

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL  
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION  
EXAMINATION**

**114/2**

**DIVINITY 2**

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

**Time : 3 Hours**

**ANSWERS**

**Year : 2002**

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**Instructions**

1. This paper consists of Alternative **A** and **B**. Candidates must confine themselves to either Alternative A or B.
2. Answer **five (5)** questions. Question number **one (1)** for Alternative A and question number **nine (9)** for Alternative B are compulsory.
3. Each question carries **twenty (20)** marks.
4. Bibles and other unauthorised materials are **not** allowed in the examination room.
5. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).

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## ALTERNATIVE A

### (The Four Gospels)

#### 1. Briefly comment on the meaning of each of the following statements as used by Jesus.

**(a) "And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." (Mark 3:24)**

Jesus was explaining that internal division leads to failure. In context, He refuted accusations that He cast out demons by Satan's power. A kingdom divided internally collapses, showing that God's kingdom must be unified and that His ministry is coherent and divinely empowered.

**(b) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)**

This beatitude highlights humility and spiritual dependence on God. Those who recognize their spiritual poverty and need for God are promised entry into His kingdom. It teaches that spiritual emptiness is not shameful but a starting point for receiving divine blessings.

**(c) "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)**

Jesus warns against divided loyalty. One cannot pursue both worldly wealth and God simultaneously. Faithful service to God requires prioritizing spiritual over material pursuits, emphasizing single-minded devotion and integrity in discipleship.

**(d) "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44)**

This parable illustrates the incomparable value of God's kingdom. True discipleship may require sacrifice of worldly possessions or ambitions. The joy of discovering God's kingdom outweighs any earthly gain, showing commitment and prioritization of spiritual treasures.

**(e) "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)**

Jesus defines leadership and greatness through service and self-sacrifice. His mission is to redeem humanity through His death. This teaches disciples that true greatness in God's kingdom is found in humility, service, and sacrificial love.

**(f) "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)**

Jesus offers spiritual sustenance. Belief in Him satisfies the deepest human needs for meaning, forgiveness, and eternal life. Faith in Christ ensures that spiritual hunger and thirst are fulfilled through a relationship with God.

**(g) "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)**

Jesus emphasizes His exclusive role in salvation. He is the mediator between humanity and God. Believers are called to follow Him for spiritual truth, eternal life, and reconciliation with God.

**(h) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid." (Matthew 5:14)**

Jesus calls His followers to live visibly righteous lives, influencing others positively. Christians are to model God's teachings and illuminate spiritual truth in society, serving as examples through their actions and character.

## **2. Discuss the main reasons why Jesus used parables in His teaching ministry.**

Jesus used parables to simplify complex spiritual truths, making them understandable for ordinary people. They engaged the listener's imagination and prompted reflection. Parables also concealed truths from those unwilling to listen sincerely, fulfilling prophecy (Matthew 13:13–15). This teaching method allowed deep spiritual lessons to be conveyed memorably and practically.

## **3. Explain the meaning of the word "Messiah" and discuss the different expectations people had of Jesus during His ministry.**

"Messiah" means "Anointed One" in Hebrew, referring to God's chosen savior. Many Jews expected a political leader who would liberate Israel from Roman rule (John 6:15). Others anticipated a priestly or prophetic figure. Jesus' ministry, however, emphasized spiritual salvation, forgiveness of sins, and the establishment of God's kingdom, redefining expectations and challenging traditional ideas of messianic deliverance.

## **4. Describe the events of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ and explain its significance to the disciples.**

In Matthew 17:1–8, Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a high mountain, where His appearance became radiant. Moses and Elijah appeared, speaking with Him. God’s voice affirmed Jesus as His Son. The Transfiguration revealed His divine glory, strengthened the disciples’ faith, and foreshadowed His resurrection, confirming His authority and mission.

**5. Identify and explain the moral lessons from the parable of the Good Samaritan.**

In Luke 10:25–37, a man is beaten and left for dead. A Samaritan, considered an outsider, helps him, showing mercy and compassion. The lesson teaches love for all, irrespective of social, racial, or religious boundaries. Christians are called to active neighborly love, prioritizing ethical action over prejudice.

**6. Explain the significance of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.**

Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3:13–17 marked the start of His public ministry. It symbolized identification with sinners, obedience to God, and foreshadowed His redemptive work. The descent of the Holy Spirit and God’s affirmation demonstrated divine approval and revealed the Trinity, reinforcing the theological foundation of Christian baptism.

**7. What were the main themes of the Sermon on the Mount, and how did Jesus' teachings challenge the traditional Jewish law?**

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) emphasizes humility, mercy, purity, and love. Jesus challenged superficial observance of the law, focusing on inner attitudes rather than mere external compliance (Matthew 5:21–48). He introduced higher ethical standards, calling for forgiveness, love for enemies, and sincere devotion to God. This teaching reoriented moral life from ritual to heart-centered obedience.

