



EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI

Junior Certificate Examination

**Religious Education (533)
Examination Report for 2024**

Paper 533/02

General Comments

The overall performance of the candidates was fair. The paper itself was good because it assessed all three domains (knowledge and understanding; Analysis and Interpretation; and Evaluation) of the syllabus. The performance of the candidates ranged from 0 to 56 out of 60 marks. The zero grade obtained by some candidates was due to the irrelevant responses they gave to the questions.

Candidates managed the time allocated to the paper quite well. They also made use of the spaces provided quite well with a significant decrease in the number of candidates who wrote outside of the spaces provided. The use of SiSwati words was not common, with a few recognisable words like 'emakha', 'kugcobisa', 'emafutsa'. With the exception of vulgar language, candidates continue to leave unpalatable messages and cellphone numbers for examiners, pleading to make them pass.

Educators are once again highly acknowledged for the impressive work they have done to equip candidates with the necessary skills required in the subject. Without their meticulous efforts, commitment, perseverance and unending sacrifice this could not have been possible. May the Almighty God restore their expertise to continue the great work they are doing within and beyond the classroom.

Comments on Assessment Objectives

AO1 Knowledge and Understanding

Question 1, 2 and 3 in particular which demanded knowledge of Biblical accounts were quite a challenge to the candidates. They mixed up Biblical accounts. For instance, they mistook the story of the sinful woman for the woman with the flow of blood. They also mistook the triumphal entry in Jerusalem for the Last Supper account. Educators are encouraged to enforce the reading of the Revised Standard Version (RSV) Bible as the primary text for the subject.

AO2 Analysis and Interpretation

Candidates who had a challenge on the knowledge and understanding part of the assessment could not do well on this part as well. This is because a candidate needed to analyze and interpret information in AO1 hence the need to encourage the constant reading of the bible stories. On this assessment objective, candidates had difficulty in formulating the significance and lessons drawn from the biblical accounts. For example, candidates would say, 'Abraham had faith/obedient'. However, candidates who had knowledge of the biblical accounts showed a great improvement on this part of assessment. They were able to explain the significance, draw lessons and then corroborate them with evidence from the Biblical accounts in order to achieve top level marks.

AO3 Evaluation

Most candidates demonstrated an improved level of the skill of evaluation. They were able to give more than one point of view and supported their arguments with evidence. However, there is still a concern for some who still give one sided argument. Other candidates did not balance their arguments whereby only one side was well supported while the other side of the argument was not supported or elaborated thus leading to candidates not getting the maximum level marks. A few candidates still lack the basic skill of evaluation where candidates cannot even obtain a single mark from this part of the question, by providing the statement of the obvious, which is drawn from the question.

Comments on Specific Questions

Question 1

This question was fairly done. The source stimulated learners to recall the story. However, some confused the story with that of the woman with the flow of blood.

(a) (i) Describe what the sinful woman did to Jesus at the Pharisees' house. [4]

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to recall the story of the sinful woman. However, a few candidates confused the account with the story of the woman with the flow of blood. Such candidates could not give specific details of what the woman did to Jesus but tended to describe what they saw in the source.

Incorrect responses: kneeling or bowing at Jesus' feet; bathing or washing Jesus' feet with water; wiping with the weave; massage with perfume.

Expected responses: She wept and began to wet Jesus' feet with her tears; Wiped them with the hair of her head; Kissed his feet; Anointed him with the ointment.

(ii) Explain one teaching that can be drawn from the story of Jesus and the sinful woman. [2]

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to draw Jesus' teaching from the story, though they could not then substantiate it with evidence from the account hence they could not get full marks. Some candidates gave the character of Jesus or the sinful woman's character.

Incorrect responses: Humble; Repentance; Blasphemy.

Expected responses: Forgiveness; Love; Judging others.

(b) (i) Explain the sinful woman's character. [2]

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to identify the woman's character. A few candidates, however, could not qualify the woman's character with supporting evidence from the story.

