

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Cambridge Ordinary Level

MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2015 series

2048 RELIGIOUS STUDIES (BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

2048/23

Paper 2 (The Portrayal of the Birth of the Early Church),
maximum raw mark 80

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2015 series for most Cambridge IGCSE[®], Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

© IGCSE is the registered trademark of Cambridge International Examinations.

Page 2	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge O Level – October/November 2015	2048	23

Acts of the Apostles

- 1 (a) possible arguments may include:
link with Luke's Gospel which is written after 70 CE; Acts shows influence of Josephus within its text which means it was written at a late date when Josephus wrote; Luke used the Gospel of Mark which is dated around 60 to 65 CE [6]
- (b) an earlier date has stronger arguments; e.g. the absence of reference to important events, e.g. the fall of Jerusalem, the persecutions by Nero; the absence of reference to the death of Paul; the impartial imperial officials; the concern about the Jewish-Gentile issue (and food issue) that was only a problem before the fall of Jerusalem.
Mark's Gospel may have been written early; likewise Luke's Gospel [6]
- (c) **agree:** helps reliability issue if close to the time; if written in Apostolic period then has stamp of apostolic authority; if written later and long gap then apostolic authenticity in question
disagree: information reliable even if long period; doesn't matter as content is what is important; value is in spiritual meaning regardless of whether it is historically reliable [8]
- 2 (a) Acts 1:6–11
Lord, are you at this time going to restore the Kingdom of Israel?; not for you to know times or dates; father set by his own authority; you will receive power when Holy Spirit comes on you; witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, to ends of earth; taken up, cloud hid him; two men in white; why look at sky, taken into heaven; will come back in same way [6]
- (b) formerly disciples – witnesses of the risen Christ – unique calling cf. other offices in the church – leaders of the church, and recognised as such – sent out; missionary activity; founded churches; responsible for church discipline; administered laying on of hands for gift of Holy Spirit [6]
- (c) **agree:** Paul is overwhelming character in expansion of church; influential and respected; missionary leader; main part of Acts of the Apostles
disagree: Peter/James/John – Paul consulted them; Paul accepted their leadership; Jerusalem centre of church; James decides at Council of Jerusalem. Possibly better to think of whole group of leaders? [8]

Page 3	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge O Level – October/November 2015	2048	23

3 (a) Acts 9:1–10, 17–19

on way to arrest Christians; light from heaven flashed about him: fell to ground: heard voice; Saul, why persecute me?; who are you, Lord?; I am Jesus whom you persecute; get up and go to city
 be told what to do; people with him speechless; heard but saw nothing; blinded and led by hand to Damascus; Ananias told to go to Saul; laid hands and received Holy Spirit; sight returned [6]

(b) Saul – knew Christians and something about Jesus; opposed to Christians; appearance of Jesus to Saul; direct rather than through another person; blinded; audible voice; further instructions given by Ananias
 expect reference to Ethiopian eunuch conversion for differences to be illustrated (e.g. reading of scripture; actively seeking; no vision of Jesus; baptism) [6]

(c) **agree:** Ethiopian was non-Roman; spread of Christianity to Ethiopia; he was a high official and so had influence to spread Christianity. Paul was also influential and established churches; he was messenger to the Gentiles
disagree: Either – argue that Paul was more important, e.g. he was very successful and wide ranging in his travels. Or – argue that Ethiopian more successful – he was non-Jewish, non-Roman and so would take the message much further than Paul. Paul was limited to Roman Empire [8]

4 (a) Acts 12:6–12

appearance of angel; what angel said; Peter's way out of prison not blocked; Peter's response when angel left him; goes to house of Mary [6]

(b) Rhoda answered; recognised voice and overjoyed – forgot to open door; told crowd inside – they thought she was mad; It is his angel; opened and saw him; amazed [6]

(c) **agree:** yes but at the instigation of others; they had ultimate authority so can be seen as main ones
disagree: main attack from pagan/Jewish; Romans only persecuted when they were trying to keep the peace [8]

Page 4	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Cambridge O Level – October/November 2015	2048	23

5 (a) Acts 19:13–20

some Jews drove out evil spirits using name of Jesus; whom Paul preaches; spirits – I know Jesus/Paul – but who are you; man with evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them; beat them – they ran out naked and bleeding; seized with fear; name of Jesus honoured; believers confessed evil deeds; some burnt scrolls [6]

(b) evil spirits: their existence; recognition of power of Christianity; personalities; possession of people; supernatural knowledge; tendency to violence; defeated by name of Jesus [6]

(c) **agree:** we don't experience it; we have other explanations, e.g. medical rather than spiritual; some reject the idea of supernatural and spiritual realms
disagree: some do believe they experience it; spiritual realm if there is a God so evil spirits may not be far-fetched; official exorcists in Anglican and Roman Catholic Church; some experiences seem not to be able to be explained away [8]

6 (a) Acts 20:17–35

(i) example of Paul as shepherd; Paul served Lord in humility and with tears; Paul tested by plots of Jews; did not hesitate to preach to both Jews and Gentiles; Paul going to Jerusalem not knowing what will happen; life nothing compared to finishing task set; not see me again; Paul did hard work to support himself

(ii) keep watch – be shepherds of flock; remember he bought you with his blood – savage wolves will attack and take some; be on guard; pray for God to build you up; help weak; more blessed to give than to receive [6]

(b) keeping Sabbath; often went to Synagogue first and reasoned with Jews; preached Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus as Christ; rejected by Jews then went to Gentiles; missionary strategy of visiting important cities, e.g. Ephesus and Athens; varied approach and message when preaching to Gentiles; baptising; stayed with local person; appointed elders in local churches before moving on [6]

(c) **agree:** Athens resulted in few people; lots of opposition from Jews and pagans. Expect examples
disagree: set up churches; treated as gods; accepted by many Jews and Gentiles [8]