

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: 2014

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. (a) Comment on the quotation, “Have nothing to do with the righteous man, for I have suffered much over him today in a dream.” (Matthew 27:19)

The quotation refers to the message Pilate’s wife sent to him as Jesus was being tried. She had a troubling dream about Jesus, who she recognized as a righteous man, and warned Pilate not to involve himself in condemning Him. This highlights the divine intervention to show Jesus' innocence. However, despite this warning, Pilate succumbed to the pressure of the crowd, demonstrating the tension between political expediency and moral responsibility.

(b) Matthew 21:33-46 is a parable of the wicked tenants who mistreated the servants of the vineyard’s owner and murdered his son.

(i) Narrate the parable of the wicked tenants.

The owner of a vineyard leased it to tenants and went to another country. When harvest time came, he sent his servants to collect the fruits, but the tenants beat, killed, and stoned them. He sent more servants, and they received the same treatment. Finally, he sent his son, thinking they would respect him, but the tenants killed the son, hoping to seize his inheritance. The owner vowed to destroy the tenants and lease the vineyard to others who would give him the fruits.

(ii) Interpret the parable of the wicked tenants giving at least five important matters arising in the parable.

- The vineyard represents Israel, and the owner symbolizes God.
- The tenants represent the religious leaders who failed to fulfill their responsibilities.
- The servants signify prophets sent by God, whom the leaders rejected and killed.
- The son represents Jesus, who was rejected and crucified.
- The new tenants are the followers of Christ, symbolizing the extension of God’s kingdom to all who believe.

2. Pin-point ten important instructions given by Jesus to his apostles as he commissioned them in Matthew 10:1-33.

- i. Preach that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- ii. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons.
- iii. Take no gold, silver, or copper in their belts.
- iv. Do not take a bag, extra tunic, sandals, or staff.
- v. Stay in homes that welcome them, giving their peace to the household.
- vi. Shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against unwelcoming towns.
- vii. Be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.
- viii. Expect persecution and rely on the Spirit for words to speak.
- ix. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.
- x. Acknowledge Jesus before men to be acknowledged before the Father.

3. (a) Explain the story from which the speaker spoke these words by showing at least seven scenes (acts). The story comes from the parable of the workers in the vineyard:

- i. A landowner hires workers at different times of the day to work in his vineyard.
- ii. At the end of the day, he pays all workers a denarius, starting with the last hired.
- iii. The earlier workers expect more pay but receive the same.
- iv. They complain to the landowner about being treated equally with those who worked less.
- v. The landowner reminds them of their agreement for a denarius.
- vi. He asserts his right to be generous with his money.
- vii. He challenges their jealousy, asking if they resent his generosity.

(b) Give three teachings you can get from the story.

- i. God's grace is given freely and equally to all.
- ii. It challenges human notions of fairness, emphasizing divine generosity.
- iii. It teaches humility and gratitude for God's blessings.

4. (a) Tell the full story from which the quotation was taken.

The quotation is from the parable of the talents:

- i. A master entrusts his servants with talents according to their abilities.
- ii. One receives five talents, another two, and another one.
- iii. The first two invest and double their talents.
- iv. The third hides his talent, fearing the master's strictness.
- v. The master commends the first two for their faithfulness.
- vi. He rebukes the third servant for his laziness and takes away his talent, giving it to the one with ten talents.
- vii. The unfaithful servant is cast out into darkness.

(b) Relate the story to our present life by giving at least four points.

- i. We must use our abilities and opportunities to serve God and others.
- ii. Fear and inaction lead to failure in fulfilling responsibilities.
- iii. Faithfulness in small matters is rewarded.
- iv. Wasted opportunities result in judgment.

5. (a) Who are commanded to go?

The Pharisees and Herodians.

(b) Identify the 'fox' referred to in the quotation.

Herod Antipas.

(c) Narrate the story.

Jesus was warned by Pharisees that Herod wanted to kill Him. Jesus dismissed the threat, calling Herod a "fox" and stating His commitment to continue His mission of healing and casting out demons until it was complete. He lamented over Jerusalem's rejection of God's messengers.

(d) Give at least three lessons you can learn from the story.

- i. Faithfulness to God's mission requires perseverance despite threats.
- ii. Jesus' courage demonstrates trust in God's sovereignty.
- iii. Rejection of God's message leads to judgment.

6. (a) In one sentence, tell what prompted the speaker to say those words.

The synagogue leader criticized Jesus for healing a crippled woman on the Sabbath.

(b) Give the full story in the context of the quotation.

Jesus healed a woman who had been crippled for eighteen years. The synagogue leader, indignant, said healing should not be done on the Sabbath. Jesus rebuked him, pointing out that they untie their animals on the Sabbath, arguing that it was right to free a suffering person.

