

**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 : 2004

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) "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20)

Jesus assures His presence among believers even in small groups. This demonstrates that communal worship or prayer does not require large numbers, highlighting God's accessibility. It also emphasizes the power of unity and agreement in faith. Additionally, it encourages believers to gather regularly, fostering spiritual fellowship. Finally, it reassures Christians that God honors sincere devotion, regardless of group size.

(b) "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

Jesus emphasizes humility and trust as essential for salvation. Children exemplify innocence, dependence, and openness, qualities required for faith. Believers are called to abandon pride and self-reliance to enter God's kingdom. Moreover, this teaching encourages simplicity in belief and reliance on God's guidance. It also reflects the need for spiritual receptivity and teachability in discipleship.

(c) "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34)

Jesus teaches trust in God's provision and discourages anxiety. Focusing on daily responsibilities prevents being overwhelmed by future uncertainties. It promotes contentment and mindfulness in living. Additionally, it reflects faith that God sustains life and meets needs. Believers are encouraged to pray and rely on divine guidance rather than being consumed by worry.

(d) "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown, it is the largest of garden plants..." (Matthew 13:31-32)

This parable highlights the small beginnings of God's kingdom that grow into great influence. Even seemingly insignificant acts of faith can yield significant spiritual impact. It encourages perseverance and patience in ministry. It also teaches that God's work often starts modestly but expands according to His plan. Additionally, it reassures believers that growth in faith may be gradual but powerful.

(e) "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." (Mark 8:31)

Jesus foretells His suffering, death, and resurrection. This prepares the disciples for the challenges ahead, explaining that His mission involves sacrifice. It emphasizes the necessity of the cross in God's redemptive plan. Additionally, it strengthens faith by revealing God's control over life and death. It also teaches that true leadership in God's kingdom may require humility and endurance.

(f) "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

Love for Jesus is demonstrated through obedience to His teachings. Faith without action is incomplete, highlighting practical discipleship. Obedience expresses gratitude and devotion to God. Furthermore, following Jesus' commandments brings spiritual growth and aligns believers with God's will. It also fosters moral integrity and strengthens the Christian community.

(g) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

Jesus models sacrificial leadership and care. His commitment illustrates protection, guidance, and selflessness. Believers are assured of His personal concern for their well-being. Additionally, it foreshadows His ultimate sacrifice on the cross for humanity. It encourages Christians to trust Him completely and follow His example in caring for others.

(h) "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19)

Jesus institutes the practice of communion as a remembrance of His sacrifice. It symbolizes His body given for humanity's redemption. It teaches gratitude, humility, and faith in God's plan. Additionally, it unites believers in shared worship and reflection on Christ's atonement. It reinforces the significance of sacrificial love and obedience to God's will.

2. Describe the events of Jesus' baptism and explain how the Holy Trinity was manifested.

Jesus approached John the Baptist to be baptized in the Jordan River, demonstrating humility and obedience (Matthew 3:13–15). As He emerged from the water, the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descended like a dove upon Him, signifying the Holy Spirit's presence. God the Father spoke from heaven, affirming Jesus as His Son and expressing divine approval. This event reveals the Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all participating, highlighting the unity and distinct roles within God's nature.

3. Examine the major differences between the Gospel of John and the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke).

John emphasizes the divinity of Christ more explicitly, starting with the theological prologue identifying Jesus as the Word (John 1:1). The Synoptics focus on Jesus' earthly ministry, parables, and miracles in a chronological narrative. John records unique events like the raising of Lazarus and extended discourses on spiritual truth. Additionally, John presents seven "I am" statements, which the Synoptics rarely include, highlighting Jesus' identity and mission. John's style is more reflective and theological, while the Synoptics are more historical and action-focused.

4. Discuss the lessons Christians can learn from the healing of the paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda.

This miracle demonstrates Jesus' compassion for the marginalized and suffering (John 5:1–9). It teaches faith in Jesus as the source of healing and restoration. Believers learn the importance of spiritual renewal alongside physical healing. The story also emphasizes the authority of Jesus over the Sabbath, encouraging Christians to prioritize God's work over legalistic rules. Additionally, it calls believers to respond to God's call with immediate obedience.

5. Explain the significance of Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate and his condemnation.

The trial demonstrates the fulfillment of prophecy regarding the Messiah's suffering (Isaiah 53). It highlights human injustice and the role of fear and political pressure in decision-making. Jesus' calm demeanor shows His submission to God's will, teaching patience and faith in adversity. The condemnation ultimately leads to the crucifixion, central to salvation, demonstrating God's plan for redemption through sacrifice.

6. Discuss the teachings of Jesus on wealth and possessions, drawing lessons from specific parables.

Jesus taught that wealth should not control the heart, as in the parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:16–21). He emphasized generosity and helping the needy, exemplified in the widow's offering (Mark 12:41–44). Earthly possessions are temporary, while spiritual treasures are eternal. Believers are encouraged to prioritize God's kingdom over material gain. Additionally, stewardship, humility, and detachment from greed are central lessons from His teachings.

7. Describe the importance of the Great Commission in the expansion of the early church.

Jesus instructed His disciples to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them (Matthew 28:19–20). This command emphasized global evangelism beyond Israel. It provided authority and assurance of Jesus' presence in ministry. The Great Commission inspired missionary work and the

spread of Christianity. Additionally, it underscores discipleship as both teaching and living according to Jesus' instructions.

