

**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 : 2006

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. Short explanations (a–h):

(a) “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9)

This beatitude highlights that those who actively promote peace reflect God’s character. Peacemakers reconcile conflicts, forgive, and foster harmony. Christians are called children of God because they imitate His nature. Romans 12:18 instructs believers to live at peace with everyone, showing this principle in practice.

(b) “Do not judge, or you too will be judged” (Matthew 7:1)

Jesus warns against hypocritical judgment. Criticizing others while ignoring one’s own faults leads to judgment. This teaching emphasizes humility and self-examination. In Luke 6:37, Jesus reinforces this by saying, “Do not judge, and you will not be judged,” promoting mercy and compassion.

(c) “Let the little children come to me” (Mark 10:14)

Jesus values children and their faith. He invites them to receive God’s kingdom, emphasizing innocence, trust, and humility. This shows that God’s kingdom is accessible to all who approach with childlike faith. Matthew 18:3 adds that one must become like a child to enter the kingdom of heaven.

(d) “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)

Known as the Great Commission, Jesus commands His followers to evangelize and teach all people. This includes baptizing and instructing in obedience to Christ. Acts 1:8 underscores the global mission, empowering believers with the Holy Spirit to witness to the world.

(e) “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Mark 2:17)

Jesus’ mission was to save the lost, not those who consider themselves righteous. He prioritized reaching sinners to bring them into God’s kingdom. Luke 5:32 reinforces this, showing that repentance and transformation are central to His ministry.

(f) “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35)

Jesus emphasizes the eternal authority and reliability of His words. While creation is temporary, His

teachings remain true and enduring. This assures believers that God's promises and guidance are trustworthy across time.

(g) “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13)

Jesus teaches that the highest form of love is sacrificial. He exemplified this through His death on the cross, offering salvation to humanity. Christians are called to selfless love for others, demonstrating Christ's example in everyday life.

(h) “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (John 14:27)

Jesus assures His disciples of spiritual peace amid trials. This peace is different from worldly calm; it is a deep assurance rooted in God's presence. Philippians 4:7 echoes this, promising that the peace of God will guard hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

2. How did Jesus deal with unbelief and opposition (among crowds, Pharisees, his own family)? Give examples.

Jesus responded to unbelief with teaching, patience, and correction. When the Pharisees questioned His authority, He often answered with parables, signs, or logic (Matthew 21:23–27), demonstrating God's will and exposing hypocrisy.

Among the crowds, He sometimes withdrew to pray or avoid unnecessary conflict (Mark 1:35), showing discernment.

Even His family initially doubted Him; in Mark 3:21, they thought He was out of His mind. Jesus clarified that His mission transcended familial expectations (Mark 3:34–35), prioritizing obedience to God over social pressures.

3. The theme of “Son of Man” in the Gospels: meaning, uses, and significance for Jesus’ identity.

“Son of Man” is Jesus' preferred self-designation, highlighting both His humanity and divine mission. It appears in contexts of suffering, authority, and judgment (Mark 8:31; Matthew 25:31).

It conveys humility, identifying with human experience, while also signaling eschatological authority to forgive sins and judge (Daniel 7:13–14).

This title reinforced His role as Messiah, showing that salvation comes through His obedient life, death, and resurrection.

4. Illustrate and explain an instance where Jesus forgives sins; what controversy arose, and what is the lesson?

In Mark 2:1–12, Jesus healed a paralytic and said, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” The scribes accused Him of blasphemy because only God can forgive sins.

By healing the man, Jesus demonstrated His authority to forgive, validating His words. The controversy illustrates the clash between divine authority and human misunderstanding.

The lesson is that faith in Christ brings both spiritual and physical restoration, and His authority transcends human judgment.

5. Discuss the “Beatitudes” (Matthew 5:1–12): structure, meaning, and modern application.

The Beatitudes consist of nine blessings that describe the characteristics of God’s kingdom citizens. Each begins with “Blessed are,” showing God’s favor on the humble, merciful, pure, and persecuted.

They contrast worldly values with spiritual priorities, emphasizing humility, mercy, and righteousness.

Today, Christians apply them by fostering humility, showing mercy, seeking righteousness, and persevering in trials, modeling Christlike behavior in daily life.

6. Show how Jesus uses conflict episodes (e.g. with Pharisees over Sabbath, paying taxes) to teach deeper truths.

In Mark 2:23–28, Jesus’ disciples plucked grain on the Sabbath. The Pharisees criticized them, but Jesus taught that “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath,” emphasizing mercy over ritual.

In Matthew 22:15–22, when asked about paying taxes, Jesus responded, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s,” teaching the balance between civic duty and spiritual obedience.

These episodes show that challenges and questions can be used to reveal God’s principles and priorities.

7. Analyse the “Great Commission” passage: its commands, promises, and challenges for the church.

In Matthew 28:18–20, Jesus commands His disciples to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach obedience. The promise is His presence “to the end of the age,” providing assurance and guidance.

