

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

014/1

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE 1

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 2 ½ Hours

ANSWERS

Year: 2012

Instructions:

1. this paper consists eight questions.
2. Answer five questions.
3. Each question carries twenty marks.

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1. When the great flood ended, Noah and his people went out of the ark with all animals and birds. Explain the four major events that followed after coming out of the ark, namely, Noah's sacrifice, Blessing of Noah and his family, God's covenant with Noah, and the shameful act of Noah (Genesis 8:20-9:27). (20 marks)

The great flood described in Genesis marked a pivotal moment in biblical history. After the floodwaters receded, four significant events followed as detailed in the Bible:

i. Noah's Sacrifice

Noah built an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings from every clean animal and bird. This act symbolized gratitude and reverence to God. It demonstrated Noah's acknowledgment of God's mercy and deliverance during the flood. God was pleased with the aroma of the offering and resolved never again to curse the ground or destroy all living creatures as He did during the flood (Genesis 8:20-22).

ii. Blessing of Noah and His Family

God blessed Noah and his sons, commanding them to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. This blessing reaffirmed humanity's dominion over creation and reiterated the sanctity of human life. God also granted humans permission to consume meat but forbade eating flesh with its lifeblood (Genesis 9:1-7).

iii. God's Covenant with Noah

God established a covenant with Noah, promising never again to destroy the earth with a flood. The rainbow was given as a sign of this covenant, symbolizing God's enduring mercy and His commitment to preserving life on earth (Genesis 9:8-17).

iv. The Shameful Act of Noah

After planting a vineyard, Noah drank wine and became drunk, resulting in him lying uncovered in his tent. Ham, one of Noah's sons, saw his father's nakedness and told his brothers, who covered their father respectfully. Upon waking, Noah cursed Ham's son, Canaan, and blessed Shem and Japheth for their respectful actions (Genesis 9:20-27).

These events highlight themes of human gratitude, divine blessing, covenant, and the consequences of sin, shaping the post-flood narrative.

2. "Fear not, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." (Gen.50:19-20).

a) Narrate the event which led to the statement. (10 marks)

b) In five points, explain Joseph's life as a model for faithful living leading to prosperity. (10 marks)

a) This statement by Joseph occurred after the death of Jacob, his father, when his brothers feared retribution for selling him into slavery. The brothers pleaded for forgiveness, fearing Joseph would retaliate for their past wrongs. Instead, Joseph assured them of his forgiveness, emphasizing God's providential plan in turning their evil actions into good. Joseph explained that his journey to Egypt allowed him to preserve many lives during the famine.

b) Joseph's life as a model for faithful living:

i. Forgiveness

Joseph forgave his brothers despite their betrayal, teaching the value of mercy and reconciliation.

ii. Integrity

Joseph maintained his moral uprightness, as seen when he resisted Potiphar's wife, showing the importance of purity and obedience to God.

iii. Patience in Suffering

Despite being imprisoned unjustly, Joseph remained faithful to God, demonstrating that perseverance through trials leads to divine reward.

iv. Wisdom and Leadership

Joseph's ability to interpret dreams and manage resources during Egypt's famine displayed his reliance on God's wisdom.

v. Faith in God's Plan

Joseph trusted God's sovereignty, recognizing that even hardships serve a greater purpose for good.

Joseph's life exemplifies trust in God, moral integrity, and forgiveness, leading to prosperity and favor.

3. In Exodus 18:13-27 we read about Jethro's advice to his son-in-law Moses on how to govern the people.

a) Describe the event and Jethro's advice to Moses. (14 marks)

b) Explain the significance of the advice to present-day leaders by giving three points. (6 marks)

a) Moses faced a situation where he had to judge the disputes of the Israelites from morning until evening. This task was overwhelming and left Moses exhausted. Jethro, his father-in-law, observed this and advised Moses to delegate responsibilities. He suggested appointing capable, trustworthy, and God-fearing men as leaders over groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. These leaders would handle minor cases while Moses would focus on more challenging matters and communicate directly with God.

b) Significance of Jethro's advice to present-day leaders:

i. Delegation of Responsibilities

Modern leaders can learn to delegate tasks to qualified individuals, ensuring efficiency and avoiding burnout.

ii. Selection of Capable Leaders

Jethro's advice emphasizes appointing leaders based on integrity and competence, which is essential for effective governance.

iii. Work-Life Balance

Leaders today can adopt this approach to balance their responsibilities, ensuring they do not compromise their well-being or effectiveness.

