



# **Examination Report**

## Religious Education

### **533**

**JC**

**2025**

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**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 subject. The performance of the candidates ranged from 0 to 59 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 reduction in the number of candidates who wrote outside of the spaces provided. It is worth noting that a substantial number of candidates made use of slang which might be due to influence of social media. They used words like 'coz', 'wanna', 'gonna', 'bedsharer'. It is alarming that candidates continue to leave blank spaces or whole parts of questions unanswered.

Educators are urged to encourage learners to make use of a blue or black pen and discourage the use of markers or any bullet markers for any written work. 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**

In Question 1, 2 and 3 candidates demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the Biblical accounts. For example, in Question 1 they mixed up the healing of the paralytic with the story of Jesus and the Sinful Woman and Jesus Working on The Sabbath. In Question 2, they confused the pronouncements of John with those of Jesus. While in Question 3, they invented their own Biblical names. In Question 4, candidates lacked knowledge of the technical terms used in the Ethical topic on Abortion.

**AO2 Analysis and Interpretation**

Candidates who faced difficulties on the knowledge and understanding part of the assessment could not perform well on this part. This is because they lacked the skill of analysis and interpretation of the Biblical verses given. For example, in Question 1,2 and 4, for part (b) (i), candidates simply stated the given verses as is. Hence the need to encourage the constant analysis and interpretation of Biblical verses. On this assessment objective, candidates also struggled to formulate the significance and lessons drawn from the Biblical accounts. For example, in Question 3, candidates would state that 'David's anointing was important because David killed Goliath' 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 validate them with evidence from the Biblical accounts and Ethical topic in order to achieve top level marks.

### **AO3 Evaluation**

Most candidates displayed a developed level of the skill of evaluation. They were able to give more than one point of view and supported their arguments with evidence. There was a significant drop in the number of candidates who only gave one point of view thus leading to them not getting the maximum level marks. Of concern, is that some candidates still lack the basic skill of evaluation whereby they cannot even attain 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. Most candidates provided the expected responses. However, some confused the story with that of Jesus and the Sinful Woman, Jesus Eating with Sinners and Jesus Working On the Sabbath.

**(a) (i) Name the two religious groups that opposed Jesus in the healing of the paralytic.[2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to recall the two religious groups in the story of the healing of the paralytic.

**Incorrect responses were:** tax collectors, chief priests, Sadducees, Jews.

**The expected responses were:** Scribes / Teachers of the Law; Pharisees

**(ii) Describe how the men brought the paralytic before Jesus. [2]**

This part of the question was well done.

**Incorrect responses were:** Through the window; dragged him to Jesus with saddling cloths.

**The expected response was:** They went up on the roof; Let him down with his bed through the tiles before Jesus.

**(iii) Explain one reason why the religious groups opposed Jesus in the healing of the paralytic.**

This part of the question was fairly done. Candidates who achieved the high level marks were able to identify the reason and support it with evidence from the story. Some candidates only identified the reasons and failed to prove them with evidence from the story.

**Incorrect responses were:** He healed on the Sabbath; They did not have faith that Jesus will heal the Sabbath.

**The expected responses were:**

Jesus' claimed to forgive sins -he said to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven"; Jesus' claimed to be the Son of God - "The son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins";

For speaking against Judaism - Jesus did not conform to the Jewish procedure for the forgiveness of sins; Blasphemy – who is this that speaks blasphemies

- (b) (i)** “Man, your sins are forgiven...” (Luke 5:20) **[2]**

**What did Jesus mean by these words?**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates failed to interpret the given statement and ended up restating it. Knowledge of Jewish beliefs was necessary for candidates to arrive at the interpretation.

**Incorrect responses were:** washed sins, free from sins.

**The expected responses were:**

His sickness was a result of a curse - Jews attributed sickness to one's sin; Jesus has the power to forgive sins - the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins; Pronouncing healing on the paralytic - he said to the paralytic, “Rise, take up your bed and go home.”

- (ii) Explain one character trait of Jesus revealed in the healing of the paralytic. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates failed to identify the expected character trait of Jesus.

**Incorrect responses were:** Humble.

**The expected responses were:**

Compassionate - he felt pity for the paralytic; Has power over sicknesses / to forgive sins - he healed the paralytic; Authoritative - The son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins. Forgiving – man your sins are forgiven you; Omniscient – why do you question in your hearts.

