

EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI

JC

EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

YEAR

2020

JC EXAMINATION REPORT

FOR 2020

JC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Paper 533/02

General Comments

The overall performance of the candidates was fair. The paper was fair as it 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 teachers are greatly commended for their dedication and effort in guiding, shaping and equipping the learners with all the necessary skills entailed in the subject. This syllabus was written for the third time and the performance of the candidates ranged from 0 to 53 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. However, there was some exception to the candidates who still use bullets when answering. Some candidates used slang and siSwati words or language. Candidates should be discouraged from using unacceptable language, writing unpalatable messages and leaving their cellphone numbers for the examiners. 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. However, it was noted that a lot of questions were left unanswered or unattended by the candidates.

It was evident from the candidates' responses that they used the Revised Standard Version Bible and their prescribed text as points of reference. The markers noted a significant improvement in the answering of all the parts of each question. However, a few candidates tended to list their points and showed the lack of skill of describing. Teachers are encouraged to help learners to use continuous writing when answering. For the understanding and interpretation questions, a majority of the candidates demonstrated a lack of the skill in such questions. On evaluation questions, a few candidates were unable to respond to both sides of the evaluation question. Candidates should be encouraged to respond to both sides of an argument and then take a stand.

Candidates should realise that emphasis is on the importance of Christian aspects and therefore they should avoid the general teachings or advise in all the topics. Teachers are encouraged to use the teaching syllabus concurrently with the examination syllabus to avoid situations where the learners are disadvantaged when attempting questions. Teachers are also encouraged to advise learners to read the Biblical stories (verses) that are recommended in the topics of the syllabus.

Comments on Specific Questions

Question 1

The question was fairly done.

- (a) (i) **Describe the qualities of the animal whose blood was to be put on the two doorpost and lintels as shown in the source.** [4]

This question was well done. Most candidates gave the expected response with a few candidates showing little or no knowledge of the animal which was used during the Passover. Incorrect responses given were; donkey, dove. **The expected response** was: one year old male (lamb, sheep or goat) without blemish or defects.

- (ii) **What does the Passover celebration remind the ancient and modern Jews about?**

[1]

This question was not well done. Most candidates gave incorrect responses such as, 'bread represents Jesus body', 'it reminds us about crucifixion', 'it reminds us about resurrection'. **The expected response** was: their freedom from slavery in Egypt.

- (b) **God commanded the Israelites to keep the Passover festival by removing leaven (such as yeast) out of their homes for seven days.**

- (i) **What does leaven mean according to Jesus?**

[1]

This question was not well done. Most candidates thought of leaven as a cooking or baking agent and therefore failed to comprehend the Biblical meaning of leaven according to Jesus. Common incorrect responses included, 'raising agent for baking', 'something that is used to ferment'. **The expected responses** were: false teaching; hypocrisy; impure life; sin.

- (ii) **Explain clearly what can be learnt about God from the incident of the Passover.**

[4]

This question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to identify the qualities of God which were appropriate to the question but failed to validate their responses using the incident of the Passover. An example of a top level response was, 'God is faithful because he kept his word that he would kill all the first-born male children at any home that did not have the blood of the lamb on the doorposts'. **The expected responses** were: God is loving and caring (protected his own people from being killed and freed them); God is sovereign; God is faithful to his promises.

- (c) **With reference to the Passover do you think Christians should celebrate it?**

Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view.

[4]

Generally, this question was not well done. A majority of the candidates failed to recognize the connection between the Passover and the Eucharist. These candidates ended up presenting a one-sided argument or no argument at all. A top level response was, Yes, I think the Christians should celebrate the Passover because Christianity has its roots in Judaism, they are obliged to take part because Jesus partook of it. However, others may say, the Passover is a festival that was made for the Jews and not Christians. **The expected responses** were: YES: it is a link to the last supper that Christians celebrate; it is a fulfilment of the sacrificial death of Christ as he had promised for cleansing of sins for humanity. NO: it was meant only for Jews; it has no meaning to Christians.