**8. Discuss the role of women in the ministry of Jesus, giving specific examples from the Gospels.**

Women played essential roles in Jesus’ ministry. Mary Magdalene supported Him financially and witnessed His resurrection (Luke 8:2; John 20:11–18). The Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:7–30) became a messenger of the gospel. Women like Martha and Mary engaged in service and learning. Their participation broke social norms, highlighting inclusivity and the value of all believers in God’s mission.

## ALTERNATIVE B

### (The Apostolic Age)

**9. Briefly comment on the meaning of each of the following statements as used in the Apostolic Age.**

**(a) "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)**

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to witness boldly. This verse establishes the mission strategy of the early church, emphasizing both local and global evangelism.

**(b) "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)**

Christian life depends on trust in God rather than visible circumstances. Faith guides actions and decisions, even amidst uncertainty, reflecting reliance on divine providence.

**(c) "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (2 Corinthians 4:7)**

Human weakness highlights God's power. The gospel is precious, but the messenger is fragile, demonstrating that success depends on God's strength, not human ability.

**(d) "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)**

The gospel is God's instrument for salvation universally. Paul emphasizes courage and proclamation, affirming its transformative power for all humanity.

**(e) "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)**

Equality in Christ transcends social, ethnic, and gender divisions. The church is united in faith, reflecting God's inclusive kingdom.

**(f) "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13)**

Love surpasses all virtues as the essence of Christian life. Faith and hope sustain, but love reflects God's character and binds believers together in action and devotion.

**(g) "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him." (James 1:5)**

Wisdom is accessible through prayer. God provides guidance generously to those who seek Him, encouraging dependence on divine insight.

**(h) "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9)**

Believers are called to proclaim God's work and live holy lives. Identity in Christ carries responsibility to witness and serve as God's representatives.

#### **10. Discuss the role of persecution in the growth and spread of the early church.**

Persecution, as in Acts 8:1–4, forced Christians to leave Jerusalem, carrying the gospel to new regions. Opposition strengthened believers' faith, demonstrated courage, and increased the visibility of Christianity. Hostility inadvertently expanded the church geographically and spiritually, proving that God can use adversity to accomplish His purposes.

#### **11. Describe the events of the first Christian Pentecost and explain its significance for the apostles.**

In Acts 2:1–4, the Holy Spirit descended as tongues of fire, enabling the apostles to speak in various languages. This empowered them to preach boldly, uniting the early church and marking the birth of the Christian mission. Pentecost fulfilled Jesus' promise (Acts 1:8) and established the apostles as Spirit-led witnesses.

#### **12. Explain the reasons for the Jerusalem Council and describe the decisions made by the apostles and elders.**

Acts 15 records that controversy arose over whether Gentile converts must follow the Mosaic Law. The council, led by Peter and James, concluded that Gentiles need not observe circumcision but should avoid idolatry, sexual immorality, and blood consumption. This decision preserved unity, upheld grace, and enabled the church's mission to Gentiles.

**13. Describe the circumstances of Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus and how it changed his mission.**

Acts 9:1–19 recounts Saul encountering a divine light and hearing Jesus' voice. Blinded temporarily, he repented, was baptized, and became Paul. This radical transformation redirected his zeal from persecuting Christians to preaching Christ, establishing him as a leading missionary and theologian.

**14. Discuss the challenges faced by Paul in his missionary journeys and how he overcame them.**

Paul faced imprisonment, beatings, rejection, and opposition (Acts 16:19–40; 2 Corinthians 11:23–28). He relied on prayer, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and support from local believers. His perseverance, faith, and adaptability enabled the gospel to reach Asia Minor, Europe, and beyond despite obstacles.

**15. Explain the importance of the leadership of the apostles, especially Peter, in the early church as described in the book of Acts.**

Peter provided guidance, courage, and doctrinal clarity. He preached at Pentecost (Acts 2), performed miracles, and mediated key issues (Acts 15). His leadership established a model of pastoral responsibility, teaching, and decision-making crucial for the stability and growth of the early church.

**16. Describe the contributions of two of Paul's letters to the Christian teachings of the Apostolic Age.**

**Romans** emphasizes justification by faith, grace, and life in the Spirit (Romans 5–8), shaping foundational Christian theology on salvation and righteousness.

**1 Corinthians** addresses church conduct, unity, and ethical behavior (1 Corinthians 6–13). It provides practical guidance for living faithfully, resolving disputes, and exercising spiritual gifts responsibly. Both letters influenced doctrine and daily life in the early church.