

***EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI***

**EPC**

**EXAMINATION REPORT**

**FOR**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**2020**

## GENERAL COMMENTS

The 2020 EPC external examination had **26 637** candidates who sat for Religious Education. This shows a decrease of candidates compared to **28 015** in 2019.

The overall candidate's performance for the 2020 was good hence the highest candidate was able to score 95% while the lowest score was 00%.

The question paper had three sections which carries 20 marks each. Candidates were expected to answer all questions. Each question consisted of structured questions which covered the three assessment domains:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Analysis and interpretation
- Evaluation

The candidates performed well in the knowledge and understanding questions while they had challenges in analysis, interpretation and evaluation questions. However, there is a great improvement in the evaluation questions compared to the previous years.

Candidates found question 3 more assessable compared to questions 1 and 2. This was due to the fact that candidates were able to relate the biblical stories with what the examiner required. Some candidates lost marks due to incorrect spelling and responding in siSwati. Candidates also had challenges with interpreting the key words in the questions.

## COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

*Candidates were expected to answer all questions, using short sentences or phrases in the spaces provided.*

### QUESTION

1 (a) (i) **Name the first two human beings that were created by God in the beginning according to the Bible.**

**Expected responses:**

- Adam and Eve

**Common wrong response:**

- Man and a woman
- Eva
- Old Testament and New Testament

(ii) **Mention what the spirit of God was doing when the earth was without void.**

**Expected responses:**

- Moving over the surface of water

**Common wrong response:**

- Void
- Busy creating the earth
- It was moving through the world
- The earth was formless and dark

**(iii) Describe how the first women came into being according to the creation story in the bible.**

**Expected responses:**

- God said it is not good for man to be alone
- I will make a helper suitable for him
- God cause a deep sleep fall upon man
- Took one of his ribs and close it up with flesh
- From the rib God made the woman

**Common wrong response:**

- God uses dust from the ground to make a woman
- He uses His hands to make a woman
- He breath on her nostrils
- He created Eve from His image
- He took a rib of Adam and put it to Eve

**(b) (i) What is learnt about the character of the serpent that appeared to Eve in the Garden of Eden?**

**Expected responses:**

- Skillful because it tempted Eve to eat the tree of knowing good and evil
- The serpent was deceitful and a liar because it convinced Eve to eat the fruit that so that they will be clever like God
- Convincing, the snake made Eve to eat the fruit

**Common wrong response:**

- A serpent was a snake
- She came to Eve and told her to eat the fruit so that she will be clever like God
- A snake or a devil told Adam and Eve to eat the fruit that God said they must not eat so that they will be like God
- God punishes sin
- A person must not tell lie to other people like the serpent

**(ii) Explain how man is different from the rest of God's creation.**

**Expected responses:**

- Man has the breath of life
- Man was created in the image of God
- Man has eternal soul
- Man know what is wrong and right
- Man has free-will, can exercise God given free will
- Man was created to have dominion over God's creation

**Common wrong response:**

- Man have home
- Man is able to eat other nature
- Man was made by hands
- Woman will give birth
- Man will work hard by working hard for life

**(c) Do you think Eve was responsible for the fall of man?**

**Give reasons for your answer.**

**Expected responses:**

**Yes.**

- Eve was responsible because she listened to the serpent
- She was the first person to eat the forbidden fruit
- She was easily convinced by the snake even though God had given them an instruction not to eat the forbidden fruit
- She was the one who gave Adam the fruit to eat

**No.**

- Eve should have consulted Adam before she ate the forbidden fruit
- Adam is to be blame because as a leader and the one created first was supposed to protect his wife Eve from the snake
- Adam should have not eaten the forbidden fruit

**Common wrong response:**

**No.**

- Because Eve was not present when the man fall
- Because Eve was made by God also the serpent was created by God. So Eve listened to God's creation that is the serpent

**Yes.**

- Because God took a rib from Adam and make Eve
- Because she is a helper

**2 (a) One of the parable Jesus told was that of the prodigal son.**

**(i) What did the young son ask from his father before he left for a far country?**

**Expected responses:**

- Share of his property

**Common wrong response:**

- Money, animals, *lifa*

**(ii) What does prodigal mean?**

**Expected responses:**

- Wasteful
- Reckless spender

**Common wrong response:**

- Westeful
- Lost
- Means forgiveness or kindness
- Means a son who was lost and found

**(iii) Describe the action of the elder brother when his younger brother came back home.**

**Expected responses:**

- He claimed to be righteous he told his father that he has been with him
- He reacted with anger and discouragement
- He stood outside father's house and not go in
- He complained that he was treated unfairly
- He was jealous because his father did not slaughter a beast for him

**Common wrong response:**

- Old brother thought that his father will give him his share
- While he was in the field he heard a loud voice and he was wondering what was happening
- He asked one of his father's servant on what was happening
- He was told that his younger brother is back

