

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

014/2

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE 2

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 2:30 Hours

ANSWERS

Year: 2011

Instructions

1. This paper consists of sections A , B and C with a total of twelve (12) questions. Section A consists of
2. questions from the Gospel according to Matthew, Section B from the Gospel according to Luke and
3. Section C from the Acts of the Apostles.
4. Answer three (3) questions from either section A or B ; and two (2) questions from section C .
5. Question 1 is compulsory for candidates who choose to answer questions from section A and question 5
6. is compulsory for candidates who choose to answer questions from section B .
7. 4. Each question carries twenty (20) marks.
8. 5. All communication devices, Bibles and any other unauthorized materials are not allowed in the
9. examination room.
10. 6. Write your Examination Number on every page of your answer booklet(s).

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1. Answer the following questions according to Matthew:

a. Matthew 14:3-12 speaks about the arrest of John the Baptist.

i. Explain one main reason for the arrest of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was arrested by King Herod because he publicly condemned Herod's unlawful marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

ii. Explain the event after his arrest by giving two points.

- John was imprisoned in the fortress of Machaerus.
- Later, he was beheaded following a request by Herodias' daughter, prompted by her mother, during Herod's birthday celebration.

iii. Give two lessons drawn from the story.

- Boldness in standing for the truth, even in the face of opposition.
- The consequences of immoral actions and unchecked power.

b. Some people deny that Jesus walked on the sea water, arguing that Jesus walked on frozen water (Mt. 14:22-33). Using your knowledge of the miracles of Jesus, how can you help them believe that Jesus truly walked on the normal water? Give four points.

- The disciples, experienced fishermen, recognized it as water, not ice.
- Peter also walked on the water towards Jesus, which would not have been possible on ice.
- The stormy nature of the sea indicates it was not frozen.
- The Gospel records the event as a miraculous act, not a natural phenomenon.

2. It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons that this man casts out demons (Mt. 12:24).

a. Give an account of the story.

The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul after witnessing Him heal a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute. Jesus refuted their claim, explaining that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. He further asserted that His ability to drive out demons was evidence of the Kingdom of God.

b. Relate the story to what is happening among believers today.

The story reflects how some believers face false accusations or skepticism regarding their spiritual gifts or miracles. It also highlights the need for unity and faith in recognizing the work of God.

3. Read this quotation and answer the questions that follow:

Then the Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples transgress the traditions of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." And He called the people to Him and said to them, "Hear and understand: not what goes into the mouth defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man" (Matthew 15:1-20).

a. Explain the event from which the quotation was taken.

The Pharisees and scribes criticized Jesus' disciples for not following the ritual of hand washing before meals. Jesus responded by emphasizing the importance of inner purity over outward rituals, teaching that moral impurity comes from the heart rather than external practices.

b. What did the washing of hands signify and why did Jesus rebuke it?

The washing of hands was a ceremonial tradition symbolizing purity. Jesus rebuked it because the Pharisees prioritized traditions over genuine righteousness and neglected the weightier matters of the law, such as justice and mercy.

c. What does this story teach us today?

- True purity comes from the heart, not external rituals.
- Prioritizing God's commandments over human traditions.

4. Command that these two sons of mine may sit, one at your right hand and one at your left (Mt. 20:21).

a. Narrate the story.

The mother of James and John approached Jesus, asking Him to grant her sons prominent positions in His kingdom. Jesus explained that such positions are determined by the Father and taught His disciples about servanthood and humility.

b. Interpret the story.

The story teaches the importance of humility, service, and the rejection of worldly ambitions in favor of following Christ's example of selflessness.

5. The story of Simon Magus in Samaria (Acts 8:9-24) is a kind of corruption and misuse of power.

a. Explain the sins of Simon Magus that are regarded as corruption and misuse of power.

- Simon practiced sorcery, misleading the people of Samaria into believing he was someone great.
- He attempted to buy the power of the Holy Spirit from Peter and John, treating spiritual gifts as commodities.
- He sought personal fame and recognition rather than glorifying God.

b. Relate the incident to what is happening in our country today by writing three points.

- Individuals misuse positions of power for personal gain rather than serving the community.
- Corruption in religious institutions, where spiritual blessings or services are sold.
- A focus on personal glory or material wealth rather than selfless service to others.

c. As a responsible citizen suggest four measures to be taken to overcome corruption.

- Enforce strict laws and penalties against corruption.
- Promote transparency and accountability in leadership.

- Educate citizens on ethical values and integrity.
- Encourage reporting of corrupt practices and protect whistleblowers.

6. According to the book of Acts chapter 5:12-42:

a. Briefly explain who Gamaliel was.

