

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES 2

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. STANDARD OF THE PAPER

The standard of the paper compared favourably with that of the previous years. The questions were within the scope of the syllabus.

2. PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES

The general performance was above average as compared to that of the previous year.

3. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS

Candidates were able to exhibit clear understanding in the following area of the syllabus;

1. Circumstance under which David spared the life of Saul,
2. How Solomon's wisdom was brought to bear in resolving the issue between the two harlots,
3. Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

4. SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESS

The following were challenging areas of the syllabus for candidates;

1. How the Israelites were rescued from Pharaoh and his host,
2. How Jesus responded to the question of how many times to forgive a brother,
3. Circumstances under which Peter was rescued from prison.

5. SUGGESTED REMEDIES

The following were remedies suggested by the Chief Examiner;

1. Candidates should be taught to identify and understand the demands of the question to avoid deviation,
2. Candidates should be encouraged to adequately read their text books especially the required Bible for the study of the subject (RSV BIBLE),
3. Candidates should be encouraged to relate their responses to the 'B' part to current situations.

6. DETAILED COMMENTS

SECTION A: THEMES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Q1. (a) “And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host; ... Narrate how the above statement was fulfilled in the life of the Israelites.

(b) Identify three attributes of God portrayed in the above story.

A lot of the candidates attempted the above question but a lot of them performed abysmally while other candidates who attempted it deviated. Some wrote on the call and commission of Moses and others also wrote on the roles of Moses and Pharaoh in the ten plagues that devastated the people of Egypt. The expected answers should be on departure of the Israelites under Moses’ leadership and how they crossed the Red Sea;

- i. The Israelites left Egypt to Canaan under the leadership of Moses after Pharaoh had permitted them.
- ii. After some few days, Pharaoh changed his mind and decided to chase the Jews with his chariots and horses in order to bring them back to Egypt.
- iii. On their way to Canaan, the Jews encamped at Pihahiroth, near the Red Sea upon the instructions of God.
- iv. As the Egyptians drew nearer, the Israelites became frightened and complained that Moses had brought them to die in the wilderness.
- v. Moses in response, assured them of God’s protection and salvation.
- vi. He encouraged the Israelites that they should stand firm and that God would fight for them.
- vii. He further assured them that the Egyptians they were seeing, they would not see them again.
- viii. Later, the angel of God who led the host of Israel moved and came behind them as a pillar of cloud to separate the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- ix. When the Israelites got to the Red Sea, the Egyptians had almost caught up with them and out of fear, they complained.
- x. Moses, upon the instruction of God, stretched his rod over the Red Sea and instantly the sea parted into two.
- xi. The Israelites then walked on dry land across the sea.
- xii. The Egyptians pursued them into the midst of the sea.
- xiii. When the Israelites had crossed the sea, Moses again raised the rod and the water begun to flow, drowning the Egyptians.
- xiv. The Israelites saw the great works of God and put their trust in Him.
- xv. Thus, God had glory over Pharaoh and his army and Israel continued her journey to the promised land

The (b) part of the question was averagely answered by candidates. The following points were not stated by candidates.

- i. Power
- ii. Protection
- iii. Sovereignty
- iv. Patience
- v. Deliverer
- vi. Guidance
- vii. Justice

- Q2. (a) “The Lord forbid that I should put forth my hand against the Lord’s anointed”.
Recount the circumstances that led to the above statement.**
- (b) Highlight three benefits an individual could derive from mastering self control.**

This is one of the unpopular questions. Just a few students attempted it. Those who attempted too did not do too well because they provided answers that were not within the scope of the account. Some wrote about David’s killing of Goliath and mixed the required response with David’s service in the palace of the King. The expected answers can be found in 1 Samuel 26:1 ff. These includes the following:

- i. After David had killed Goliath, the women of Israel sang a song to show that David was more popular than Saul, the king.
- ii. Saul thus became jealous of David and he intended to kill him.
- iii. David went into hiding at Ziph to escape from Saul.
- iv. The people of Ziph informed Saul that David was hiding there.
- v. Saul organized three thousand men to go in search of David in the wilderness of Ziph.
- vi. In the night, David and his bodyguard, Abishai went to the camp of Saul and met him and his men fast asleep including Abner, his armour bearer.
- vii. Abishai told David that God had delivered his enemy into his hands so he should be allowed to pin Saul down with his spear.
- viii. But David refused saying, it was not right to put forth his hand against the Lord’s anointed.
- ix. David assured Abishai that God Himself would smite Saul.
- x. David then took Saul’s spear and jar of water away secretly.
- xi. After David had left Saul’s camp at Ziph, he called Abner and told him that he had failed to protect the king.
- xii. David then showed Saul’s jar and spear to Abner.
- xiii. Saul called David and the latter asked Saul why he was pursuing him to take his life without a cause.
- xiv. David again told Saul that he could have ended his life, but he spared him because he was the Lord’s anointed.
- xv. Finally, David asked Saul to send one of his men to collect the jar of water and spear he took when he was asleep.
- xvi. Saul then confessed to David that he had wronged him for attempting to kill him

However, the (b) part was satisfactorily answered. The following responses should have also been considered by candidates;

- i. Reduces stress,
- ii. Better decision making,
- iii. Increased will-power,
- iv. Enhanced emotional regulation,
- v. Improved mental health,
- vi. Greater resilience,
- vii. Stronger relationships.