Incorrect responses: Faithful; Obedient; Honest; God-fearing; Prostitute.

Expected responses: Loving; Caring; Hospitable; Welcoming; Remorseful / Repentant.

(ii) Explain one symbolic action in the story. [2]

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates could not identify the symbolic action, the few who were able to identify the symbolic action failed to explain its meaning.

Incorrect responses: Tears; oil; water; forgiveness.

Expected responses: Pouring of oil on Jesus' feet symbolised anointing; kiss symbolized love; Washing / wetting Jesus' feet with tears symbolised welcoming Jesus; Weeping / crying on Jesus' feet symbolised repentance.

- (c) Do you think the reaction of the Pharisees was justified? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [5]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Candidates who obtained top level marks were those who were able to recall the reaction of the Pharisees which enabled them to support both sides of the argument with the relevant responses. Candidates who could not recall the reaction of the Pharisees gave the meaning of forgiveness thus scoring low level marks.

Incorrect responses: Yes. The woman wanted to seduce Jesus; The woman disturbed them while having a meal.

No. They were the ones who invited Jesus; Forgiveness is the key to salvation.

Expected responses: Yes: Jews were not supposed to mingle with sinners; It rendered Jesus unclean as per Jewish custom.

No: Pharisees as Jews should have known that Jesus was the Messiah and had power to forgive sins.

Question 2

This question was fairly done.

- (a) (i) State the promises God made to Abram during his call. [4]**

This part of the question was fairly done. A majority of the candidates were able to state the promises made to Abram during his call. However, some candidates gave promises made to Abraham during the covenant. A few candidates confused the call of Abram to the call of Moses.

Incorrect responses: He will have a son; he will give him the land of Canaan; I will be your shield.

Expected responses: I will make you a great nation; I will bless you; I will make your name great; I will bless those who bless you; I will curse those who curse you; By you all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves.

- (ii) Explain the significance of God's call to Abram. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates were unable to explain the significance of the call instead they gave the character of Abram and lessons derived from the call of Abram.

Incorrect responses: Abram was obedient; Abram was faithful to God; Abram agreed to sacrifice his son.

Expected responses: God wanted to establish his nation; Demonstrated the importance of good character; God wanted to demonstrate his power.

(b) (i) Explain one lesson learnt from the call of Abram. [2]

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to identify the expected responses but were unsuccessful in giving supporting evidence from the call of Abram. A few candidates gave the character of Abram thus not meeting the demand of the question.

Incorrect responses: We learn to be faithful like Abraham who sacrificed Isaac; Abram is obedient.

Expected responses: Have faith in God; Be brave; Be obedient.

(ii) “Fear not Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be great.” (Genesis 15: 1)

What did God mean when he said he was Abram’s shield? [2]

This part of the question was well done. Most candidates were able to give the expected response. However, a few candidates could not state the protection that Abram would receive from God.

Incorrect responses: He will be his shield; your reward will be great.

Expected responses: He showed love; Care; Protection.

(c) Do you think Christians today can act like Abram during his call? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [5]

This part of the question was fairly done. Some candidates tended to explain the story of Abraham sacrificing his son Isaac thus not meeting the demand of the question which was specifically about the call of Abram. A few candidates mistook the call to an ancestral call or a call to be a pastor.

Common incorrect responses were: No Christian would sacrifice his son willingly; Christians worship other gods; it happened a long time ago and it does not apply today.

The expected responses were:

Yes. If they believe that God will lead them.

No. Too difficult to live in an unknown place.

Question 3

This question was well done.

(a) (i) What instructions did Jesus give to two of his disciples when he was about to enter Jerusalem. [4]

This part of the question was fairly done. Some candidates were able to state the instructions given by Jesus to his disciples. However, a few candidates gave the instructions given during the preparation for the Last Supper which significantly put them at a disadvantage.

Incorrect responses: You will see a man carrying a jar of water; they will find an ass with her colt;

Expected responses: Enter the opposite village; And you will find a colt tied; On which no one has ever yet sat; Untie it and bring it here; Tell them the Lord is in need of it.

