone in authority (Church leader, teacher, parent or a professional (police, counselors / psychologists); associate / spend time with fellow Christians.

- (c) Do you think Judas Iscariot was justified to take away his life? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [4]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Candidates who failed to attain top level marks were those who did not know why Judas Iscariot committed suicide. Other candidates referred to Peter's denial in their arguments. A few candidates did not understand the term 'justified' hence they could not accurately respond to the question.

Expected responses

YES: He felt condemned because he betrayed an innocent friend; he was afraid that other disciple might kill him. NO: He did not have a right to take away life; God was going to forgive him; there is always a way even when we have done wrong.