Question 2

The question was poorly done.

- (a) **"Doubtless you will quote me this proverb, 'physician, heal yourself, what we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here also in your own country'".**

- (i) **Outline the portion of scripture Jesus had just read**

[4]

This question was poorly done. A majority of the candidates could not recall the portion of scripture required by the question. Some candidates outlined the crucifixion of Jesus while other candidates narrated the story of the healing of the centurion's servant. **The expected response** was, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach

good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

- (ii) **Mention the person whom this portion of scripture was referring to.** [1]

This question was poorly done. Most candidates were unable to give the expected response because they lacked knowledge of the portion of scripture referred to in the question above. They gave responses such as, the Jews, the Pharisees, Simon Peter
The expected response was: Jesus Christ

- (b) (i) **Explain the reactions of the crowd when Jesus was in the synagogue at Nazareth.** [4]

This question was not well done. Most candidates were only able to identify the reactions without explaining the cause of their reactions hence they could not score full marks. Most candidates demonstrated their unfamiliarity with the context that took place in the synagogue at Nazareth. Other candidates gave responses that referred to the reactions during Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. A few candidates referred to the reactions of the crowd during Jesus’ trial. **The expected responses** were: (They looked at him) they were impressed with Jesus’ understanding of the scripture; (they wondered aloud saying), is not this Joseph’s son? They doubted that Jesus could be the Messiah; (they were filled with anger) God sometimes chose gentiles over Jews

- (ii) **What did Jesus imply when he quoted the story of Elijah being sent to Zeraphath and many Lepers in Israel in the time of Prophet Elisha?** [2]

This question was not well done. Most candidates gave irrelevant responses such as: Jesus will heal lepers. **Expected responses** were: He was not surprised that they were rejecting him; their forefathers as well rejected God’s prophets (by persecuting them) hence they were only accepted by Gentiles; God sometimes chose gentiles over the Jews; universalism of the Gospel.

- (c) **“Is not this Joseph’s son?” Do you think Jesus’ audience was justified to ask this question? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view.** [4]

This question was poorly done. A majority of the candidates presented an argument which ignored the Messiahship part which was demanded by the question. As a result, most candidates gave a one-sided argument. An example of such an argument was, ‘Yes, I think, Jesus’ audience was justified to ask this question because they knew him as Joseph, the carpenter’s, son’. They also gave an argument such as, ‘No, I think, Jesus’ audience was not justified to ask this question because this was truly Joseph’s son since Joseph was married to Mary’. A top level response was: Yes, I think, Jesus’ audience was justified to ask this question because they wanted to know who Jesus really was. They were confused whether he was the son of God or the son of Joseph. However, others may say, they were not justified because they had been anticipating the arrival of the Messiah. It was unprecedented of them not to accept him when he claimed to be Him. **The expected responses** were: YES: they did not think that Jesus was the Messiah since they knew him the son of the carpenter Joseph; they expected a political Messiah NO: since the audience was Jewish they were supposed to know that the Old Testament prophecy about the Messiah was being fulfilled; Jesus’ Messiahship had already been confirmed during his baptism.

Question 3

The question was fairly done.

- (a) (i) **State what God said to Samuel when he looked at Eliab and thought surely the Lord's anointed is before him?** [4]

This question was fairly done. However, some candidates mistook David's anointing for Saul and Samuel's anointing. Other candidates had no idea of the anointing at all.

The expected response was: do not look at appearance or height or stature; I have rejected him; I don't look at outward appearance (like man does); I look at the heart.

- (ii) **Who asked Samuel if he was coming in peace in the city of Bethlehem?** [2]

This question was poorly done. Most candidates brought responses such as, Jesse; Saul; Eliab. **The expected response** was: Elders of the city

- (b) (i) **What happened immediately after Samuel had anointed David?** [1]

This question was poorly done. A majority of the candidates brought responses such as, 'the brothers were jealous of David', 'his brothers wanted to kill him', 'David celebrated'. A few candidates referred to Jesus' baptism, 'the heavens were opened and a voice said this is my son'. **The expected response** was: the Spirit of the Lord was upon him or took control of him or came mightily upon him.