Gamaliel was a respected Pharisee and teacher of the law, known for his wisdom and moderation. He was a member of the Sanhedrin and a mentor to Paul (formerly Saul).

b. Describe two of Gamaliel's advices to the Sanhedrin.

- He advised the Sanhedrin to refrain from harming the apostles, reasoning that if their mission was of human origin, it would fail.
- He cautioned them against opposing the apostles, as they might be fighting against God if the mission was divine.

c. Relate the advices to the present-day life by giving three points.

- Encouraging tolerance and open-mindedness in resolving conflicts.
- Acknowledging that truth will prevail, regardless of opposition.
- Avoiding hasty or unjust actions against individuals or groups without understanding their purpose.

d. Give four advices to those who would like to prohibit or abolish religious gatherings today.

- Respect freedom of worship as a fundamental human right.
- Promote dialogue and mutual understanding instead of confrontation.
- Recognize the positive role of religious gatherings in fostering morality and community.
- Ensure any restrictions are justified and applied fairly, without bias.

7. It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables (Acts 6:2).

a. Give the context of this statement.

This statement was made by the apostles when the early church faced complaints from Hellenistic Jews about the neglect of their widows in daily food distribution. The apostles prioritized their ministry of preaching and prayer while appointing deacons to handle administrative duties.

b. How was the problem settled?

The apostles appointed seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, to oversee the distribution, ensuring fairness.

c. Giving two reasons, explain why the method which was used to settle the problem is important in the growth of the church.

- It allowed the apostles to focus on their spiritual responsibilities, ensuring effective ministry.
- It demonstrated the importance of delegation and equitable administration in maintaining unity.

d. Explain about one of the two men who were not only confined to serving tables but also preaching the Gospel.

Stephen was one of the seven appointed deacons. He was known for his faith, wisdom, and boldness in proclaiming the Gospel, ultimately becoming the first Christian martyr.

e. Suggest three ways to help the needy in your society.

- Establish community food programs to assist the poor.
- Provide education and skill training to empower the underprivileged.
- Organize charitable events to raise funds for social services.

8. "The gods have become like men and have come down to us" (Acts 14:11).

a. Explain in detail the event which led to these words.

Paul and Barnabas were in Lystra, where Paul healed a man crippled from birth. The crowd, amazed by the miracle, assumed Paul and Barnabas were gods in human form. They identified Barnabas as Zeus and Paul as Hermes because Paul was the chief speaker. The people brought sacrifices to offer to them, but Paul and Barnabas tore their garments, urging the crowd to turn to the living God rather than worship them.

b. How does the event relate to the ministers of the church in today's context?

- Ministers today face situations where people overly glorify them rather than God, creating a need for humility.
- The event reminds ministers to redirect praise and honor to God, emphasizing their role as servants.
- It highlights the importance of discouraging idolization of leaders and focusing on the worship of God.
- Ministers must use opportunities to proclaim the Gospel, just as Paul and Barnabas corrected the people's misunderstanding by pointing them to God.

9. Answer the following questions according to Luke:

a. "Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?" (Lk. 2:49).

i. Explain one main reason for the speaker to ask the question.

Jesus asked this question to Mary and Joseph after they found Him in the temple, demonstrating His awareness of His divine mission and purpose at a young age.

ii. Briefly narrate the story (Luke 2:41-52).

At the age of twelve, Jesus accompanied His parents to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. After the festival, His parents left for home, unaware that Jesus had stayed behind in the temple. They found Him three days later, discussing with the teachers. Jesus expressed His commitment to His Father's work, but Mary and Joseph did not fully understand His words.

iii. Give three lessons drawn from the story.

- Parents should guide their children spiritually and respect their unique purposes.
- The importance of prioritizing God's work in life.
- The value of seeking wisdom and understanding from God's Word.

b. During his ministry, Jesus favored parables as his method of teaching.

i. Interpret the parable of the dishonest steward (Lk. 16:1-9).

The parable emphasizes the need for wisdom and shrewdness in using worldly resources to secure eternal rewards. Jesus teaches that believers should use their resources to serve God and help others, thereby storing treasures in heaven.

ii. Show one teaching from the parable to Christians today.

Christians are called to be faithful stewards of their resources, using them to glorify God and help those in need.

10. With reference to Luke's gospel identify and explain two occasions where people rejected or doubted the divinity of Jesus and two occasions where demons acknowledged Jesus as God.

a. Two occasions where people rejected or doubted the divinity of Jesus.

- In His hometown of Nazareth (Lk. 4:16-30), the people rejected Jesus, questioning His authority and divine mission, as He was a carpenter's son.
- The Pharisees and scribes doubted His divinity when He forgave sins, claiming only God could forgive sins (Lk. 5:21).

b. Two occasions where demons acknowledged Jesus as God.