8. Explain the meaning of 'discipleship' in the Gospels and describe the cost of following Jesus.

Discipleship involves commitment to learning from Jesus and emulating His life (Luke 9:23). It requires surrendering personal ambitions, prioritizing God's will, and obedience to His commandments. Followers may face persecution, rejection, or material sacrifice. Discipleship also demands spiritual growth, ethical living, and faithful witness to others. It is a lifelong journey marked by service, humility, and trust in God's guidance.

ALTERNATIVE B

(The Apostolic Age)

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

(a) "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Paul contrasts the consequences of sin with God's grace. Death is the ultimate penalty for disobedience. Eternal life is freely offered through faith in Jesus. Believers are called to accept this gift, emphasizing God's mercy. It highlights the necessity of repentance and reliance on Christ for salvation.

(b) "And it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)

This verse expresses the transformative power of faith in Christ. Believers' identity is rooted in Him. Personal desires are subordinated to God's will. Life is lived for Christ's mission and purpose. It teaches surrender and complete spiritual union with Jesus.

(c) "For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all, therefore all have died." (2 Corinthians 5:14)

The sacrificial love of Jesus motivates Christian conduct. Believers are urged to act with compassion and service. The verse emphasizes unity in Christ's death and resurrection. It calls for a life shaped by love rather than selfish ambition. Faith is demonstrated through deeds driven by this love.

(d) "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called..." (Ephesians 4:1)

Paul encourages moral and spiritual integrity. Believers should reflect God's character in behavior. Conduct must honor the calling of salvation. It highlights ethical living, humility, and perseverance. Christians are called to unity, purpose, and faithful service.

(e) "And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all." (Acts 4:33)

The apostles' bold witness demonstrates the Holy Spirit's empowerment. Testimony strengthened early believers' faith. Grace enabled miraculous works and authority. The church grew through both teaching and spiritual power. It reflects divine support for ministry and mission.

(f) "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Believers experience spiritual renewal and transformation. Sinful patterns are replaced by righteousness. Life in Christ brings hope and moral clarity. Identity is now defined by faith rather than the past. It encourages believers to live consistently with new spiritual values.

(g) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

This highlights God's universal love and redemptive plan. Faith in Jesus secures eternal life. Salvation is accessible to all humanity. It underscores the purpose of Christ's sacrifice and God's mercy. Believers are called to respond in faith and witness.

(h) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." (Galatians 5:22-23)

Spiritual growth manifests in character and behavior. Believers are guided by the Spirit rather than worldly desires. Ethical living reflects God's work in them. Fruitfulness benefits the individual and the community. It demonstrates evidence of true faith and maturity in Christ.

10. Discuss the role of Peter and John in the early church, highlighting their healing and teaching ministries.

Peter and John performed miracles, demonstrating God's power (Acts 3:1–10). They taught boldly, reinforcing faith and spreading the gospel (Acts 4:18–20). Their leadership inspired unity and courage among believers. They also defended doctrinal truth against opposition. Their ministry exemplified service, devotion, and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

11. Describe the key challenges the early church faced from within the Jewish community and from the Roman Empire.

Jewish leaders opposed the apostles due to perceived blasphemy and disruption of religious authority. Persecution included arrests, beatings, and trials. The Roman Empire posed threats of social and political suppression. Believers had to navigate fear, legal pressures, and cultural resistance. Despite these challenges, faith and communal support enabled the church to survive and expand.

12. Explain the purpose and significance of Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

Paul addresses unity in the church, emphasizing reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 2:14–18). He instructs ethical living, spiritual growth, and practical application of faith. The letter strengthens believers in purpose, identity, and Christian conduct. It encourages reliance on the Spirit and the development of communal harmony.

13. Discuss the importance of the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas in expanding the gospel to the Gentiles.

They traveled through Cyprus and Asia Minor, preaching to both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 13:4–12). The journey established churches and leadership structures. It demonstrated God's power through miracles and conversions. It reinforced the principle of evangelizing beyond Israel, fulfilling the Great Commission. Missionary work laid foundations for broader church expansion.

14. How did the early Christian community live and share their resources as described in the book of Acts?

Believers shared possessions to meet needs, promoting equality and compassion (Acts 2:44–45). They engaged in communal prayer, worship, and teaching. This lifestyle reflected obedience to Christ and care for one another. Sharing resources strengthened unity and attracted others to the faith. Generosity and mutual support were key aspects of early Christian identity.

15. Describe the circumstances of Stephen's martyrdom and explain its significance to the spread of the early church.

Stephen was accused of blasphemy and stoned (Acts 7:54–60). His bold witness and forgiveness exemplified Christlike courage. His death sparked wider persecution, scattering believers and facilitating the spread of the gospel (Acts 8:1–4). Stephen became the first Christian martyr, inspiring faithfulness and evangelism despite opposition.

16. Discuss the main teachings of the book of James concerning faith and works.

James emphasizes that genuine faith produces ethical action (James 2:14–26). Believers are called to care for the needy, control the tongue, and practice humility. Faith without works is dead, demonstrating that belief must be active. The letter stresses perseverance, practical wisdom, and living according to God's commandments. True Christian faith manifests in tangible deeds and moral integrity.