




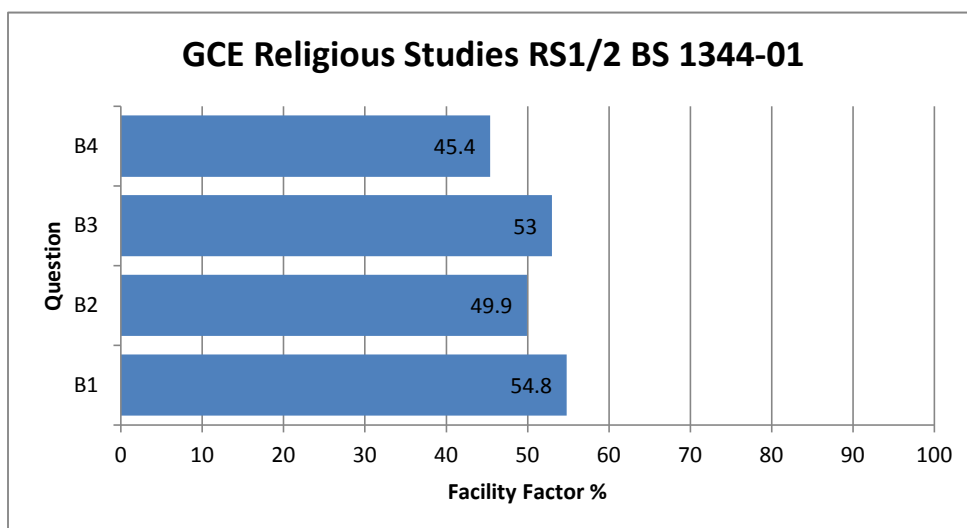


GCE Religious Studies RS1/2 BS 1344-01

All Candidates' performance across questions

 <i>Question Title</i>	 <i>N</i>	 <i>Mean</i>	 <i>S D</i>	 <i>Max Mark</i>	 <i>FF</i>	 <i>Attempt %</i>
B1	65	24.7	8.7	45	54.8	41.4
B2	108	22.4	9.1	45	49.9	68.8
B3	114	23.9	8	45	53	72.6
B4	22	20.4	9.9	45	45.4	14



Section B: Introduction to the New Testament

Answer two questions.

2. (a) Explain the main themes of Jesus' parables. [30]
- (b) 'Jesus did not deliver the parables as we know them.'
Assess this statement. [15]

② (a) Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings, which Jesus told to gain attention^{and} for people to remember. There are four key themes that occur in most of Jesus' parables.

The first theme is God's Grace, which can be seen in the parable of the Prodigal Son. This is because the son is welcomed by his father in open arms, even though the son squandered land that he borrowed from his father. The father throws a party for the son, sharing his grace. God's Grace is also present in the parable of the ~~same~~, ~~as~~ Good Samaritan, as the man who helped the man who was dying showed grace to help him, even though he was an outsider.

Another theme is Judgement, which is present in the parable of the Great Banquet. This is because people who are invited to the feast have the choice of whether or not to attend. The theme is also in the Good Samaritan, and the man decides to help out the man who is dying, even though he is an outsider. Also, the theme is present in the Prodigal Son, as the other brother has a choice whether to forgive his brother and attend the party.

The Cost and Value of discipleship is another theme, which is shown in the Good Samaritan. This is because even though the man dying is an outsider, the Jew still helps him and saves his life. The theme is also present in the Prodigal Son, as the father accepts his son back, but the brother is doubtful over the decision. Also in the Great Banquet, as ~~people~~ messengers are killed by the King.

The final theme is the Kingdom of God, which is present in all three parables. The Good Samaritan, because

outsiders are accepted in the kingdom, the Prodigal Son because it shows what the kingdom is like, as the father accepts his son back in open arms and arranges a feast for him. And the Great Banquet ~~is~~ because, reference to the burning of the temple is made in Matthew.

② ① Jesus told parables for many reasons, including to gain people's attention and for people to remember them. However the way in which Jesus told the parables can be seen differently by different people.

Mainly, Jesus told parables in front of his followers, to get them to remember them and pass on his stories. He would stand in front of thousands of people, and deliver his parables.

However, as people passed on the parables of Jesus to other people, the stories could have been altered. This is a form of form criticism, where being passed on word by mouth, the stories could have changed. So the way in which Jesus told the parables could be different to the way in which religious believers today believe.

