



**General Certificate of Education
June 2011**

Religious Studies

RSS07

New Testament

AS Unit G

Final

Mark Scheme

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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Examination Levels of Response

Religious Studies (Advanced Subsidiary) AS Level Descriptors

Level	AS Descriptor AO1	Marks	AS Descriptor AO2	Marks	AS Descriptors for Quality of Written Communication in AO1 and AO2
7	A thorough treatment of the topic within the time available. Information is accurate and relevant, and good understanding is demonstrated through use of appropriate evidence / examples	28-30	A well-focused, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are clearly explained with supporting evidence and argument. There is some critical analysis. An appropriate evaluation is supported by reasoned argument.	14-15	Appropriate form and style of writing; clear and coherent organisation of information; appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; good legibility; high level of accuracy in spelling punctuation and grammar.
6	A fairly thorough treatment within the time available; information is mostly accurate and relevant. Understanding is demonstrated through the use of appropriate evidence / example(s)	24-27	A mostly relevant, reasoned response to the issues raised. Different views are explained with some supporting evidence and argument. There is some analysis. An evaluation is made which is consistent with some of the reasoning.	12-13	
5	A satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, with some development, showing reasonable understanding through use of relevant evidence / example(s).	20-23	A partially successful attempt to sustain a reasoned argument. Some attempt at analysis or comment and recognition of more than one point of view. Ideas adequately explained.	10-11	Mainly appropriate form and style of writing; some of the information is organised clearly and coherently; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; satisfactory legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
4	A generally satisfactory treatment of the topic within the time available. Key ideas and facts are included, showing some understanding and coherence.	15-19	A limited attempt to sustain an argument, which may be one-sided or show little ability to see more than one point of view. Most ideas are explained.	7-9	Form and style of writing appropriate in some respects; some clarity and coherence in organisation; there may be some appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar adequate to convey meaning.
3	A summary of key points. Limited in depth or breadth. Answer may show limited understanding and limited relevance. Some coherence.	10-14	A basic attempt to justify a point of view relevant to the question. Some explanation of ideas and coherence.	5-6	
2	A superficial outline account, with little relevant material and slight signs of partial understanding, or an informed answer that misses the point of the question.	5-9	A superficial response to the question with some attempt at reasoning.	3-4	Little clarity and organisation; little appropriate and accurate use of specialist vocabulary; legibility and level of accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar barely adequate to make meaning clear.
1	Isolated elements of partly accurate information little related to the question.	1-4	A few basic points, with no supporting argument or justification.	1-2	
0	Nothing of relevance.	0	No attempt to engage with the question or nothing of relevance.	0	

RSS07: New Testament

Question 1 How the synoptic gospels came into being

01 Examine the role of oral tradition in the formation of the synoptic gospels.

Explanation of “oral tradition”.

Idea of events/teaching of Jesus passed on by word of mouth. No evidence of written material whilst Jesus still alive.

Transmission of oral tradition. Reasons for it being passed on and idea of it being adapted (Sitz im leben).

Mark first gospel with possibly written and oral tradition.

(30 marks) AO1

02 ‘The synoptic gospels cannot be trusted to give an accurate account of the life or teaching of Jesus.’ To what extent do you agree?

Support of view:

Expect focus on the length of the gap between the events and the writing of the gospels, and the content of the gospels being contradictory, form criticism and influence of Early Church.

Challenge to view:

Expect responses to above views e.g. Length of time short, accuracy of Jewish tradition, similar rather than different, harmonising accounts for full picture, form and redaction criticism are based on wrong assumptions.

Expect some reference back to item 01 and editing of gospels.

Expect some reference to “cannot be trusted...accurate...”

(15 marks) AO2

Question 2 Aspects of Jesus’ teaching and action, parables and healings

03 Examine the teaching found in the account of the healing of the Centurion’s Slave in Matthew and Luke.

Kingdom open to Gentiles – centurion/Jews expelled/judgement/concern for all

Kingdom involves completeness/wholeness – healing

Entry to Kingdom – faith

Jesus’ role in Kingdom – authority/ power of command by word

Jesus – Supernatural powers to heal at distance/compassion/concern for all/judge

Expect reference back to text when examining the teaching found in parable.

(30 marks) AO1

- 04 'The only purpose of the healing miracles was to show the need to have faith in Jesus.' Assess this claim.**

Support of claim:

Reference to text and emphasis on faith in accounts.

More than just compassion etc. The miracles had a purpose beyond just healing.

Idea of "mighty works" and linking to power and authority of Jesus.

Challenge to claim:

More than just "faith". They endorsed the message of the announcement of the Kingdom. Mighty works as evidence that Kingdom had arrived.

(15 marks) AO2

Question 3 The arrest, trial and death of Jesus

- 05 Examine the teaching about the person of Jesus in Matthew's account of the trial and death of Jesus.**

Emphasis on Jesus as both man and divine (Son of God).

Jesus in control of events/fulfilling prophecy.

Charge of blasphemy.

Emphasis on innocence (Judas' death/washing of Pilate's hands).

King of the Jews.

Rebuild temple in three days.

Cries from Cross.

Curtain in temple split.

Resurrection of dead/ breaking in of events of the Last Days.

Maximum level 5 (23) if only trial or death discussed.

(30 marks) AO1

- 06 'Matthew's claims about the person of Jesus are unconvincing.' Assess this view with reference to Matthew's account of Jesus' trial and death.**

Support of view:

E.g. reference to the supernatural elements of the claims / claims are contradictory/ form and redaction show material unreliable/ theological problems arising – can God die (Jesus' death on Cross)

Challenge to view:

Accounts reliable/ eyewitnesses/ Jesus' life shows he is divine/ resurrection authenticates claims.

Expect an appropriate conclusion in terms of "convincing...unconvincing".

(15 marks) AO2

Question 4 The resurrection of Jesus

07 Examine scholars' views of the theological message of Jesus' resurrection.

e.g. Proves who Jesus was
evidence of life after death
Old Testament fulfilment
messianic evidence
death effective
symbolic event?

(30 marks) AO1

08 'The longer ending of Mark's Gospel (Mark 16⁹⁻²⁰) cannot be considered authentic.' Assess this claim.

Support of claim:

Expect reference to manuscript evidence e.g. different styles, Mary Magdalene reintroduced, best mss stop at verse 8
The contents of the longer ending suggesting a summary from other parts of New Testament.

Challenge to claim:

Seems more natural ending.
Irenaeus used the verses as part of Gospel. Candidates may argue that even though the ending is an addition, it is still authentic.
Expect some candidates to make reference to issue about "Word of God" in wider view of "authenticity". There will be an appropriate conclusion. Expect argument to be centred on the debate about "authenticity".

(15 marks) AO2

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