

DIVINITY

<p>Paper 8041/02 The Four Gospels</p>

Questions 1-7 were the most popular choices but questions on John's Gospel were well covered by those candidates who answered them. **Questions 10-14** were less popular.

Overall performance was down on the previous year. There was less evidence of the appropriate use of scholarly material within the written answers.

Specific Questions

Question 1

- (a) A popular question. Candidates recognised the context and made sensible comment about the treatment of Gentiles within the Gospel.
- (b) A popular question with good comment about the Kingdom of Heaven. Candidates recognised that it was found in Matthew's Gospel only and made appropriate comment surrounding it. Some candidates included comment on the theme of giving up everything for the kingdom. Good answers linked this with the parable of the dragnet.
- (c) Good candidates made comment on its inclusion in all three gospels but identified the slight differences. All made some comment on Jesus' relationship with his mother and family and the wider family of those who followed him.
- (d) A very popular question which was well answered. Candidates identified the story with the woman with the flow of blood and set it within the context of the story of Jairus' daughter. A lot of good comment was made about the attitude of the woman and her faith. The awareness by Jesus of his power going from him was expanded upon in many candidates' answers.
- (e) Many candidates used this as an opportunity to recount the story of the temptations and some extended it to a telling of the baptism story also. Some candidates retold the events omitting the necessary comment on the key ideas included in the specific quotation.
- (f) Recognised to be part of the trials narrative, comment was made about Jesus being taken before Herod but there was confusion concerning the appearances before Pilate and Herod. Answers lacked specific comment instead retelling what happened.
- (g) Many candidates talked about the connection between this and the Last Supper. Some included comment about the similarities between Jesus and the story of Moses and the manna. This was not as popular as some of the other gobbets.
- (h) A less popular choice. Some candidates made no link with the 'I am' discourses therefore relevant comment was restricted. This question needed greater relevance in the answers.

Question 2

This was a very popular question with candidates giving a lot of relevant comment. Some candidates gave a detailed retelling of the birth of Jesus but failed to then comment upon its significance in later parts of the Gospel. There needs to be a clear understanding of how and where the main themes in the birth story then impact and reoccur throughout the whole Gospel. A lot of the candidates wrote good comments around the inclusion of the genealogy. Little was made of Jesus' title 'Emmanuel' and the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy which are of significance to the understanding of this question.

Question 3

Answers to this question did not necessarily develop all the specific points which could have been included. There is a lot of material which highlights Matthew's purpose and setting in Christian history which could have been drawn upon. There needed to be mention of the special responsibility and leadership given to Peter, the role played by the Church in the preparation of the eternal kingdom and the authority given to the disciples.

Question 4

This is always a popular topic which allows candidates to show their knowledge and understanding of the authorship of Mark's Gospel. The majority of answers covered the 'who, where and when' of Mark and made reference to the most popular views.

Question 5

This was a popular question and brought varying standards of answers. For many it was the opportunity to retell the accounts of the two incidents and some did this in detail. For those who attempted to comment on the significance of these two occurrences the higher levels became available. Good answers attempted to place the confession and the transfiguration within the context of Mark's Gospel.

Question 6

This question was answered by many candidates but it was important to **examine** and **assess** the way Luke used sources in his Gospel. Some candidates commented upon the themes of Luke rather than the sources. Good essays showed some knowledge of how Luke built up his Gospel as well as attempt to examine the material. A popular question which allowed the more widely read candidates to excel.

Question 7

This question was very popular and a lot of material around the miracles of Jesus was recounted. The important discussion lay around distinguishing some inconsistency in Luke's theology; wanting to show the miracles as evidence of the kingdom but trying not to have them as revelations of Jesus' power. Few candidates managed to make this point.

Question 8

The role of John the Baptist was an opportunity for candidates to show their knowledge of his significance. It was important to identify the material specific to John's Gospel. Some took it as an opportunity to write all they knew about the Baptist and his mention in the Gospels. For those who achieved the higher levels the comment rested on the significance of the material found in John. Generally the answers were of a good standard.

Question 9

Although this question was not widely selected by candidates, for those who did attempt an answer, it was evident that they had good knowledge of this topic and covered much of the material expected.

Question 10

Discipleship is usually a popular question to answer but this year it did not appear to be so appealing. For those who did attempt it the standard was good and their answers included much of the relevant material.

Question 11

This question gave candidates the opportunity to discuss the relevant texts and examples around the issue of Jesus being accused of breaking the Sabbath laws. This was generally well answered but it was important that the candidate did not resort to merely telling the stories but made necessary and relevant comment upon the incident and the relationship with the Pharisees.

Question 12

This was not a widely selected question. The question presupposes knowledge of the suffering servant material from Isaiah.

Question 13

This question caused some confusion. The question demanded a comparison between the various Gospel accounts, not necessarily a reference to all the Gospels. Good candidates made an attempt to discuss the difficulties of the differences the accounts display. It demands a detailed knowledge of various resurrection accounts and not all rolled into one.

Question 14

This was not a popular question to answer. Those who did attempt it did so in a very general fashion. For a good response candidates needed to deal with the assessment of the title itself. There is plenty of material to use but much of it has to be unpacked from the varying stories and situations.