As well as this, the parables could have been redacted, which means they were edited by the gospel writers to suit them. The parable of the Great Banquet is found in both Matthew and Luke, but Luke could have edited the original version to show that he writes for a wider audience, exemplified in the parable to the reference of outsiders receiving an invitation to the feast. So the parable in which Jesus told could have been changed by Luke, or even Matthew too.

Although it is well known that Jesus told his parable in front of a crowd of thousands, this could have been altered in the time of the early Church. It is very hard to imagine that Jesus telling his stories other than in front of a

Question
number

Leave
Blank

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13

Limited understanding. Examples barely relevant.



14

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Some grasp of the main issues.



8

$$\frac{22}{45}$$
$$\frac{54}{90}$$

21
a)

~~Jesus~~ Parable derives from the Greek word 'parabole'. Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings and ~~during Jesus~~ parables included many everyday events & customs to illustrate things to the people that would otherwise not understand them. ~~Jesus~~ Rabbis also told parables.

The most predominant theme & the theme that all others relate back to is the theme of nature of the Kingdom of God. Jews called it the 'Kingdom of Heaven' due to their insensitivity to the word 'God'. The Kingdom of God relates to a covenant made between God & Jews about to restore their fortunes to the golden age of Kings David & Solomon. Many thought this would be on earth & a spatial Kingdom resided over by the Messiah but in reality it was a personal & metaphysical one resided over by the Messiah. Jewish Eschatology relates to the two God's last dealings and the ^{many of the} variables express to the Jewish audiences to not miss out on

the Kingdom of Jesus & so the Kingdom. There is realised, future & inaugurated & the parables aim ~~was~~ to warn people and the parable of the hidden treasure demonstrates this. The parable of the sower's main theme is the Kingdom of God as it teaches people to hear God's message and to go to his Kingdom. The parable describes how a sower throws seed on different types of ground and how the ground responds to this. The sower represents God as he throws his seed far, this shows his grace as all are welcome to the Kingdom. The parable is a straight simile turned allegory & the different types of ground ~~is~~ indicate the different types of hearers. The parable teaches that the Kingdom will be sufficiently big, as the seed on the good soil grows abundantly. It also teaches that it grows unseen but that all are invited, it just depends on the response or whether one gets in.

The next theme is the theme of judgement. Judgement is also an eschatological theme and it relates to how the actions and attitudes of one get you into the Kingdom, not how good a few you are like many Pharisees & scribes thought. This is demonstrated in the Great Banquet upon which there is a clear separation between those who go & those who do not go to the feast. The feast symbolises the Kingdom of God & those who reject the invitation are those who reject the word of God & so judge themselves unworthy for the Kingdom. Moreover, &

The next theme is God's grace which is the constant throughout that God shows to people who deserve condemnation. The prodigal son demonstrates this as the younger, ~~more~~ disobedient son is welcomed openly & forgiven by his father when he returns & repents. However, the elder and obedient but never repentant son is also offered God's grace, showing that ~~to~~ even though he doesn't deserve it. This shows that God offers his grace to all & it is up to the individual to accept it.

The final theme is the value & cost of discipleship. This preaches that one must have qualities like repentance & obedience & must play an active role in participating in & responding to the Word to be accepted into the Kingdom. This is shown in the Good Samaritan in which a ~~man~~ ~~son~~ man is robbed on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho & is ignored by religious Jews but is helped by the despised Samaritan. The parable teaches ethics & also that no matter who you are or who your neighbour is, you should help them & show that you are a true disciple.

31. early church

/ - ipsissima vox Jesu
- interpretations: not meant to be fact, meant to teach lessons

Form critics ~~some may~~ agree with this statement by saying that the Sitz im Leben Kirche & the life in the evangelium defined the parables, & not Jesus. The Early Church operated in the

Oral period in which the parables were being transmitted & so shaped the parables to fit their own needs. For example, in the parable of the Sower, it is speculated by form critics like Jeremias & Dodd that there was originally no minimal. They say that this minimal was added primarily to make it understandable but also for their own reasons. The Early Church wanted to convert Jews but many were not & so many Christians were being persecuted. The Sower's minimal could be seen to be encouraging people to join the new faith, like the short saying "new wine in old wineskins" and to be used as an apologetic, to encourage the convert followers to persevere in the face of persecution as God's Kingdom will be so great. Moreover, in the Matthew's the Great Banquet, form critics say that the early Church added the part upon about the city being burnt & it relates to AD 70 & the sack of Jerusalem. This could be the church preaching a similar message such as to persevere through tough persecution. Finally, form critics seem to pre-

This shows that form critics in die Kirche also added historical context to the parables to make them relatable. This all shows that the parables were manipulated so much that they were no longer the words of Jesus.

