



**EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF ESWATINI**  
Eswatini Primary Certificate Education

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (533/02)**  
**Examination Report for 2023**

### **General Comments**

The general overall performance was good. The paper itself was satisfactory as it covered all three domains: knowledge and understanding, interpretation and evaluation. Terminology used was at the cognitive level of the candidates, which made candidates to attempt questions fairly.

Candidates managed time allocated to the paper quite well. This was evident as the candidates attempted all questions with only a minority who left few questions unanswered. Most of the candidates were able to answer questions in English with a few who attempted some questions in slang. The minimal use of SiSwati words was also evident such as "Sathane, Johane". Of great concern was the use of vulgar language by candidates to the extent of insulting their teachers such as in question 3 (c) "That headteacher is stubborn, nonsense. The boy urinated in 7B bucket. He is rubbish!" Educators should therefore try by all means possible to tell learners to desist from expressing their personal feelings in the examination scripts.

The examiners noted an improvement in the answering of questions using continuous writing. Educators are further encouraged to use the teaching syllabus concurrently with the examination syllabus and make use of Biblical stories and the recommended prescribed verses from the teaching syllabus. Textbooks should be used as references. Educators are also encouraged to dwell much on key aspects during lesson delivery such as characterisation, symbolism, lesson learnt and significances from the accounts. In addition, educators are encouraged to clarify command words in the syllabus and emphasise on the difference between "God" and "Jesus" as candidates tend to use these words interchangeably. Lastly educators are encouraged to train their learners on the evaluation questions.

### **Comments on specific questions**

#### **Question 1**

**(a) (i) Who gave human beings the authority over nature? [1]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates proved outstanding knowledge of the question, however there were a few candidates who got wrong answers.

**Incorrect responses:** Adam, Jesus, God the son.

**Expected response:** God.

**(ii) Name one form of creation. [1]**

This part of the question was fairly done, however some learners were unpacking the forms of creation e.g. trees, human beings.

**Incorrect responses:** darkness, light, day and night, trees, human beings.

**Expected response:** animals, plants, water, things in the sky.

**(iii) Mention one way in which plants are important to people. [2]**

This part of the question was well attempted as most candidates were able to explain ways in which plants are important to people, with a few who wrote incorrect responses.

**Incorrect responses:** carbon dioxide.

**Expected responses:** plants provide food, medicine, shelter, oxygen.

**(iv) Explain two ways how people should take care of animals. [4]**

This question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to state how people take care of animals, with minimal incorrect responses.

**Incorrect responses:** plants give animals food.

**Expected responses:** Making sure that animals have shelter, food, water, medication and well conserved.

**(b) (i) "... and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate and she also gave some to her husband..." Genesis 3:6**

**What do we learn about Eve's character from the Bible verse above? [4]**

This question was not well done by most candidates. Candidates lacked understanding that the character should be based on the quotes not on the whole account of the fall of man.

**Incorrect responses:** weak, selfish, clever.

**Expected responses:** loving, caring, disobedient.

**(ii) Explain two ways in which man is unique from the rest of God's creation. [4]**

This part of the question was well done. Most candidates had adequate knowledge on how man is different from the rest of God's creation, however some candidates confused "man" referring to human beings with "man" in the literal sense of gender, hence giving the different responsibilities of men in a family set up versus those of women.

**Incorrect response:** Adam was created first, a man must work hard to provide food for the family.

**Expected responses:** Man was made in God's image, man knows right from wrong, man was made to worship God.

**(c) "The woman who thou gavest to be with, she gave me fruit of the tree and I ate." Do you think Adam was right to shift the blame to his wife? Give reasons for your answer. [4]**

This question was fairly done, though some did not know how to use the bible verse as some just brought back the verse in their responses, thus they failed to support their stands (Yes/No). Educators are advised to use biblical stories during teaching and learning.

**Incorrect responses:** Yes, do you think the woman who thou gavest to be with, gave me the fruit of the tree.

**Expected responses:**

**Yes.** Adam was right to shift the blame to his wife because:

- Eve gave him to eat the forbidden fruit.
- She was the one who listened to the serpent.

**No.** Adam was not right to shift the blame to his wife because:

- God instructed them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Adam was supposed to take his own decision on what God had instructed them to do.

## Question 2

**(a) (i) State what Christians believe about life after death? [1]**

This question was well attempted. Candidates proved to have a clear understanding of what Christians believe will happen after death, however a few candidates gave incorrect responses.

**Incorrect responses:** There will be a judgement day, internal life.

**Expected responses:** There is life after death, when Christians die, they will rise again and live again.

**(ii) Describe two things that will happen on judgement day? [2]**

This part of the question was well attempted even though some candidates were defining judgement.

**Incorrect responses:** People will talk about their sins, people will meet their ancestors.

**Expected responses:** People will stand before the throne of God and be judged on what they did on earth; People's actions all through the lives will be revealed and judged; sinners will go to hell where they will spend their lives in hell of fire and the righteous will go to heaven where there is eternal joy in the presence of God.

**(iii) "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me though he die, yet shall he live..." (John 11: 25 – 26)**

**Who said these words? [1]**

This part of the question was exceptionally done, except for the fact that some candidates could not differentiate between "God" and "Jesus".