- In the synagogue at Capernaum (Lk. 4:33-34), a demon cried out, acknowledging Jesus as the Holy One of God.
- When Jesus healed the man possessed by demons in the region of the Gerasenes (Lk. 8:28), the demons recognized Him as the Son of the Most High God.

a. Narrate the story of the walk to Emmaus.

Two disciples were traveling to Emmaus, discussing Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus joined them, but they did not recognize Him. He explained the Scriptures about the Messiah. At supper, Jesus broke bread, and their eyes were opened to recognize Him, but He disappeared. They returned to Jerusalem to share the news with the other disciples.

b. Give two teachings the story teaches us today.

- The importance of recognizing Jesus in daily life and Scripture.
- The value of fellowship and sharing faith with others.

12. “Truly I tell you, not even in Israel have I seen such faith” (Lk. 7:9).

a. Explain the event which led Jesus to say these words.

A centurion approached Jesus through elders of the Jews, asking Him to heal his servant. The centurion expressed faith in Jesus’ authority by stating He did not need to come physically but just speak a word for the healing. Jesus marveled at the centurion’s faith.

b. What does the story teach you today?

- Faith does not require physical evidence.
- Humility in seeking Jesus’ help.
- Trusting in Jesus’ authority and power.
- God’s blessings are for all, regardless of ethnicity or status.
- The importance of interceding for others.

13. The story of Simon Magus in Samaria (Acts 8:9-24) is a kind of corruption and misuse of power.

a. Explain the sins of Simon Magus that are regarded as corruption and misuse of power.

- Simon practiced sorcery and misled the people, claiming to be someone great.
- He tried to buy the power of the Holy Spirit, treating God’s gift as a commodity.
- His intention was self-glorification rather than genuine faith.

b. Relate the incident to what is happening in our country today.

- Some leaders misuse power for personal gain.
- People prioritize material wealth over spiritual growth.
- Corruption in religious practices for selfish benefits.

c. As a responsible citizen suggest four measures to be taken to overcome corruption.

- Promote education on ethics and integrity.
- Strengthen anti-corruption laws and enforcement.
- Encourage transparency and accountability in leadership.
- Foster a culture of truthfulness and moral responsibility.

14. According to the book of Acts chapter 5:12-42:

a. Briefly explain who Gamaliel was.

Gamaliel was a respected Pharisee and teacher of the law. He was known for his wisdom and was a mentor to Paul.

b. Describe two of Gamaliel’s advices to the Sanhedrin.

- Refrain from harming the apostles as their work might be of God.
- If their mission was of human origin, it would fail on its own.

c. Relate the advices to the present-day life.

- Encourage patience and understanding in resolving disputes.
- Trust that truth will ultimately prevail.
- Avoid rash decisions that could harm others unjustly.

d. Give four advices to those who would like to prohibit or abolish religious gatherings today.

- Respect freedom of worship as a basic right.
- Recognize the positive societal contributions of religious gatherings.
- Address concerns without undermining spiritual practices.
- Promote dialogue and understanding instead of restrictions.

15. “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables,” (Acts 6:2).

a. Give the context of this statement.

The apostles addressed the complaint about the neglect of widows in daily food distribution, emphasizing their commitment to preaching and prayer while appointing others to handle the administrative task.

b. How was the problem settled?

Seven men of good reputation were chosen to manage the distribution, ensuring fairness.

c. Explain why the method used was important in the growth of the church.

- It allowed the apostles to focus on preaching.
- It promoted unity by addressing grievances effectively.

d. Explain about one of the two men who were not only confined to serving tables but also preaching the Gospel.

Stephen, one of the appointed deacons, was filled with faith and the Holy Spirit. He preached boldly and performed miracles, ultimately becoming the first martyr.

e. Suggest three ways to help the needy in your society.

- Organize food and clothing drives for the underprivileged.
- Provide education and job training opportunities.
- Establish community support systems for vulnerable groups.

16. “The gods have become like men and have come down to us” (Acts 14:11).

a. Explain in detail the event which led to these words.

In Lystra, Paul healed a man who was crippled from birth. The crowd, amazed, believed Paul and Barnabas were gods. They called Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes and attempted to offer sacrifices. Paul and Barnabas protested, directing them to the living God.

b. How does the event relate to the ministers of the church in today’s context?

- Ministers must redirect glory to God, avoiding personal glorification.

- They should correct misunderstandings about faith and worship.
- Ministers must emphasize serving God over seeking personal gain.
- The event highlights the need for humility and a focus on spreading the Gospel.