For Conversely, some argue that Christians argue that Jesus did deliver these parables and that they were not. They say that they were probably not the *ipsissima verba* Jesus, but most likely the *ipsissima vox* Jesus due to oral traditions from Hebrew

to Hellenistic Thought. Moreover, Jews would not have certified his parables to be changed as they were the word of God. After Jesus' death, the disciples would have been instructed to preach the life of Jesus and would not change the words due to their close relationship with Jesus. However, some say that the ~~the~~ kerygma was more prevalent than the disciples' preachings & so they have been dramatically changed.

Finally, the parables are in Christians would argue that the parables are interpretation of Jesus' words & haven't been changed entirely. Instead, they have been kept similar to his original words due to the overwhelming faith & belief in Jesus' teachings.

Overall, Jesus' words are not ~~comp~~ his as the Early Church & its initial evangelism has changed them to fit their own needs of the time. Whilst Jesus' core message may be prevalent, the Church has shaped them too much that it has changed meaning.

* Another feature of Matthew's birth narrative is that he uses fulfilment citations. These fulfil prophecies in the Old Testament & so fulfil Jewish expectations of ~~for~~ the Jewish Messiah. Because of this, supernatural elements would not have been surprising as they were to Jews as they would have been prophesied.

2)
a)


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Le

A fairly full response.



12

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Read.

38
4573
90

Section B: Introduction to the New Testament

Answer two questions.

3. (a) Examine the miracle of raising the Widow's Son at Nain. [30]
- (b) 'The accounts of his miracles deter people from believing in Jesus.'
Assess this statement. [15]

3(a) Jesus performed all kinds of Miracles each of them categorised as healing, natural, exorcism and resurrection. The Miracle of the Widow's son is an example of one of Jesus' resurrection Miracles.

Jesus went in to the town at Nain and ~~there~~ there he saw a Multitude of people carrying the body of a dead boy. Jesus saw the dead boy's Mother who was a widow. Jesus then went over to the boy's body and resurrected him.

What is significant about this Miracle is that it shows how Jesus understood and was able to show emotion. It is said in the Gospel that Jesus "had compassion for the widow" ~~show~~ conveying Jesus to be not one

and embracing his human side whilst still being ~~is~~ at one with the part of him that was also completely God. ~~So~~ This is shown how Jesus ~~at~~ even had the power ~~to~~ over death, bringing people back to life. This Miracle was also wh

This Miracle also shows that Jesus was able to perform this Miracle through direct touch of the body and through a direct command telling the body of the widow's son to "Arise" in which the corpse responded by life being brought back into the boy and him being given back to his widow Mother.

This Miracle gave way to the thought belief that Jesus could be the Son of God to the large crowd that had witnessed the Miracle and so Jesus' fame spread even further.

Jesus' compassion for the widow was a direct portrayal of God's compassion for humanity and so gives us reason to why he would send his son to die for us so that we would not have to Perish.

3(b) To those who have an open heart and acceptance, of Jesus' Miracles do not halt people from believing in Jesus. In fact, the faith of Jesus Christ is strengthened by the reminder of the Miracles that Jesus performed with the belief that Jesus is the same as he was 2000 years ago. If he could do it for them, he could do it for the people today.

We must acknowledge that people could disagree. Many saying that Jesus' Miracles seem too far fetched for them to be real, ~~and~~ moreover, there isn't any ~~to~~ physical proof that any of the Miracles took place.

Kant argued that it is only possible for events to occur if they have happened before. As a result, Jesus' Miracles could not have happened because ~~they have only happen~~ there is no evidence of such miracles happening again.

We can counter argue that just ~~an event only happened once~~ because an event happened only once does not mean that it never happened at all.

Jesus was a superior being, both Man and God. It would be possible for such a being to be able to perform things that go against all logical explanation.

Others have argued that the miracles were made up by the church to strengthen faith in Christ.

We can argue again that if this was the case, the church would've made up more astonishing miracles.

In conclusion, Jesus, being the Son of God makes him able ~~for superior~~ to create supernatural events.

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Knowledge limited to basics



3(b) To those who have an open heart and acceptance of Jesus' Miracles do not halt people from believing in Jesus. In fact, the faith of Jesus Christ is strengthened by the reminder of the Miracles that Jesus performed with the belief that Jesus is the same as he was 2000 years ago. If he could do it for them, he could do it for the people today.

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L3 In conclusion, Jesus, being the Son of God makes him ~~for superior~~ to create supernatural events.

Some limited attempt at analysis.



6
18
45
26
90