The challenge lies in the global scope, requiring faith, courage, and perseverance amid persecution and resistance.

For the church today, it underscores the mission to evangelize, disciple, and sustain believers in Christ’s teachings.

8. Reflect on the passion narrative (betrayal, trials, crucifixion). How do the Gospels present the meaning of Jesus’ suffering?

The Gospels describe Jesus’ suffering as purposeful and redemptive. In Matthew 26–27, He prays in Gethsemane, is betrayed by Judas, tried, mocked, and crucified.

This narrative shows Jesus’ obedience to God, fulfilling prophecy (Isaiah 53), and His love for humanity, taking upon Himself the punishment for sin.

It teaches Christians that suffering can have a divine purpose and that faithfulness to God often involves trials, inspiring endurance and hope.

ALTERNATIVE B

(The Apostolic Age)

9. Short explanations (a–h):

(a) “Let us not grow weary of doing good” (Galatians 6:9)

Paul encourages persistence in good deeds, assuring that the proper time will yield a harvest if believers persevere.

(b) “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves” (Ecclesiastes in New Testament usage)

This highlights the importance of unity and cooperation, as strength multiplies when people work together.

(c) “Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might” (Ephesians 6:10)

Christians draw power from God to face spiritual battles, relying on Him rather than human ability.

(d) “All things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28)

God orchestrates circumstances for the ultimate benefit of His faithful, providing hope amid trials.

(e) “If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Believers are transformed spiritually, leaving the old sinful life behind, and living renewed in Christ.

(f) “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21)

Paul emphasizes proactive goodness, resisting evil through righteous action.

(g) “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–17)

Continuous joy and prayer cultivate constant communion with God, shaping believers’ attitudes and actions.

(h) “Let each esteem others better than himself” (Philippians 2:3)

Paul teaches humility and selflessness, essential for unity and Christlike character.

10. Explain how believers in Acts shared all things in common: reasons, examples, benefits, and challenges.

Acts 2:44–45 reports that early believers sold possessions and distributed proceeds according to need. This reflected the command to love one another and practical solidarity.

The benefits included community cohesion, mutual support, and meeting needs without inequality.

Challenges included dependence on others and potential misuse of resources.

Overall, it modeled Christian generosity and selflessness, demonstrating faith in God’s provision.

11. In Acts 17, Paul's speech at the Areopagus is a model of apologetics. Summarize and analyze its elements.

Paul addresses the Athenians' religiosity, noting their altar to an unknown God (Acts 17:23). He connects their spiritual seeking to the true God, explaining creation and humanity's relationship to Him.

He calls for repentance and points to the resurrection of Jesus as evidence of God's plan.

This model demonstrates using cultural context, reason, and Scripture to communicate the gospel effectively.

12. The resurrection of Christ is central. Show how the apostles defended and propagated this doctrine (e.g., Peter in Acts, Paul in letters).

Peter preached boldly in Acts 2, citing Scripture to show Jesus' death and resurrection fulfilled prophecy, urging repentance.

Paul explained in 1 Corinthians 15 that resurrection validates faith, and without it, Christian hope is meaningless.

The apostles' teaching emphasized historical evidence, Scripture fulfillment, and spiritual significance, strengthening early Christian faith.

13. Discuss the fruit of the Spirit vs. works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19–23). What contrast does Paul draw and why?

Paul contrasts sinful behaviors (sexual immorality, envy, strife) with Spirit-led virtues (love, joy, peace, patience).

The purpose is to show believers the ethical and spiritual results of living by the Spirit.

By emphasizing this contrast, Paul guides Christians toward holy living and reliance on the Spirit to overcome sinful tendencies.

14. Address the role of suffering in Paul's theology: how did he interpret suffering, and how did he live with it?

Paul saw suffering as participation in Christ's own trials (Philippians 3:10). It produces endurance, character, and hope (Romans 5:3–5).

He endured imprisonment, persecution, and hardships without losing faith, relying on God's strength (2 Corinthians 11:23–28).

For Christians, suffering is a refining tool that deepens faith and demonstrates dependence on God.

15. The letter structure and theology of Ephesians: unity, mystery, church, spiritual warfare. Outline key themes.

Ephesians emphasizes unity in Christ (Ephesians 4:3–6), revealing God's plan to unite Jews and Gentiles in one body.

The “mystery” is God's wisdom in salvation through Christ (Ephesians 3:6).

Spiritual warfare is addressed in Ephesians 6:10–18, urging believers to put on the armor of God.

The epistle teaches Christians to live in love, holiness, and awareness of spiritual realities.

16. Explain the concept of “body of Christ” in Pauline Christianity: unity, diversity, mutual care, and responsibilities.

Paul describes the church as a body, where each member has unique gifts and roles (1 Corinthians 12:12–27).

Unity is maintained by interdependence, while diversity enriches the community.

Mutual care involves supporting one another spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Responsibilities include service, encouragement, and using gifts for edification.

This metaphor encourages Christians to value others, work together, and reflect Christ's love in practice.