

**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: 2016**

**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. With reference to Matthew:

(a) Paraphrase the story of the visit of the wise men from east during the birth of Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12).

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the reign of King Herod, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking where the King of the Jews was born. They had seen His star and came to worship Him. Herod, disturbed by this, consulted the chief priests and scribes, who told him the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. Herod secretly met with the wise men, instructing them to search for the child and report back so he could also worship Him. The wise men followed the star, which led them to where Jesus was. They bowed down, worshipped Him, and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their country by another route.

(b) Provide short answers for items (i) - (v):

(i) Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?” (Matthew 5:13). What happens to the salt that has lost its saltiness?

Salt that has lost its saltiness is no longer useful and is thrown out to be trampled underfoot.

(ii) In the old days it was written, “You shall not commit adultery” (Matthew 5:27). Explain Jesus’ teaching on this law.

Jesus taught that even looking at someone lustfully is committing adultery in the heart, emphasizing inner purity and not just outward actions.

(iii) “Have you not read in the law how the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are guiltless?” (Matthew 12:5). Why did Jesus ask this question?

Jesus asked this to challenge the Pharisees' legalistic interpretation of the Sabbath and to show that acts of necessity and mercy are lawful.

(iv) The Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders?” (Matthew 15:1-2). What was the tradition all about?

The tradition was about ceremonial washing of hands before eating, which the Pharisees believed was necessary for purity.

(v) The disciples of Jesus said, “If such is the case of a man and his wife, it is not expedient to marry” (Matthew 19:10). Why did the disciples say so?

The disciples said this after Jesus taught about the permanence of marriage, suggesting that it would be better not to marry if divorce was not allowed.

2. “Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 6:1).

(a) Explain the meaning of the word ‘piety’ and the reason for Jesus to speak the words in the above quotation.

Piety refers to devotion to God, including acts of worship, prayer, and charity. Jesus spoke these words to warn against performing religious acts for public recognition rather than genuine devotion to God.

(b) Explain three examples of piety which Jesus insisted in Matthew 6.

- i. Giving to the needy: Jesus taught that charity should be done in secret, not for public praise.
- ii. Prayer: Jesus emphasized private prayer, advising against praying to be seen by others.
- iii. Fasting: He instructed that fasting should not be obvious to others but done humbly before God.

(c) Christians practice piety today in the same way as those hypocrites who lived during Jesus' lifetime. Justify by giving three points.

- i. Public displays of charity: Some individuals give to the needy with the intention of gaining admiration from others.
- ii. Showy prayers: Public prayer is sometimes performed to appear righteous rather than as genuine communication with God.
- iii. Ritual fasting: Some fast publicly, making their sacrifices visible for recognition instead of focusing on spiritual growth.

3. Jesus told his disciples, “For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?” (Matthew 16:26).

(a) Describe the story from which the quotation was taken.

This statement was made when Jesus was teaching His disciples about the cost of following Him. He predicted His suffering, death, and resurrection. Peter rebuked Him, but Jesus corrected Peter, saying that he did not have the concerns of God in mind. Jesus explained that true discipleship involves self-denial and taking up one’s cross. He warned that seeking worldly gain at the expense of one’s soul is futile, as eternal life is more valuable than earthly possessions.

(b) Tell what the story means to a Christian today by giving two points.

- i. Christians are reminded to prioritize spiritual values over material wealth, recognizing the eternal significance of their choices.
- ii. The story emphasizes the importance of self-denial and faithfulness to Christ, even when faced with challenges.

4. In Matthew 24, Jesus spoke to his followers about the signs of the end of ages, also known as signs of the end of the world. Identify at least five things that Jesus told his followers to take care before His return.

i. False prophets and false Christs: Jesus warned His followers that many would come claiming to be Him and deceive many (Matthew 24:4-5).

ii. Wars and rumors of wars: Jesus cautioned that there would be conflicts among nations, but His followers should not be alarmed as these are the beginning of birth pains (Matthew 24:6-7).

iii. Persecution of believers: Jesus foretold that His disciples would be handed over to be persecuted and killed for His name's sake (Matthew 24:9).

iv. Increase in wickedness: Lawlessness will increase, and the love of many will grow cold, but those who endure to the end will be saved (Matthew 24:12-13).

v. The gospel preached to all nations: Jesus emphasized that the gospel of the kingdom must be proclaimed to the whole world as a testimony to all nations before the end comes (Matthew 24:14).