(c) Jesus' action was falsely interpreted as breaking the Sabbath law. Why did Jesus do so while he was aware of the attitude of his opponents?

- i. To show that mercy takes precedence over ritual observance.
- ii. To demonstrate God's compassion and power.
- iii. To challenge legalistic interpretations of the law.
- iv. To reveal His authority as Lord of the Sabbath.

7. One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me (Luke 18:22).

(a) Describe the context of this quotation.

The quotation is from the story of the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-23. A wealthy ruler approached Jesus and asked what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus reminded him of the commandments, such as not committing adultery, not stealing, and honoring one's parents. The man confidently stated that he had kept all these since his youth. Jesus then told him that he still lacked one thing: to sell all he owned, distribute the proceeds to the poor, and follow Him. The man became very sad because he was extremely wealthy and unwilling to part with his possessions. This event highlights the challenge of prioritizing God over material wealth and trusting Him completely.

(b) Give at least four teachings of the story in the society today.

i. Detachment from material possessions: The story teaches that wealth should not take precedence over one's relationship with God. True spiritual fulfillment comes from generosity and trust in God rather than material accumulation.

ii. Self-examination: The young ruler believed he had kept all the commandments, but Jesus challenged him to examine his heart. Similarly, individuals today are called to reflect on their lives to identify any obstacles preventing a full commitment to God.

iii. The importance of generosity: Jesus emphasizes that giving to the poor is an expression of love and compassion. This reflects the principle of sharing resources with those in need, fostering equality and care in society.

iv. The challenge of discipleship: Following Jesus requires sacrifices, including letting go of earthly attachments. This story reminds Christians to prioritize their spiritual journey over worldly gains.

8. Most of the time, Jesus used parables in teaching His audience.

(a) Explain the meaning and function of parables.

Parables are simple stories with a deeper spiritual or moral lesson, often drawn from everyday life experiences. Jesus used parables to communicate profound truths in a way that was relatable to His audience. The function of parables includes:

i. Teaching spiritual lessons: Parables convey important teachings about God's kingdom, human behavior, and salvation.

ii. Engaging the audience: The relatable nature of parables captures attention, making complex ideas easier to understand.

iii. Revealing and concealing truths: Parables reveal spiritual truths to those who are open to understanding but obscure them from those who are spiritually hardened.

(b) Narrate the parable of the sower in Luke 8:4-16.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus describes a farmer scattering seeds, which fall on four types of ground:

i. Path: The seeds are trampled and eaten by birds, representing those who hear the word but the devil snatches it away before they believe.

ii. Rocky ground: The seeds sprout quickly but wither because they lack moisture, symbolizing those who receive the word with joy but fall away during times of testing.

iii. Thorns: The seeds grow but are choked by thorns, representing those who are distracted by life's worries, riches, and pleasures, making them unfruitful.

iv. Good soil: The seeds produce a bountiful crop, symbolizing those who hear the word, retain it with perseverance, and bear fruit.

(c) Give the interpretation of the parable of the sower in Luke 8:4-16, bearing in mind at least five important issues in the parable.

i. The word of God: The seed represents the word of God, which is sown into the hearts of individuals. The varying soils represent different responses to the gospel message.

ii. Obstacles to faith: The path, rocky ground, and thorns highlight the challenges people face in accepting and nurturing the word, such as lack of understanding, trials, and worldly distractions.

iii. The devil's role: The birds represent the devil, who actively works to prevent people from believing in and accepting the word of God.

iv. Perseverance in faith: The good soil symbolizes those who not only hear and accept the word but also persevere in faith, producing a fruitful life.

v. Fruitfulness as a mark of true faith: The parable emphasizes that true acceptance of God's word is demonstrated through a fruitful life, characterized by spiritual growth and good works.

9. (a) Each writer of the books of the Bible had a purpose and plan for his readers. Show six purposes of the writer of Acts of the Apostles.

i. To document the early church's history: The book of Acts provides a detailed account of the birth and growth of the early church, focusing on the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

ii. To highlight the work of the Holy Spirit: Acts emphasizes the pivotal role of the Holy Spirit in empowering the apostles and guiding the church's mission.

iii. To show the fulfillment of Christ's mission: The book demonstrates how Jesus' commission to His disciples was fulfilled as the gospel spread to Jews and Gentiles.

iv. To encourage persecuted Christians: Acts offers encouragement by showing how God's power enabled the apostles to overcome persecution and challenges.

v. To validate Paul's apostleship: The book defends Paul's ministry, highlighting his role as a chosen instrument to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.

vi. To emphasize unity in the church: Acts stresses the importance of unity among believers, despite cultural and ethnic differences, as the church expanded.