- (c) Do you think the Jews were right to oppose Jesus' claim to be the Son of God? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [5]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates could not provide evidence to support Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

**The expected responses were:**

**Yes**

Jews did not believe Jesus was the Messiah - who is this that speaks blasphemies, who can forgive sins but God only; Jews were jealous of Jesus' success - the healing miracles made Jesus popular; They knew him as the son of Joseph and Mary - they couldn't believe that he can heal people. He spoke against Judaism - Jesus did not conform to the Jewish procedure for the forgiveness of sins.

**No**

Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Messiah - he met the expectations of the Messiah; Jesus had power over all sicknesses - he healed the paralytic; Jesus forgave sins - he forgave the paralytic and was healed. Jews were ignorant of the Old Testament prophecies.

**Question 2**

This question was not well done.

**(a) (i) Describe four pronouncements by the angel to Mary about Jesus. [4]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates failed to recall the pronouncements about Jesus made by the angel in the annunciation to Mary. Some candidates gave pronouncements made about John to Zechariah. Other candidates gave the Old Testament prophecies about the birth of Jesus. A few candidates paraphrased the pronouncements which showed their lack of knowledge of the story.

**Incorrect responses were:** He will be born by a virgin; He will drink nor wine nor strong drink.

**The expected responses were:**

He will be great; Be called the Son of the Most High; The Lord will give him the throne of his father David; Will reign over the house of Jacob forever; Of his kingdom there will be no end.

**(ii) Explain one importance of the pronouncements made by the angel about Jesus. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates who failed to meet the demands of this question lacked the knowledge of the pronouncements In (a) (i). Therefore, they could not give the relevant pronouncement to support the importance.

**Incorrect responses were:** For Mary to know about her child; For Joseph to believe that he conceived by God's will.

**The expected responses were:**

It revealed Jesus' identity - be called the Son of the Most High; It revealed Jesus' Authority - he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. It revealed Jesus' kingship - the Lord will give him the throne of his father David; fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies – he will reign over the house of Jacob forever.

- (b) (i)** “How shall this be since I have no husband?” (Luke 1: 34)

**Explain one lesson that can be learnt about Mary from these words. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to identify the character trait shown by Mary and also gave supporting evidence.

**Incorrect responses were:** Mary was humble; She lacks faith; She was obedient.

**The expected responses were:** Faithful - even though betrothed to Joseph but she remained pure; Honest - she was full of integrity by keeping herself chaste.

- (ii) Explain one lesson that can be learnt from the annunciation of the birth of Jesus. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates failed to draw lessons from The annunciation of the birth of Jesus. Some candidates gave the character of Mary. For example, Mary is submissive instead of, ‘we learn that we must be submissive / submit to God’. A few candidates gave lessons from the annunciation of the birth of John.

**The expected responses were:**

God speaks through angels - he sent Gabriel to Mary to pronounce the good news; Jesus is the son of God - the angel proclaimed that the child to be born will be the son of God; God has a purpose for every child- he will reign over the house of Jacob; Submit to God’s will - “Let it be to me according to your word.” God rewards good behavior – Mary was a virgin; God keeps His promises – fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies.

- (c) If you were Mary, would you have accepted the angel’s message? Give reasons 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 demonstrate empathy as demanded by the question. However, some candidates failed to assume the character of Mary. A few candidates confused Mary for Elizabeth.

**The expected responses were:**

**Yes**

Obedied God’s command - let it be to me according to your word; It’s an honor to give birth to the Son of God - Mary was honored to be the mother of the Messiah. I am favoured by God; I have faith in God; I have a willingness to be used by God.

**No**

Mary was already engaged to Joseph - it would be difficult to explain to Joseph about the pregnancy; It would bring shame to herself - according to the Jewish custom, it was great shame to get pregnant before marriage.

**Question 3**

This question was well done.

- (a) (i) Name any two sons of Jesse that were rejected by Samuel during the anointing of David. [4]**

This part of the question was not well done. A majority of the candidates could not recall the names of the two sons of Jesse that were rejected by Samuel during the anointing of David.

**Incorrect responses were:** Abidah; Elias; Elijah; Shame; Shammon.

**The expected responses were:** Eli'ab; Abin'adab; Shammah.

- (ii) Describe how Samuel anointed David. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to recall the story of the anointing of David. Some candidates could not give specific details of how Samuel actually anointed David. Others could not specifically describe the process or action by Samuel. Such candidates resorted to telling the whole story of the anointing of David.

**Incorrect responses were:** ointment; oilment; anointed on the feet; oil rubbed on the feet.

**The expected response was:**

Samuel took his horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; The Spirit of the Lord came upon him from that day on.