**Incorrect responses:** God, Me.

**Expected response:** Jesus.

**(b) (i) Explain the importance of the following ways of worship. [4]**

This part of the question was not well attempted as most candidates would give the different types of prayer and not understanding what the significance of praying is.

**Prayer**

**Incorrect responses:** thanksgiving prayer; prayer for healing.

**Expected responses:** communicating with God; praising Him for all the good things He has done for them; drawing closer to God's presence.

**Singing**

**Incorrect responses:** Enjoying with God.

**Expected responses:** Inviting the presence of God in our midst.

**(ii) On the night before He died, Jesus had a final meal with His disciples.**

**What was served during the last meal? [2]**

This part of the paper was well attempted by most candidates even though some brought knowledge of the meal that Jesus served in the feeding of the 5000 people.

**Incorrect responses:** 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish.

**Expected response:** Bread and wine.

**(iii) What do the food items served on the last supper represent? [2]**

This part of the paper was well attempted even though some showed lack of understanding on the difference between "God" and "Jesus".

**Incorrect responses:** Bread represent the body of God; Wine represents the blood of God.

**Expected responses:** Bread represents the body of Jesus, Wine represent the blood of Jesus.

**(iv) The above meal is still taken in churches today in a ceremony of the holy communion. Give reasons why the Holy Communion is important to Christian. [4]**

This part of the paper was poorly done. Most candidates used 'God' instead of 'Jesus'.

**Incorrect responses:** They remember God who died on the cross; they remember the body and blood of Jesus.

**Expected responses:** The Holy Communion symbolizes the remembrance of Jesus and His death on the cross; To follow Jesus' instruction He gave during the Last Supper that Christians should continue taking the Holy Communion even after His death.

**(C) "... Hell is a place of fire and pain". Do you think it is wise to follow God's Instructions while you live on earth? Give reasons for your answer. [4]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Some candidates could not rise to the demands of the question. They were not critical as most talked about the judgement on their responses. A few candidates attempted the negative side.

**Incorrect responses:** Yes, because God say we should love and respect our parents.

**Expected responses:**

**Yes.** It is wise to follow God's instructions while you live on earth so that you can go to heaven and have eternal joy in the presence of God; To avoid eternal pain and suffering in hell fire.

**No.** It is not wise to follow God's instructions while you live on earth because everyone has a choice of living a life that he/she wants.

### **Question 3**

"... And when a great crowd came together and people from town to town came to him, he said in a parable, a Sower went out to sow his seeds; and he sowed..." (Luke 8: 4-15).

**(i) Who is the Sower in the parable? [1]**

This part of the question was well attempted even though others wrote "God" instead of "Jesus".

**Incorrect response:** God, god, the Sower, a man.

**Expected responses:** Jesus, Preacher, Priest, Pastor.

**(ii) What do the seeds symbolise in the parable? [2]**

This part of the question was not well done, only a few candidates gave the correct response.

**Incorrect responses:** different kinds of hearts, different soils, different kinds of people.

**Expected response:** Word of God.

**(iii) Who steals the word of God from people's hearts? [1]**

This part of the question was well attempted, with few candidates giving wrong answers with incorrect spellings and SiSwati words.

**Incorrect responses:** evil, serpent, bird, demons, sathane, Saturn (planet), serpent.

**Expected responses:** Devil/ Satan

**(iv) Outline the meaning of the parable.**

This part of the question was poorly done. Most candidates were defining a parable.

**Incorrect responses:** People's attitudes and attributes determine how they receive the word of God; a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

**Expected response:** The seeds that fell along the path are those who hear the word of God, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe; The ones on the rock are those who hear the word and receive it with joy; but it does not grow, they believe for a while and in times of temptations it falls away; As for those who fell on the thorns are all those who hear the word, but the riches and pleasures of the world disturb them, and the word does not grow well; Those who fell on the good soil are those who hear the word of God, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bring forth fruits with patience.

**(b) (i) Identify two lessons that can be drawn from the parable of the Sower. [4]**

This part of the question was poorly done as most candidates were narrating the parable and failed to draw the lessons from the parable.

**Expected response:** People accept the word of God in different ways; life circumstances and people's attitudes determine whether they will become Christians or not; God has sent different people to preach His word.

**(ii) Suggest any two life circumstances that prevent people from keeping the word of God in their hearts?**

This part of the question was not well done as most candidates wrote things that God expected us to do.

**Incorrect responses:** keeping the word of God, respecting God.

**Expected response:** shortage of resources, rejection, bereavement, revenge, quarrels/ wars, riches and pleasures of the world.

**(c) Does going to church everyday help Christians in their daily lives?**

**Give reasons for your answer. [4]**

This part of the question was poorly done. Candidates seemed confused in taking a stand (Yes/No). Those who managed to do so would at times fail to support their selected stand, instead they contradicted their ideas. Educators are therefore advised to train learners on evaluation questions.

**Incorrect Responses:** I think going to church everyday does help Christians in their lives because God is there for us.

**Expected Responses:**

**Yes,** going to church help Christians in their lives because it gives guidance on how to follow God.

**No,** going to church does not help Christians in their lives because one can go to church and still be a sinner.