

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Unit 3 An introduction to the New Testament

RS03

Thursday 8 June 2006 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer book

You are permitted the use of a Bible, which may include the Apocrypha.

Time allowed: 1 hour

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is RS03.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

Answer **Question 1** and **one** other question.

1 Read this passage and answer parts (a) and (b) which follow.

‘The accounts of Jesus’ birth are very different in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. By looking closely at what the Gospel writers include and the way they tell their stories, we can clearly see what they wanted to convey to their readers about the person of Jesus.’

- (a) Outline what may be learned about the person of Jesus from Luke’s Birth narrative. *(10 marks)*
- (b) Explain what Matthew’s purposes may have been in presenting his Birth narrative. *(10 marks)*

2 (a) Explain what the parable of The Sower teaches about the Kingdom of God. *(15 marks)*

- (b) ‘Critical approaches, such as redaction criticism and narrative criticism, are helpful for an understanding of the parables in the gospels.’
- (i) Explain how such critical approaches can be applied to a parable that you have studied.
- (ii) Assess the view that such critical approaches are not helpful at all for an understanding of the parables. *(25 marks)*

3 (a) Examine the main themes in Luke’s presentation of Jesus’ crucifixion and death. *(15 marks)*

- (b) ‘Mark wrote his account of Jesus’ crucifixion and death to show that Jesus was the promised Messiah.’

Explain this statement, and assess the claim that this was Mark’s only aim in writing his account. *(25 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS