

**EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL OF  
ESWATINI**

**JC**

**EXAMINATION REPORT**

**FOR**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**YEAR**

**2022**

## JC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Paper 533/02

#### General Comments

The overall performance of the candidates was good. The paper itself was good because it assessed all three domains (knowledge, understanding and interpretation and evaluation) of the subject. A majority of the candidates were able to access it as they could understand the language used. Religious Education educators are greatly commended for their selfless dedication and effort in guiding, shaping and equipping the learners with all the necessary skills entailed in the subject. This syllabus was written for the fifth time and the performance of the candidates ranged from 2 to 60 out of 60 marks.

One would be doing a gross disservice if we did not recognize the great work that Educators have done to produce such great results. Without their tireless efforts, dedication, patience and endless sacrifice this great performance would not have been achievable. One cannot but note the fact that there were many pilfering challenges that interfered with teaching and learning, chief among them being those that came with the COVID -19 pandemic. In spite of all, teachers somehow found a way to do their best and for that one cannot thank them enough. May the Almighty God refresh their strength to continue the great work they are doing within and beyond the four walls of the classroom.

Candidates managed the time allocated to the paper quite well. Rubric errors were very minimal, instructions were followed and all aspects of each question were answered.

Most candidates were able to answer questions in English and the use of slang was quite minimal. Use of Siswati words were still common, with words like 'Phetro' and 'Johane' featuring prominently. Unpalatable messages and cellphone numbers being left for examiners is still a norm. A serious concern is the use of vulgar language by candidates, with some candidates going to the extent of insulting God.

Candidates made use of the spaces provided by giving specific answers with a few exceptions of those who wrote outside the spaces provided in the question paper.

It was evident from the candidates' responses that they made use of the Revised Standard Version Bible and their prescribed text as points of reference. There were very few candidates who left questions or parts of questions unanswered.

Examiners noted a significant improvement in the answering of all the parts of each question. For knowledge questions, most candidates used continuous writing style. For understanding and interpretation questions, some candidates demonstrated a lack of the skill of interpretation. For evaluation questions, some candidates were unable to substantiate both sides of their arguments with evidence.

Educators are advised to use the teaching syllabus concurrently with the examination syllabus and to make use of the Biblical stories and verses that are recommended in the topics of the syllabus. In addition to that, Educators are encouraged not to only teach the biblical accounts but also assist learners with characterization, lessons learnt, moral lessons and significances from the accounts. Teachers are also encouraged to emphasize to learners the importance of giving responses based on Christian aspects and avoid giving general responses in all the topics. Educators are also encouraged to explain the command words in the syllabus and to emphasize on the difference between God and Jesus as the candidates tended to use these words interchangeably.

Teachers are also encouraged to instill moral values in learners to curb the use of strong language which is increasingly witnessed during the marking exercise.

## Comments on Specific Questions

### Question 1

This question was fairly done.

- (a) (i) Name any two Apostles that accompanied Jesus when he went to raise Jairus' daughter. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Candidates who gave incorrect responses demonstrated a lack of knowledge on the miracle of the raising of Jairus' daughter. Some candidates were confusing the miracle with that of the raising of the son of the widow of Nain. Other candidates gave the Apostles vernacular names such as 'Pethro', 'Johane'. Incorrect responses given were; 'Jacob', 'Moses', 'Abraham', 'Paul and Silas'.

**The expected responses were:** 'Peter', 'James' and 'John'.

- (ii) State what Jesus said when he saw the people inside the house crying. [2]**

This part of the question was well done. However, a few candidates presented Jesus' response as a question and wrote, 'why are you crying?' which was incorrect.

**The expected response was:** 'Do not weep, she is not dead but sleeping'.

- (iii) Explain the significance of this miracle. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Candidates who gave incorrect responses failed to give responses that are specific to the miracle of the raising of Jairus' daughter. Some candidates would use God in the place of Jesus such as, 'God has power over nature', 'God has power over sickness and God has power over everything'. Other candidates failed to refer to the miracle of the raising of Jairus' daughter to validate their reasons.

**The expected responses were:** 'Shows Jesus' power over death'; 'Jesus has compassion'; 'Jesus avoids publicity'.

- (b) (i) Explain what we learn about Jairus from the miracle. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most candidates failed to understand that the question demanded them to deduce Jairus' character, instead gave general lessons not coined around Jairus. Some candidates failed to differentiate between having faith and being faithful which then made their responses to be inappropriate. Other candidates would relate Jairus' faith to the raising of his daughter whereas Jairus' faith was evident when he went to Jesus and pleaded with Him to heal his daughter, not in the raising of his daughter.

**The expected responses were:** 'He had faith in Jesus'; 'He was respectful of Jesus'/ Humble; 'Caring'/ 'loving'.

- (ii) Suggest one lesson that can be learnt from this miracle? [3]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Candidates who did not meet the demand of the question tended to give lessons which were not specific to the miracle of the raising of Jairus' daughter. They gave incorrect responses such as, Jesus is powerful, and Jesus has power over sickness.

**The expected responses were:** 'It is important to have faith in Jesus'; 'Jesus is moved by Faith'; 'Jesus has compassion'.

- (c) Do you think miracles still happen in our churches today? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [4]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Some candidates failed to relate their responses to what happens in churches today. Such candidates would cite examples from the miracle of the raising of Jairus' daughter. Other candidates shared personal experiences that did not qualify as miracles such as, I went to Church and then I got a job; The priest prays and touches you and then you fall down.

**The expected responses were:** YES: Still proves God is all powerful; Stills shows that Jesus cares for His people NO: There are fake miracles; Some use magic / ungodly acts.

## Question 2

This question was not well done.

- (a) (i) State four commandments that show the relationship between man and man. [4]**

This part of the question was not well done. Most of the candidates failed to understand that man and man refers to humans or humankind. Some of them changed the question to mean, 'relationship between man and woman' and to 'relationship between man and God'. Some candidates wrote Jesus' teachings on love such as, 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself', 'Do unto others as you would have them do to you'.

**The expected responses were:** Thou shall not kill; Thou shall not steal; Honour your mother and your father; Thou shall not commit adultery; You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour; You shall not covet your neighbour's house, wife, manservant, maidservant, his ox, his ass or anything that is your neighbour's.

- (ii) Explain the importance of keeping a good relationship between man and man. [2]**

This part of the question was not well done. A majority of the candidates misinterpreted the question to mean, 'relationship between men or males', or 'relationship between God and man' or 'relationship between man and woman'. Incorrect responses were; 'men have less conflicts'; 'God will bless you if you maintain a good relationship with Him'; 'they will be able to bear children'.

**The expected responses were:** God's command; Promotes peace; Promotes love.

- (b) 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.' (Exodus 20:8)**

- (i) Explain the meaning of this commandment. [2]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Candidates who failed to meet the demands of the question only interpreted part of the meaning of the commandment. Incomplete interpretations were; 'Christians should rest' or 'Christians should worship God'.

**The expected response was:** 'God wants people to rest and dedicate the day to worshipping Him'.

- (ii) Explain what we learn about God from the Ten Commandments. [3]**

This part of the question was fairly done. Some candidates failed to identify God's character from the Ten Commandments. Other candidates correctly identified God's character from the Ten Commandments but failed to substantiate it with one of the Ten Commandments.

**The expected responses were:** 'God is jealous'; 'God requires honour'; 'God expects respect'; 'God wants people to live in peace with one another'

- (c) Do you think the commandment on keeping the Sabbath day holy is still relevant today? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [4]**

This question was fairly done. Some candidates demonstrated a lack of understanding of the Sabbath. Other candidates confused the concept of the Sabbath with the Last Supper. An example of a top level response was: Yes, I think the commandment on keeping the Sabbath day holy is still

relevant today because Christians worship and serve God on the Sabbath day and do not do any work. Others may say, no, people go to work on Sabbath day instead of worshipping God. They believe the Sabbath was kept long ago and now it has no meaning to them.

**The expected responses were:** YES: God's command; We do need rest; God needs to be worshipped and honoured. NO: Outdated; Has a lot of restrictions; On a working day.

### Question 3

This question was well done.

- (a) (i) Describe how Eve was made. [4]**  
 This part of the question was fairly done. However, some candidates failed to give a chronological account of how Eve was made. Other candidates could not recall how Eve was made. Such candidates gave incorrect responses such as; 'God created Eve with dust', 'God inserted the rib into Eve'.  
**The expected response was:** God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man; Took one of his ribs; Closed up its place with flesh; From the rib, made the woman; Adam said, this at last is bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh, she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man.
- (ii) Explain why creation was important. [2]**  
 This part of the question was poorly done. Most candidates could not explain why creation was important instead they gave an account of the creation.  
**The expected responses were:** 'God wanted order on earth'; 'To show that He was all powerful'; 'God wanted His kingdom to spread to the earth'.
- (b) (i) Explain how man is totally different from the rest of God's creation? [2]**  
 This part of the question was well done. A majority of the candidates gave correct responses as demanded by the question. However, there were quite a few candidates who failed to understand that the word man refers to humans or humankind and not to the male gender. Incorrect responses given by such candidates were; 'man must provide for the family', 'man must work hard', 'man must till the ground'.  
**The expected responses were:** Man was created in the image and likeness of God; Man is a moral being; Man was created to have dominion over the rest of God's creation; Man's soul is eternal.
- (ii) Explain what we learn about God in the creation of Eve. [3]**  
 This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to give the expected responses. Few candidates however failed to identify God's character and others demonstrated a lack of the skill of interpretation.  
**The expected responses were:** All powerful; Considerate of one's needs; God is neat; God is all knowing.
- (c) Do you think Eve should be blamed for the original sin? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [4]**  
 This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were able to give both sides of the argument which were substantiated with evidence from the story of the Fall of Man. However, some candidates brought personal views against feminism, such as, 'women are foolish, stupid, and of little mind'. A few candidates blamed God for planting the tree and for failing to stop Eve from eating the fruit. Top level response was: Yes, I think Eve should be blamed for the original sin because she disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit. Others may say, no, God instructed Adam when Eve was not even formed. Adam should have told Eve not to go near the tree.  
**The expected responses were:** YES: Eve listened to the serpent; God had told them that if they eat the fruit of knowledge of good and evil, they will die; She was the first to eat it and later gave

her husband. NO: Adam was created first; Instruction not to eat the fruit of knowledge of good and evil was given to Adam; Adam should have protected the woman from the subtleness of the serpent.

#### Question 4

This question was well done.

- (a) (i) Describe two types of abuse that Jesus faced on the cross. [4]**  
 This part of question was well done. A majority of the candidates were able to describe the physical and emotional abuse that Jesus faced on the cross. However, a few candidates mentioned verbal, sexual and financial abuse as incorrect responses.  
**The expected responses were;** Physical – He was beaten; nailed; stabbed. Emotional – He was told to save Himself; They shared His garments; He was mocked.
- (ii) Explain one Christian teaching on abuse? [2]**  
 This part of the question was poorly done. Most candidates lacked knowledge on the Christian teachings on abuse. Common incorrect responses were: ‘report abuse to the police’, ‘report to adults’, ‘report to SWAGAA’. Some candidates associated the question with suicide.  
**The expected responses were;** Life is sacred, People deserve respect; Love your neighbour as you love yourself; Do unto others as you would have them do to you.
- (b) (i) Explain what we learn about Jesus in the crucifixion? [3]**  
 This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates demonstrated knowledge of what happened during Jesus’ crucifixion. However, some could not draw Jesus’ character during the crucifixion but gave lessons from the crucifixion. Such candidates gave incorrect responses like; ‘I learnt that I should be forgiving’, ‘I learnt that I should not retaliate’. These are answers to ‘what we learn’ not ‘what we learn about Jesus’.  
**The expected responses were:** Forgiving; humble; does not retaliate; He is human, feels pain.
- (ii) Explain how you would advise an abused person. [2]**  
 This part of the question was fairly done. Most candidates were giving general advice instead of Christian advice. They gave incorrect responses like; ‘there is no permanent situation’, ‘cool down’, life goes on’. Some candidates confused abuse with suicide and gave responses such as, ‘do not kill yourself’, ‘suicide is a sin’.  
**The expected responses were:** Go to the priest for advice or counselling; Read scripture on forgiveness; Pray for healing.
- (c) Do you think the Jews were justified to abuse Jesus? Give reasons for your answer and show you have thought about different points of view. [4]**  
 This part of the question was not well done. A majority of the candidates did not tackle the question from the Jewish perspective instead they used the current Christian perspective of the divine Jesus in Heaven. An example of a top level response was: Yes, I think Jews were justified to abuse Jesus because He claimed to forgive sins while they believed that only God could forgive sins. Others may say, no, life is sacred. God commands us not to kill.  
**The expected responses were:** YES: He had broken some of the Jewish laws e.g. The Sabbath laws; Blasphemous  
 NO: Life is sacred; The abuse of Jesus was equal to breaking the law.