Q.3 (a) “It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it.” Narrate how Solomon’s wisdom was brought to bear in resolving this controversy

(b) Explain three ways by which justice could be dispensed fairly in your country

This is one of the most popular questions as almost all candidates attempted it. Quite a number did well by giving detailed answers on the question.

The (b) part of the question was also not well answered by candidates. Expected responses include the following;

- (i) Prompt adjudication of cases in our courts of law because justice delayed is justice denied.
- (ii) Independence of the Judiciary /free from interference.
- (iii) Severe punishment be meted out to any erring/ corruptible judge.
- (iv) Legal fees for hiring lawyers should be made affordable.
- (v) Judges should be well remunerated
- (vi) The principles of rule of the law should be strictly adhered to.

Q.4 (a) Recount how Nebuchadnezzar ended up exalting Yahweh as the Supreme God over the golden image.

(b) What two lessons can Christians learn from Nebuchadnezzar’s acknowledgement of Yahweh as the Supreme God?

This is another popular question on the paper but some of the candidates who attempted it deviated. They rather wrote on how Nebuchadnezzar ended up as a mad man and how he regained his sanity. The question expects students to narrate the consequences of Nebuchadnezzar making a golden image for his subjects to worship and the refusal of the three Jewish young men to bow to the image. The account is in Daniel 3. Some of the expected answers are:

- i. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were among the Jews taken into captivity in Babylon.

- ii. They found favour in the eyes of Nebuchadnezzar who placed them in positions of authority.
- iii. Nebuchadnezzar set up a golden image for worship by all his subjects and nations under him.
- iv. All the officials of his kingdom were assembled for the dedication of the golden image.
- v. Nebuchadnezzar's official proclamation was backed-up by a decree in case of any violation.
- vi. Whoever defiled the king's order of worshipping the golden image, would be cast into a burning fiery furnace.
- vii. The Chaldeans conspired against Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
- viii. They were accused of disobeying the king's order to worship the golden image.
- ix. They were reported to the king who quickly summoned them and demanded to know why they refused to worship his golden image.
- x. They responded by saying that they were unwilling to serve the golden image and that their God would deliver them from the king.
- xi. Nebuchadnezzar who became furious as a result of their response ordered that the furnace be heated seven times more than the normal heat.
- xii. He ordered his men to bind the three young Jews and cast them into the burning furnace.
- xiii. The men who bound them into the fire were consumed while the Jews were not hurt.
- xiv. The king said he saw a fourth man whose appearance was like a son of the gods.
- xv. He immediately recognized the supremacy of the God of the Jewish young men.
- xvi. Nebuchadnezzar promulgated a decree for official recognition of the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as the God to be worshipped.
- xvii. Thereafter, they were promoted in the province of Babylon.

Candidates should have also considered the following points for the (b) part of the question;

- i. The incident offers hope to believers who suffer as a result of opposition to their faith.
- ii. It also indicates that true believers would be vindicated.
- iii. God cares for believers who stand up for Him. / Having faith in God no matter what happens.
- iv. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego demonstrated an incredible courage and faith which believers should emulate.
- v. The episode reveals God's supremacy and universality.

SECTION B: THEMES FROM THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS AND THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- Q. 5 (a) “Lord how often shall my brother sin against me; and I forgive him? Highlight Jesus’ response to the above question**
(b) Explain two reasons for which people are reluctant to forgive others.

This was popular question among candidates. Most of the candidates who attempted could not answer satisfactorily. The following points were expected from candidates:

- i. Peter inquired from Jesus how often one should forgive.
- ii. Jesus’ initial response to Peter was seventy times seven times.
- iii. Jesus continued by narrating the story of the Unmerciful Servant to buttress his point.
- iv. He compared the kingdom of God to a king who wished to settle account with his servants.
- v. Jesus said a servant owed the king ten thousand talents.
- vi. The king demanded his servant to pay the money but the servant could not.
- vii. The king ordered the sale of the servant, his family and his properties to pay off the debt.
- viii. The servant pleaded with the king to have patience with him and that he would pay later.
- ix. Out of pity, the king wrote off the servant’s debt since he realised that the servant could not pay.
- x. Later, the servant whose debt was written off, met a fellow servant who owed him a hundred denarii.
- xi. He instantly held his debtor by the throat and compelled him to pay up all his debt.
- xii. His debtor pleaded with him but he refused to listen to his plea.
- xiii. There and then, he jailed his fellow servant until he paid up everything.
- xiv. Other servants reported the incident to the king and the king described the servant as a wicked person.
- xv. The king remarked that he forgave the servant all the debt he owed him but he did not have mercy on his fellow servant.
- xvi. So out of anger, the king jailed the wicked servant till he paid the last money he owed him.
- xvii. Jesus in conclusion said that God would not forgive anyone who failed to forgive others.

