



GCSE

Religious Studies B

8063/2B Paper 2 Section B: Perspectives on faith (textual studies)

Report on the Examination

8063
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General Comments

It was obvious that centres had their students well prepared for the examination this year. There were some excellent responses to the AO2 evaluation questions which showed that students had the ability to apply what they have learned. Many responses showed a good knowledge and understanding of the set texts. Handwriting was also very good this year.

The paper appeared to be accessible to a wide ability range as most students attempted all questions. However, weaker responses showed that students did not understand the question or lacked knowledge of the set texts. Some good responses to the five-mark questions failed to give a source of authority thus lost out on the fifth mark. Centres need to make students aware that there has to be an attribution of the source of authority, not just give a quotation, eg 'St Mark tells us...' / 'the Bible says...' / 'Jesus taught us...' or the source of the quotation needs to be put in brackets eg 'The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these' (Mark).

Theme D: St Mark's Gospel – The life of Jesus

1.1

The question asked for the title which reminds Christians that Jesus came 'not to be served but to serve'. Most students correctly ticked C- Son of Man.

1.2

This question testing knowledge and understanding of Jesus' instructions to the disciples at the feeding of the five thousand was generally well answered with two correct statements given.

1.3

This question was generally well answered with many students achieving 4 marks. Popular responses referred to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem revealing his identity as the Messiah / King or how Jesus was welcomed by the crowds as the Messiah. Others pointed out that there was a difference between the traditional view of the Messiah / King the Jews expected and the type of Messiah Jesus was portraying. A contrasting view which centres are obviously teaching is that atheists don't believe in God, so it did not happen. It is important to point out that just because atheists don't believe in God, it doesn't mean that the story did not happen.

1.4

This question about the importance of Mark's account of the Last Supper was generally well answered. Many students knew this set text very well and achieved 5 marks. Many responses explained that the Last Supper helps Christians to understand the history behind the Eucharist. Others explained that the Eucharist was instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper or when Christians receive the Eucharist, they receive spiritual strength to be faithful disciples in their daily lives. Some credit was given to responses which stated that for some Christian rituals distract from the focus on God.

Where some students gave two detailed Christian beliefs about the importance of the Last Supper but failed to include a relevant and accurate reference to St Mark's Gospel (source) they were unable to

achieve the fifth mark. Credit was not given for the washing of the disciples' feet or the passion predictions.

1.5

Many students gave well-argued Level 4 responses, explaining clearly that the only important teaching from Mark's account of the healing of the paralysed man is about Jesus' authority. These responses were well supported with references to Mark's account of the paralysed man.

Strong arguments were clearly made in support of other views eg the miracle story also teaches about the important of faith. These responses were also well supported with references to Mark's account of the paralysed man.

Conclusions reached explained how Jesus' authority is supported by his actions and his teachings and how all his teachings in this miracle story are equally important and significant. Level 3 showed reasoned consideration of different points of view but lacked the development needed to reach level 4. Many level 2 responses were often one sided. There was a maximum of Level 2 awarded if there was no reference to religion.

Credit was only given where references were made to Mark's account of the paralysed man and not where students wrote about Jesus' authority to perform miracles or to mix with outcasts in other stories in Mark's Gospel eg Jairus' daughter / the woman with the haemorrhage / the call of Levi, etc.

Theme E: St Mark's Gospel as a source of spiritual truth

2.1

The question asked students to identify the story which showed Jesus taking care of those disregarded by society. Most students correctly ticked B The man with leprosy.

2.2

This question asking for 'two things Jesus said when he heard that the disciples were unable to hear the epileptic boy' was generally well answered with two correct statements given. Credit was not given to references to what the boy's father said. A few did not know this set text and left the question unanswered.

2.3

This question was generally well answered with many responses achieving 4 marks. Many students were able to explain how Christians today can follow the example of the disciples in Mark's account of the mission of the twelve eg the disciples were instructed to take little with them on their mission (no extra shirt, no bread etc.). Others explained that Christians today would find it very difficult to follow the example of the twelve on their mission.

Some students referred to what the disciples did in the mission of the twelve but did not relate this to what Christians do today to be like them and lost marks.

2.4

Many responses achieved 5 marks. Students were able to explain two teachings about faith shown in Mark's account of the woman with the haemorrhage. Some students did give two detailed teachings about faith but failed to include a relevant and accurate reference to St Mark's Gospel (source) thus missing out on the fifth mark.

2.5

The question asked students to evaluate the statement: 'Christians should sell what they have and give to the poor'. Many students gave well-argued Level 4 responses which showed consideration of different points of view supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information and clear references to religion throughout. A popular reference was made to what Jesus asked the rich man to do. Others explained that Jesus was critical of those who allowed riches to become a barrier to their beliefs or explained that Christians believe that the privilege of wealth brings responsibility. These responses were well supported with references to Mark's Gospel.

Strong arguments were clearly made in support of other views with some good examples including, people are encouraged to save for the future, meeting the needs of others less well-off is part of Jesus' teaching and being rich enables Christians to be role models for charity. Some credit was given where some responses disagreed with the statement and gave examples of other things Christians can do eg obeying the commandments, 'loving God, 'loving your neighbour', etc. These responses were also well supported with references to Mark's Gospel.

Conclusions reached explained that being rich is not the problem, it is how you achieve your riches and what you do with them that is important.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.