- (ii) **Explain why the Pharisees wanted Jesus to silence the crowd.** [2]

This part of the question was well done. Most candidates were able to give the expected responses.

Incorrect responses: They were making noise; they wanted to see if the crowd would listen to Jesus; they wanted Jesus to perform miracles.

Expected responses: People announced publicly that Jesus was the Messiah; Fear of Jesus' popularity; It would cause commotion; Jesus was a threat to Roman rule.

- (b) (i) **Explain the symbolic meaning of Jesus riding the colt.** [2]

This part of the question was well done. However, some candidates explained the symbolic meaning of the colt rather than the symbolic meaning of Jesus riding the colt.

Expected responses: Symbolizes Jesus as a peaceful king; Jesus was humble.

- (ii) **"I tell you if these were silent the very stones will cry out." (Luke 19:40)**

What did Jesus mean by these words? [2]

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates failed to draw the meaning and opted to rephrase the statement thus failing to meet the requirements of the question.

Incorrect responses: Jesus has power over nature; the very stones would cry out; Jesus will make the stones talk; nature will intervene.

Expected responses: Disciples should praise him as the Messiah; People had to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah; It was too clear that Jesus was the Messiah.

- (c) **Do you think Jesus' entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey was necessary? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view.** [5]

This part of the question was well done. Most candidates were able to explain the symbolic meaning of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey.

Incorrect responses: He had stolen the donkey; He was abusing the donkey; He was supposed to arrive on foot.

Expected responses:

Yes. To show that he was the Messiah; He had come for peace; To fulfil Old Testament prophecies; To demonstrate his humility.

NO. Caused commotion; intensified the conflict between Jesus and Religious Leaders; Reduced him to an ordinary person.

Question 4

This question was fairly done.

“If you are the Son of God command this stone to become bread.” (Luke 4: 3)

- (a) (i) What was Jesus’s response to this temptation. [2]**

This part of the question was well done. A majority of the candidates gave the expected response.

Incorrect responses: I am the Son of God, I cannot eat bread; I cannot turn stones into bread.

Expected response: “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”

- (ii) Explain one way in which Christianity encourages people to have personal integrity. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. A majority of the candidates gave the steps needed to develop integrity.

Expected responses: Following Jesus’ teachings; Loving God with all your mind and soul; Be kind to other people; Always tell the truth / do not lie.

- (iii) Explain how the first temptation prepared Jesus for His ministry. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. A majority of the candidates had difficulty in meeting the demand of the question, instead they tended to narrate the temptation account. Some candidates also failed to make a link between the first temptation and Jesus’ ministry.

Expected responses: Prepared him to stick to God’s plan; not to find comfort in physical or earthly things; not to be selfish and focus on his needs.

- (b) (i) Explain how Jesus demonstrated integrity in the temptation account. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. A number of candidates were able to give the correct response but failed to support their response using evidence from the temptation account.

Incorrect responses: You should not allow people to ask too much of you; He did not want to engage into a fight with Satan; You should not expect to do everything they ask.

Expected responses: Jesus refused to worship the devil; He remained loyal to God; Not easily tempted; Used scripture to turn down the devil.

- (ii) Suggest one piece of Christian advice you would give to Sihle. [2]**

This part of the question was well done by most candidates. Candidates were able to give the correct Christian advice. However, there were few candidates who gave general advice.

Incorrect responses: Sihle should find work; should not sleep around; she will get diseases/get pregnant.

Expected responses: Abstain from unchastity (1 Thessalonica 4:3 – 6); Honour your body since its God’s temple; It is a sinful act.

(b) Do you think having integrity is of benefit to Christians? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [5]

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to give the benefits of having integrity. However, some candidates had a challenge in attempting the other point of view.

Incorrect responses:

No. Christians do not practice integrity.

Expected responses:

Yes. So that one can gain trust from other people; live in harmony with other people.

No. Delays great opportunities for Christians.