- (ii) **Suggest lessons that can be learnt from the life of David.** [4]

This question was fairly done. However, some candidates gave David's character, for example, 'David was humble', 'David was brave'. Some candidates were able to draw lessons from the life of David but failed to substantiate or support the lessons they gave with the life of David. For example, 'faith pleases God', 'living a righteous life has a reward'. An example of a top level response given was, 'Having faith and trust in God makes one succeed in life'- David was able to defeat Goliath because he had faith and trust in the Lord. **The expected responses** were: be repentant; be brave; have faith and trust in the Lord; be obedient; God forgives sin

- (c) **With reference to the incident of David's anointing, do you think Jesse loved his son David? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view.** [4]

This question was fairly done. Some candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding of David's anointing. Others confused Jesse to Jesus. A few candidates referred to Jesse as David's mother. Incorrect responses given were, 'Jesus loves everyone', 'no one hates her son she gave birth to'. A top level response given was, No, I don't think Jesse loved David because he had been told to bring all his sons yet he forgot about his existence during the sacrifice. **The expected responses** were: YES: Jesse allowed David to be anointed as king by Samuel; Jesse entrusted him with his sheep. NO: did not invite him to the sacrifice; Jesse made him a shepherd in the fields hoping that a bear or lion might kill him.

Question 4

The question was fairly done.

- (a) (i) **Describe how the son of the widow of Nain was raised.** [4]

This question was fairly done. However, some candidates showed a lack of knowledge of the story of the raising of the son of the widow of Nain. Other candidates could not describe the 'how' part of the question which was essential to achieve top level marks. A few candidates confused this miracle with the raising of Jairus's daughter and the healing of the centurion's servant. **The expected responses** were, at Nain, Jesus met a funeral procession where the only son of a widow had died; Jesus had compassion for the widow and said, "do not weep"; touched the bier and bearers stood still; Jesus said "young man, I say to you, arise"; the dead man sat up and began to speak.

- (ii) **Explain what drove Jesus to perform this miracle.** [2]

This question was fairly done. Some candidates did not understand the word 'drove' and therefore could not deduce the feeling that compelled Jesus to perform this miracle. Other candidates gave responses such as, compassion or pity without explaining why the emotion caused Jesus to raise the widow's son. **The expected responses** were: compassion for a weeping widow who had lost her only son.

- (b) **'Do not weep! (Luke 7: 13)**

- (i) **What is your understanding of these words by Jesus to the woman?** [1]

This question was poorly done. Most candidates demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the given verse and therefore they gave responses that referred to stories that had to do with weeping such as the sinful woman. Other candidates gave a synonym of the word weep and gave a response such as, 'do not cry'. **The expected responses** were: giving her hope; comforting the widow; showing that he was loving and compassionate.

- (ii) **What do we learn about Jesus from this miracle?** [4]

This question was fairly done. Some candidates however, only gave general attributes of Jesus which were not in relation to this miracle. They gave responses such as, 'Jesus forgives sins', 'Jesus heals diseases'. Other candidates were able to identify the attributes of Jesus as required by the question but they failed to support their responses using examples from this miracle. An example of a top level response was, 'Jesus has compassion- Jesus was touched when he saw the widow and raised her only son from death'. 'Jesus has power over death- He was able to bring back the widow's son from the dead'. **The expected responses** were: Jesus has power over death; Jesus is compassionate; Jesus has got authority. He commanded the widow's son to arise and he immediately came to life.

- (c) **Do you think the miracles performed in the churches today are real? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view.** [4]

This question was generally well done as most candidates were able to respond to both sides of the argument. A few candidates failed to take a stand on their arguments which put them at a disadvantage of achieving the top level marks. **The expected responses** were: YES: God has given Christians the power to perform miracles through the Holy Spirit; the miracles are performed in the name of Jesus. NO: some prophets use other sources of power such as sorcery and witchcraft; some miracles performed are fake.