- (iii) Explain one importance of the anointing of David as king. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates were unable to explain the importance of the anointing of David as a king. Some candidates failed to derive the importance as demanded by the question but only gave the evidence from the account.

**Incorrect responses were:** fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies; achievements of King David.

**The expected responses were:**

To replace Saul - God had already rejected Saul; To lead the Israelites- as they wanted to be led by the king. To reveal David as a new king; To reveal that God looks at the heart not physical appearance – he stopped Samuel from anointing Eliáb.

- (b) (i) Explain one failure of David as king of Israel. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to give the expected response. However, some candidates supported their responses with irrelevant evidence.

**Incorrect responses were:** He killed Uzziah; He committed adultery with Uriah.

**The expected responses were:**

Committing murder - he initiated the killing of Uriah; Committing adultery - with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife; Disobeyed God- conducted a census against God's will.

**(ii) Explain one character trait of God that can be drawn from the anointing of King David? [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. A majority of the candidates had difficulty in meeting the demand of the question. A few candidates gave the expected character trait without the relevant evidence from the anointing of King David.

**Incorrect responses were:** God is humble; God is obedient.

**The expected responses were:**

- God is omniscient (all-knowing) - he sees beyond external appearance;
- God is sovereign (authoritative/supreme) He chooses whom He wants, regardless of human expectations or traditions;
- He is purposeful (firm/intentional) -He doesn't act randomly (fair/just) His choice of David was part of a larger divine plan to establish a kingdom that will lead to the Messiah.
- Omnipresent. He spoke to Samuel during the selection process / the Holy Spirit fell upon David.

**(c) Do you think David deserved to be king after sinning? 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 gave the expected reasons but failed to substantiate them with the relevant evidence.

**The expected responses were:**

**Yes**

Everybody deserves a second chance - King David was forgiven by God; King David was punished by God - rejection would mean double punishment; He was remorseful - King David repented after sinning.

**No**

He broke God's commandment- committed adultery and murder; King David disgraced himself.

- as a king he was supposed to be exemplary. Can make comparison between David and Saul who was rejected by God.

**Question 4**

This question was fairly done.

**(a) (i) State the two views on abortion. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. A majority of the candidates explained the definition instead of stating the two views on abortion. Others mentioned the two types of abortion and gave teachings on abortion.

**Incorrect responses were:** natural abortion; spontaneous; habitual; life is sacred.

**The expected response was:** Pro-choice; Pro-life.

**(ii) Describe any of the two types of abortion. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. A majority of the candidates were able to identify the types of abortion but were unable to describe them.

**Incorrect responses were:** Illegal abortion; Chemical abortion; Internal abortion

**The expected responses were:**

Natural abortion; unexpected loss of a pregnancy before the 20th week of gestation.  
Induced abortion; pregnancy is intentionally terminated.

**(iii) Explain one Christian teaching on abortion. [2]**

This part of the question was well done. A majority of the candidates gave the expected Christian teachings on abortion. However, a few candidates gave Christian teachings on suicide.

**Incorrect responses were:** Life is a gift from God.

**The expected responses were:**

Life is Holy; Life belongs to God; Life begins at conception; Abortion is murder.

**(b) “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you and before you were born I set you apart...” (Jeremiah 1: 5)**

**(i) What is the meaning of this verse [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates were unable to interpret the verse and brought it back as it is. Other candidates rephrased the verse without giving an interpretation.

**The expected responses were:**

Life begins at conception; God has a purpose/plan for all mankind - before you were born,

I set you apart; Humans are God's creation - before I formed you...

- (ii) **Explain one effect of abortion to the person who has committed it.** [2]

This part of the question was fairly done. However, some candidates focused on explaining why abortion is a sin.

**The expected responses were:**

Guilt/Regret; Failure to get pregnant in future; Death/Injury; Depression.

- (b) **Do you think pastors should get rid of members who commit abortion in their churches? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view.** [5]

This part of the question was fairly done. However, some candidates adopted a general approach and did not specifically refer to the members of the church as demanded by the question.

**The expected responses were:**

**Yes**

Committed a sin of murder/condoning sinful acts; God alone has a right to end life; For life is sacred and belongs to God; They are a bad example; Abortion is a moral issue that conflicts with teachings and beliefs of Christianity.

**No**

God is the ultimate judge; Forgive them; Provide empathy, support and guidance during difficult times; Others may have been raped/incest/child abuse; Poverty/financial problems; Medical reasons.