(b) In the speech in Acts 26:12-18, we find how Paul turned (changed) from being an apostle of the Sanhedrin to an apostle of Christ. Using Acts 26:12-18, explain four things which Jesus Christ does for ones whom he sends as his apostles.

i. Calls them personally: Jesus personally appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, demonstrating that apostleship begins with a divine calling.

ii. Transforms their lives: Paul's life was radically changed from persecuting Christians to becoming one of the most influential apostles.

iii. Empowers them for their mission: Jesus promised Paul divine protection and guidance, equipping him to proclaim the gospel boldly.

iv. Commissions them to a specific task: Paul was sent to open the eyes of the Gentiles, turning them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.

10. Jesus, I know and Paul, I know, but who are you? (Acts 19:15)

(a) Explain the situation that led those words to be spoken.

This statement comes from the incident involving the seven sons of Sceva, Jewish exorcists, in Acts 19:11-20. The apostle Paul was performing extraordinary miracles in Ephesus through the power of Jesus Christ. Even handkerchiefs and aprons that touched Paul were used to heal the sick and drive out evil spirits.

The seven sons of Sceva, who were itinerant Jewish exorcists, attempted to mimic Paul by invoking the name of Jesus to cast out demons. They addressed a possessed man, saying, “In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” The evil spirit replied, “Jesus, I know, and Paul, I know, but who are you?” The man possessed by the spirit overpowered them, leaving them wounded and humiliated.

This incident showed that the name of Jesus is not a formula to be used without genuine faith and authority from God.

(b) Provide at least five possible teachings from the event.

i. The power of Jesus' name: The event emphasizes the unmatched power and authority of Jesus' name, which cannot be used effectively without true faith and divine approval.

ii. Spiritual authority: True authority over evil spirits comes from a personal relationship with Jesus and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, not from mere imitation.

iii. The danger of pretending faith: The sons of Sceva were exposed and humiliated because they lacked genuine faith, serving as a warning against misusing God's power.

iv. The spread of the gospel: Following this event, the fear of the Lord spread throughout Ephesus, and many people came to faith, confessing their sins and burning their sorcery scrolls.

v. God's sovereignty: The event demonstrates that God is sovereign over all spiritual realms, and His power cannot be manipulated for selfish or improper purposes.

11. Discuss the place of the Gentiles in the salvation plan of God with reference to the book of the Acts of the Apostles, giving at least eight points.

- i. God's promise to Abraham: The inclusion of Gentiles in God's salvation plan fulfills the promise made to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him (Acts 3:25).
- ii. Peter's vision: In Acts 10, Peter receives a vision from God, instructing him to accept Gentiles as equals in faith, demonstrated by his visit to Cornelius, a Roman centurion.
- iii. The Holy Spirit on Gentiles: The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Cornelius and his household confirmed that Gentiles could receive the same gift as Jews (Acts 10:44-46).
- iv. Paul's ministry: Paul was specifically chosen as the apostle to the Gentiles, spreading the gospel to non-Jewish regions and establishing churches in Gentile cities (Acts 13:46-48).
- v. The Council of Jerusalem: In Acts 15, the council affirmed that Gentiles did not need to follow Jewish law to be saved, recognizing salvation through grace for all.
- vi. The gospel's global mission: Acts shows the progression of the gospel from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth, reflecting its universal scope.
- vii. Breaking cultural barriers: The inclusion of Gentiles signifies the breaking of traditional Jewish-Gentile divisions, creating a unified body of Christ (Acts 11:17-18).
- viii. The kingdom of God for all: The message of salvation is universal, available to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ, regardless of nationality or background (Acts 28:28).

12. Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman citizen, and un-condemned? (Acts 22:25)

(a) Basing on the quotation above, explain the event which led the speaker to speak so.

Paul made this statement when he was about to be flogged by Roman soldiers after being arrested in Jerusalem. The Jewish crowd accused him of preaching against their laws and defiling the temple by bringing Gentiles into it.

Paul was seized and brought before the Roman authorities. Before being flogged, he asked the centurion whether it was lawful to flog a Roman citizen without a trial. This question caused immediate concern, as Roman law protected its citizens from such treatment. Upon learning of Paul's citizenship, the authorities halted the flogging, fearing repercussions for their unlawful actions.

This incident highlights Paul's knowledge of his rights and his strategic use of Roman law to advance the gospel and protect himself.

(b) Explain at least four advantages of knowing your rights as Paul did.

- i. Protection from unjust treatment: Knowing his rights as a Roman citizen protected Paul from illegal flogging and ensured due process.
- ii. Ability to appeal: Paul's knowledge of his rights allowed him to appeal to Caesar, ensuring his case was heard by higher authorities (Acts 25:11).
- iii. Boldness in mission: Understanding his rights gave Paul confidence to preach and defend the gospel in hostile situations.
- iv. Advancement of the gospel: By invoking his rights, Paul was able to extend his ministry, reaching influential leaders and further spreading the gospel message.