5. Answer the following questions according to Luke:

(a) Narrate the birth and naming of John the Baptist as recorded in Luke 1:57-66, giving at least five occasions accompanying the story.

i. Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and her neighbors and relatives rejoiced with her.

ii. On the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child and were going to name him after his father, Zechariah.

iii. Elizabeth objected, saying he should be called John, as the angel had instructed.

iv. When questioned, Zechariah wrote on a tablet, "His name is John," and immediately regained his speech, praising God.

v. Fear and awe spread among the neighbors, and they wondered what the child would become, recognizing that the hand of the Lord was upon him.

(b) Provide short answers for items (i) - (v):

(i) When John the Baptist preached about the impending judgment of God, different groups of people came to him asking what to do in order to escape the punishment (Luke 3:10-14). Paraphrase John's answer to the multitudes.

John instructed the people to share their possessions with those in need, to be honest in their dealings, and to avoid exploiting others.

(ii) In Luke 5:12-16 Jesus healed a leper and forbade him to tell it to anybody except to go show himself to the priest and to make him an offering for the cleansing. What was the significance of showing himself to the priest and to offer a sacrifice of cleansing?

Showing himself to the priest fulfilled the requirements of the Mosaic Law, serving as proof of his cleansing and enabling his reintegration into the community.

(iii) With reference to the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), who do you think is your neighbor?

A neighbor is anyone in need, regardless of their background, whom we are called to show mercy and compassion.

(iv) According to Luke 12:10 Jesus spoke about a sin which cannot be forgiven. Which is the unforgivable sin?

The unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

(v) Jesus came to reconcile men to God and men to men. With reference to the story of the trial of Jesus before Herod and Pilate (Luke 23:6-12), justify that Jesus reconciled men to men.

During Jesus' trial, Herod and Pilate, who were previously enemies, became friends. This reconciliation occurred as a result of their mutual involvement in Jesus' case.

6. Several times there were events that were accompanied by a voice from heaven during Jesus' lifetime. From Luke's Gospel, point out two occasions by describing the context of each and give three significances of each event.

i. At Jesus' baptism (Luke 3:21-22):

Context: When Jesus was baptized by John, heaven opened, the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased."

Significances:

- Affirmation of Jesus' identity as the Son of God.
- Anointing of Jesus with the Holy Spirit for His ministry.
- God's approval of Jesus' mission and obedience.

ii. At the transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36):

Context: While Jesus was praying on the mountain with Peter, James, and John, His appearance changed, and Moses and Elijah appeared with Him. A cloud overshadowed them, and a voice said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to Him."

Significances:

- Confirmation of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah).

- Revelation of Jesus' divine glory.
- Instruction to the disciples to obey Jesus' teachings.

7. A man came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, bid my brother divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?" (Luke 12:13-14).

(a) Describe the story from which the quotation was taken.

A man approached Jesus, asking Him to intervene in a family dispute over inheritance. Jesus refused, pointing out that His mission was not to settle earthly disputes. Instead, He warned against greed and told the Parable of the Rich Fool. In the parable, a wealthy man, after a bountiful harvest, decided to build bigger barns to store his goods, thinking he could enjoy a life of ease. However, God called him a fool, saying his life would be demanded that very night, and he had stored up riches for himself but was not rich toward God.

(b) Tell what the story means to a Christian today by giving four points.

- i. Avoid greed: Christians are reminded to prioritize spiritual riches over material wealth.
- ii. Trust in God: Dependence on material possessions for security is futile; true security comes from God.
- iii. Be generous: Christians should use their resources to help others rather than hoard wealth.
- iv. Focus on eternity: The story teaches the importance of living with an eternal perspective, valuing the things of God over temporary gains.

8. "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able" (Luke 13:24).

(a) Describe the full story from which the speaker spoke these words.