**(b) (i) What does the following represent in the parable of the prodigal son?**

**(1) Elder Brother**

**Expected responses:**

- Pharisees, unforgiving Christians

**Common wrong responses:**

- Devil, first born, seed, Satan, older boy at home, Christian

(2) **Robe**

**Expected response:**

- Protection, restoration of birth right or identity, new life

**Common wrong responses:**

- Cloth, young son, sinners, un-trustable friends, the people who robe, Angels

(c) **Ring**

**Expected responses:**

- Love, affection, new covenant

**Common wrong response;**

- Marriage ring
- Gold

(d) **Father**

**Expected responses:**

- God

**Common wrong responses:**

- Jesus, a person who lead the family
- A man with children

(ii) **What two lesson can be learnt from the parable of the prodigal son?**

**Expected responses:**

- God is always ready and waiting for our return to Him with open arms
- God's love is abundant and His mercies always triumphs
- We must guard our hearts from self-righteousness and critical attitude towards our brothers and sisters
- Never judge people about their past
- There is always a second chance to do the right thing
- There is joy in heaven when one sinner repents

**Common wrong response:**

- God do not spend time on holy people, but spend time on those who are called by the Devil.
- We learn that the son helped people how to worship God

**(c) Do you think the Father did well to celebrate the return of the prodigal son instead of celebrating the older brother for always being good?**

**Expected responses:**

**Yes**

- The father did well because the feast that the father used is not a reward
- The son's reward is his father's acceptance
- The father's expression of joy
- This was a perfectly normal (human) emotions
- We are told to always forgive anyone who wrongs us with no exception

**No**

- That gave the impression that the younger son was better than the older good son
- The father should have appreciated the elder brother for always being good and at home
- The father overjoyed too much and that was not necessary
- How sure was the father that the son was not going to change unless he is forced to
- The father should have set some rules at home
- He set a bad precedence

**Common wrong response:**

**Yes**

- Because the God loves those who are lost when they come back than those who are always with God and know what God is expecting
- Because in other families, they do not celebrate the return of their sons

**No**

- The father was supposed to punish the younger son
- **The father hates the old son because he stayed with and but no reward**

**3 The ninth commandment says that 'Thou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

**(a) (i) According to the Bible teaching who is one's neighbor?**

**Expected responses:**

- All mankind
- All people
- Someone you know or do not know

**Common wrong response:**

- Teaching one's neighbour is one's neighbour
- Someone next to you
- Family members

**(ii) Give an example of how one can bear false witness against a neighbor.**

**Expected responses:**

- Speaking falsely in any matter
- Lying and designing to deceive other people

- Speaking unjustly about a neighbour

**Common wrong response:**

- When someone see that his neighbour has a beautiful car and give his false witness that if the can roll I can be happy
- By sharing meals with another and helping each other by providing needs and wants

**(iii) Describe the teachings of the Bible about neighbour.**

**Expected responses:**

- Loving your neighbour as you love yourself
- Do not avenge your neighbour
- Help your neighbour when they are in need
- Live in peace with your neighbour
- Do not plan evil against your neighbour

**Common wrong response:**

- You must worship God to respect the Bible
- Do not steal on your neighbour's house

**(b) (i) How does the Bible expect and command us treat our enemies?**

**Expected responses:**

- Love your enemies
- Pray for your enemies
- Do good to your enemies
- Pay evil with good deeds
- When he is hungry give him food, thirsty give him water to drink
- Forgive them

**Common wrong response:**

- The Bible teaches us to share our resources with our enemies
- Treat the neighbour by taking them to church and tell him to read the Bible
- We also treat them badly because they do not worship God



**The Bible teaches us to forgive seventy times seven (70x7).**

**(ii) Explain two reasons why forgiving those who wrong us is important.**

**Expected responses:**

- Forgiveness allow us to move on without anger or contempt or seeking revenge
- To live peaceful life
- Forgiveness frees us to live in the present
- For our own happiness or inner peace
- When we hold on to hurt, pain resentment and anger it harms us far more than it harms the offender

**Common wrong response:**

- We should forgive people who wrong us so that we have an eternal life after death
- So that we increase our spiritual glory
- The Bible teaches us to forgive  $70 \times 7 = 490$  times
- They also want us to love and respect the God according to the Bible

**(c) Do you think bearing false witness against a neighbour is bad?**

**Give reasons for your answer.**

**Expected responses:**

**Yes**

- It is bad because judgement will be made and based on false testimony
- False testimony can destroy one's life and property
- Innocent people may be discredited
- It is against God Commandment

**No.**

- It is not bad for a good cause
- It is not bad if it is going to save life

**Common wrong response:**

**No**

- Because if you false witness to your neighbour you can end up in a fight
- Because you will be promoting peace, loving and eating together
- Because your neighbour needs your help

**Yes**

- Bearing false witness against a neighbour is bad if the neighbour is treating you well,
- You won't get help from the neighbour again