CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge O Level

BIBLICAL STUDIES **2035/22**

Paper 2 The Portrayal of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels **May/June 2026**

1 hour 30 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

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INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **three** questions in total:
  - Section A: answer **one** question.
  - Section B: answer **two** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A

Answer **one** question. Answer all parts of the chosen question.

EITHER

1 **(a)** Read the following passage and then answer the questions:

Luke 3:7-8, 10, NRSVA

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?'

(i) How does John answer this question from the crowds? [2]

(ii) What instructions does John give to the tax collectors **and** soldiers? [4]

(b) Explain why John the Baptist's preaching led to his imprisonment. [6]

(c) To what extent was John the Baptist's work important? [8]

[Total: 20]

OR

2 **(a)** Read the following passage and then answer the questions:

Matthew 6:1, NRSVA

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.'

(i) State what Jesus goes on to say about the almsgiving practised by 'the hypocrites.' [3]

(ii) What does Jesus say about how you should give alms? [3]

(b) Explain what Jesus teaches about fasting in the Sermon on the Mount. [6]

(c) To what extent does fasting need to be performed with sincerity? [8]

[Total: 20]

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Section B

Answer **two** questions. Answer all parts of the chosen two questions.

3 **(a)** Give an account of Jesus' healing of the centurion's servant. [6]

(b) Explain how first-century Palestine was affected by Roman rule. [6]

(c) 'Knowing about the impact of Roman rule is necessary to understanding the gospels.' Discuss. [8]

[Total: 20]

4 **(a)** Outline what happens in the parable of the talents after the master returns. [6]

(b) Explain what the parable of the talents might teach Christians about the kingdom of God. [6]

(c) 'The parable of the talents is no longer relevant today.' Discuss. [8]

[Total: 20]

5 **(a)** Give an account of the plot to kill Jesus in Matthew. [6]

(b) Explain Jesus' attitude towards the opposition of the authorities. [6]

(c) 'Jesus deliberately provoked the authorities.' Discuss. [8]

[Total: 20]

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