The statement was made when someone asked Jesus, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" Jesus responded by urging the person to strive to enter through the narrow door. He explained that many would attempt to enter but would not be able. He used the parable of a householder who shuts the door, and those outside plead, "Lord, open to us," but he answers, "I do not know where you come from." They insist that they ate and drank in his presence and heard his teachings, but he replies, "Depart from me, all you workers of evil." Jesus concluded by stating that people from all nations would come and recline at the kingdom of God, but many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

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

- i. Salvation requires effort: Entering the kingdom of God is compared to striving through a narrow door, implying commitment and dedication.
- ii. The importance of a personal relationship with God: Knowing about Jesus is insufficient; true faith and obedience are necessary.

iii. God's kingdom is inclusive: People from all nations will enter the kingdom, highlighting the universality of salvation.

iv. Judgment is certain: Those who fail to strive for salvation will face rejection, emphasizing the need to act while there is still time.

9. "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his native language?" (Acts 2:7-8).

(a) Who were the Galileans in this context, and what were they heard speaking?

The Galileans were the apostles and other followers of Jesus who were gathered in Jerusalem during Pentecost. They were heard speaking in various languages, proclaiming the wonders of God.

(b) Summarize Peter's speech recorded in Acts 2:14-36.

Peter addressed the crowd, explaining that the events they witnessed were a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel, in which God promised to pour out His Spirit on all people. He declared that Jesus of Nazareth, accredited by God through miracles, was crucified according to God's plan but raised from the dead. Peter referenced David's prophecy about the resurrection, affirming that Jesus was the Messiah. He concluded by declaring Jesus as both Lord and Christ, exalted at the right hand of God.

(c) What was the outcome of Peter's speech?

Peter's speech convicted the listeners, and about 3,000 people repented, were baptized, and joined the Christian community.

10. In Acts 16:19-40 there is a story showing how the innocent Paul and Silas were publicly tortured and finally imprisoned. When the magistrates realized that they were innocent they decided to release them secretly but Paul rejected to be released secretly, until when the magistrates humbled themselves and came to apologize. Explain how the story relates to the present-day situation with regard to justice in your community by giving five points.

i. Accountability in leadership: Just like the magistrates had to apologize, leaders today should take responsibility for their mistakes and ensure justice is upheld.

ii. Fair trial processes: The unjust imprisonment of Paul and Silas highlights the importance of proper investigations and trials before convicting individuals.

iii. Standing up for rights: Paul's insistence on public acknowledgment of their innocence encourages individuals to demand justice and transparency.

iv. Addressing abuse of power: The story underscores the need to challenge abuses of power by authorities, ensuring they act lawfully.

v. Public reconciliation: The magistrates' public apology serves as an example for resolving injustices openly, promoting healing and trust in the community.

11. During Paul's second missionary journey the Athenians heard Paul preaching Jesus and the resurrection, and they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is which you present? For you bring some strange things to our ears; we wish to therefore know what these things mean" (Acts 17:19-20). Explain the teaching about God, which Paul presented in response to the invitation to let the Athenians know more about the 'new teaching'. Give five points.

- i. God is the Creator: Paul declared that God made the world and everything in it, emphasizing His sovereignty as the Creator of heaven and earth.
- ii. God does not dwell in temples: Paul explained that God is not confined to man-made temples and does not depend on human hands for anything.
- iii. God is the giver of life: He taught that God gives life, breath, and everything else to all people, emphasizing His role as the sustainer of life.
- iv. God is near to all: Paul highlighted that God desires a relationship with all people, stating that He is not far from anyone, as "in Him we live and move and have our being."
- v. God commands repentance: Paul concluded by calling for repentance, warning of a coming judgment by the man (Jesus) whom God raised from the dead.

12. Explain the circumstance which led Cornelius to become a Christian as recorded in Acts 10:1-48, bearing in mind the events at Caesarea and Joppa.

Cornelius, a Roman centurion in Caesarea, was a devout man who feared God, prayed regularly, and gave to the poor. One day, an angel appeared to him, instructing him to send for Peter in Joppa. Meanwhile, Peter, in Joppa, had a vision of a sheet containing unclean animals and was told by a voice to eat. Peter objected, but the voice said, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This vision prepared Peter to accept Gentiles into the faith. When Cornelius' men arrived, Peter accompanied them to Caesarea. Cornelius gathered his household to hear Peter, who preached about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. As Peter spoke, the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius and his household, and they began speaking in tongues. Peter then baptized them, marking the inclusion of Gentiles into the Christian faith.