4. According to Exodus 32:1-35, Moses was called by God to go up to Mount Sinai.

- a) What did the Israelites do in connection to Moses' delay in the Mount Sinai? (4 marks)
- b) How did God react with regard to the deed? (6 marks)
- c) Explain the reaction of Moses toward God and the people by giving two points on each case. (8 marks)
- d) How does the story relate to religious life today? (4 marks)

a) The Israelites, frustrated by Moses' delay, created a golden calf to worship, claiming it as the god that brought them out of Egypt. They engaged in idolatry and revelry.

b) God's reaction:

- i. God was angered by their idolatry and threatened to destroy the Israelites.
- ii. He expressed His desire to create a new nation through Moses but relented after Moses' intercession.

c) Moses' reaction:

Toward God:

- i. Moses pleaded with God to spare the Israelites, reminding Him of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- ii. He appealed to God's mercy and concern for His reputation among other nations.

Toward the People:

- i. Moses condemned their actions, destroyed the golden calf, and called for repentance.
- ii. He instructed the Levites to punish the unrepentant, resulting in the deaths of many.

d) The story relates to religious life today:

- i. It warns against idolatry, emphasizing the importance of worshiping the true God.
- ii. It highlights the need for spiritual leaders to guide and intercede for their communities.

5. With reference to the book of Judges:

- a) Give three major differences between the minor and major judges. (6 marks)
- b) Explain what you know about the cycle of sin in Judges? (14 marks)

a) Differences between minor and major judges:

- i. Major judges are well-documented and have detailed accounts of their leadership, while minor judges are briefly mentioned.
- ii. Major judges often led significant military campaigns, whereas minor judges primarily served as regional leaders.

iii. Major judges, such as Gideon and Samson, are known for their miraculous acts, while minor judges are known for administrative roles.

b) The cycle of sin in Judges:

The cycle begins with the Israelites falling into sin, often through idolatry. God punishes them by allowing foreign oppression. In their suffering, the Israelites cry out to God, who raises a judge to deliver them. Peace is restored during the judge's leadership, but the cycle repeats after the judge's death. This pattern reflects human disobedience and God's enduring mercy.

6. According to Joshua 24:1-28:

a) Explain the significance of the Shechem assembly to the Israelites, giving at least four points. (10 marks)

b) Which four teachings can society today learn from the Shechem assembly? (10 marks)

a) Significance of the Shechem assembly to the Israelites:

- i. It was a moment of renewal of the covenant between God and the Israelites, emphasizing their commitment to serve only the Lord.
- ii. The assembly served as a reminder of God's faithfulness and blessings, recounting the history of their deliverance and conquests.
- iii. It challenged the Israelites to reject idolatry and wholeheartedly serve the true God.
- iv. The event reinforced collective accountability, as the people publicly declared their allegiance to God, creating a communal bond of faith.

b) Teachings society today can learn from the Shechem assembly:

- i. Commitment to serve God wholeheartedly, avoiding distractions like materialism or idolatry.
- ii. Acknowledgment of history and God's providence as a foundation for faith and gratitude.
- iii. Collective responsibility in fostering moral and spiritual values within the community.
- iv. The importance of renewing commitments to uphold religious and ethical principles.

7. Discuss the theme of love as Moses reminded the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:1-9. (20 marks)

The theme of love in Deuteronomy 6:1-9 centers on the Israelites' devotion to God and its implications for their lives.

Moses emphasized the command to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and strength. This love is not merely emotional but involves obedience to God's commands and statutes. It reflects total dedication to God, recognizing Him as the source of life and blessings.

Moses instructed the Israelites to teach God's laws to their children, symbolizing the transmission of love through generations. They were to meditate on God's words constantly, integrating them into daily life and activities. The act of writing these laws on doorposts and gates demonstrated love through visible commitment.

In today's context, this theme encourages believers to express their love for God through faithful living, teaching moral values to future generations, and making faith an integral part of life.

8. Compare and contrast between Moses and Samuel as the leaders of Israel based on the following:

- a) The call to serve God. (4 marks)
- b) Their response to their call. (4 marks)
- c) The conditions in which the Lord called them. (4 marks)
- d) The roles they played. (4 marks)
- e) The mode of death. (4 marks)

a) The call to serve God:

Moses was called through the burning bush, a miraculous encounter where God tasked him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Samuel was called as a young boy while serving under Eli in the temple, hearing God's voice directly.

b) Their response to their call:

Moses initially hesitated, expressing doubts about his ability to lead and speaking issues, but eventually obeyed. Samuel responded immediately, saying, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," showing prompt obedience.

c) The conditions in which the Lord called them:

Moses was called during a time of oppression in Egypt, as the Israelites cried out for deliverance. Samuel was called during a time of spiritual decline in Israel, as God sought a faithful prophet to guide the people.

d) The roles they played:

Moses was a lawgiver, deliverer, and mediator between God and the Israelites. Samuel was a prophet, priest, and judge, guiding Israel spiritually and anointing its first kings.

e) The mode of death:

Moses died on Mount Nebo after seeing the Promised Land but was not allowed to enter. Samuel died a natural death and was buried in his hometown of Ramah. Both were honored leaders, remembered for their service to God and Israel.