The (b) part of the question was answered very well by candidates. However, the following points were not mentioned:

- (i) Misunderstanding of the concept of forgiveness
- (ii) Fear of repetition of offence
- (iii) Desire for justice
- (iv) Anger and resentment
- (v) Influence of others
- (vi) Pride

- Q.6 (a) “ My soul is sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me” Give an account of what happened to Jesus after he made the statement.**
(b) Highlight two ways by which one can assist people through life challenges.

This is another popular question whose demands were largely Jesus’ agony at Gethsemane and his arrest. Many of the candidates did well. They were able to link the quotation to the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane and what happened afterwards.

The (b) part of the question was also well answered by candidates. However, the following the points below could have been considered by candidates:

- i. Staying in touch with them
- ii. Encouraging self-care
- iii. Engaging them in fun activities to take their minds off present challenges.
- iv. Being a positive role model to them
- v. Praying for and with them
- vi. Providing financial assistance
- vii. Counselling the victims

- Q.7 (a) Narrate the circumstances under which Peter was rescued from prison.**
(b) Outline three lessons Christians can learn from Peter’s rescue from prison

This question was not very popular among the candidates. The few candidates that attempted it performed poorly; they were not able to narrate the circumstances under which Peter was rescued from Prison. A few also deviated by mixing the narration with the imprisonment of Peter and John. Candidates were expected to consider the following points;

- i. Herod Agrippa joined in the persecution of the disciples to please the Jews.
- ii. He had James, the brother of John killed.
- iii. After James’ death, he realized that the Jews were happy.
- iv. And in order to please them the more, he imprisoned Peter.
- v. Herod’s intention was to have Peter killed after the feast of Unleavened Bread.
- vi. While in prison, fervent prayers were said for Peter by the brethren.
- vii. The night prior to the day Herod planned to kill Peter, he was sleeping between two soldiers.
- viii. Immediately, an angel of the Lord appeared to Peter, asked him to dress up and put on his shoes.
- ix. The angel commanded Peter to wrap his mantle and follow him.
- x. Peter followed the angel through the first and second gates.
- xi. When Peter got to the iron gate leading into the city, the gate opened on its own accord.
- xii. Just as they went out, the angel left Peter and he realized that it was an angel of the Lord that came to rescue him.
- xiii. Peter went to Mary’s house and when he knocked at the door, Rhoda saw him and announced his presence to the brethren.
- xiv. The brethren, however, did not believe her and thought she was mad.
- xv. They insisted that it was Peter’s angel that she saw.

- xvi.** Peter then joined the brethren who were praying for him in the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark

The (b) part was answered not well by most candidates. Candidates should have also considered the following point:

- i. The united fervent prayer of the church has great effect
- ii. The church should learn to petition God and intercede for those in crises
- iii. God still answers the prayer of the faithful
- iv. God saves His people in any difficult situation
- v. We should not doubt the power of prayers

SECTION C: THEMES FROM SELECTED EPISTLES

**Q8. (a) “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously...”
What else did James teach on prayer?**

(b) Explain three factors that hinder Christians from praying

This question was a very popular among the candidates. Some candidates who attempted this question did not do well. Few of the candidates were found sermonizing on how to make prayer effective. A few however answered it well. The account is in (James 1:2-8, 5:13-18). Some of the suggested answers are:

- i. James encouraged Christians to be joyful when they face trials.
- ii. Since the testing of faith produces steadfastness.
- iii. For the full effect of steadfastness leads to perfection and completion without lack.
- iv. He said prayers must be made in faith without doubt.
- v. Anyone who doubts is like the wave of the sea which is tossed to and fro by the wind.
- vi. He said a double-minded person would receive nothing from the Lord.
- vii. James encouraged the sufferer to pray and the cheerful to sing praises.
- viii. He said the sick should be anointed and prayed for by the elders.
- ix. He again said the prayer of faith will bring healing and forgiveness.
- x. The righteous man’s prayer has greater effect.
- xi. Prayer should be made in humility.
- xii. Prayers should be made persistently.
- xiii. He made reference to Elijah who prayed for no rain but later prayed for rain and it came to pass.

The (b) part of the question, however was well answered. The following points in the scheme should also be noted;

- i. Laziness

- ii. Lack of faith
- iii. Pride and selfishness
- iv. Worldliness / Materialism
- v. Bad company
- vi. Sin / Immorality
- vii. Persecution
- viii. Affluence

Q 9. (a) Highlight Peter's teaching on how Christians should relate with one another.

(b) What in your opinion are some three major causes of disunity in the church.

This was a very popular question and most of the candidates that attempted it performed excellently. The (b) part of the question was however not well answered by the candidates. The following points should have been considered by candidates;

- i. Arrogance/Pride,
- ii. Selfish ambitions,
- iii. Lack of communication,
- iv. Unforgiveness/unresolved conflicts,
- v. Doctrinal differences,
- vi. Cultural differences,
- vii. Leadership struggles,
- viii. Resistance to change.

