

8.0 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

8.1 CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Christian Religious Education examination is Section A part II of the Social Studies paper sat at the completion of 8 years of primary education. The paper has a total of 30 questions.

In the year 2011, 772,464 candidates registered for the examination. The mean of 2011 slightly improved from 17.81 to 18.20 while the standard deviation improved from 4.40 in 2010 to 4.55 in 2011.

8.1.1 Syllabus Coverage and the Skills Tested

The areas covered in the syllabus together with the skills tested in the examination are shown in table - and -below.

Table 20 : Areas of Syllabus Coverage in 2011

Areas Tested in the Syllabus	Number of Items	Percentage
Old Testament	09	30.00%
New Testament	12	40.00%
African Religious Heritage	03	10.00%
Contemporary Christian Living	06	20.00%
TOTAL	30	100.00%

Table 21: Skills Tested in the year 2011

Skills tested	Number of Items	% Answering Correctly
Knowledge	06	53.14
Comprehension	07	50.58
Application	05	66.03
Analysis	05	59.42
Synthesis	02	60.16
Evaluation	05	73.35

The following observations can be derived from tables 20 and 21 above.

- i) The syllabus was adequately tested.
- ii) All the six skills were tested in the paper. All the skills recorded above average percentages apart from knowledge and comprehension, which dropped from 63.18 to 53.14, and 71.59 and 71.38 respectively in 2010 and 2011.
- iii) There was a drop in application question, while at the same time there was a marked improvement in the higher-level skills of analysis, synthesis and evaluation.
- iv) Teachers need to encourage the candidates to apply the information learnt to attempt questions requiring mainly Biblical knowledge.

Table 23: Questions which recorded a facility index of 40% and below

Question Number	66	69	70	74	75
% Answering the item correctly	36.57	30.81	32.37	37.02	24.95

The discussion will focus on analysis of the items given above based on the ideas, skills and thinking processes that candidate may have gone through so as to arrive at the correct responses. It also focuses the misconceptions that may have led the candidates to the wrong choices. The asterisk (*) in the response pattern denotes the correct response.

Question 66

Which one of the following actions was carried out by Moses at Mount Sinai?

- A. Building an altar.
- B. Removing water from a stone.
- C. Feeding people with manna.
- D. Performing miraculous deeds.

Response Pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D
% choosing the option	36.57	24.36	12.95	24.89
Mean mark in other questions	19.98	17.42	16.34	16.66

Candidates were expected to have knowledge on what took place on Mount Sinai. Most candidates seem to lack the information. There is some evidence of guessing as per the spread of the candidates in all the options.

It is not surprising that only the brightest candidates in the group with the mean mark of 19.98 in other questions chose the correct answer. There seems to be evidence of guess work as per the response pattern in the other options. This indicates lack of adequate knowledge in this area.

Teachers need to teach the Biblical concepts to assist candidates answer questions of this nature.

Question 69

The prophet who foretold about the suffering servant is

- A. Amos
- B. Jeremiah
- C. Micah
- D. Isaiah.

Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C	D*
% choosing the option	22.58	25.39	19.72	30.81
Mean mark in other questions	18.15	16.75	16.80	19.87

The question came from the New Testament section of the syllabus on the early church.

It was a knowledge question extracted from the Old Testament. It was quite simply but exact to the point. It clearly shows that only the brightest candidates in the group with a mean mark of 19.87 in

other questions got it correct yet they were only. There seems to be evidence of either confusion or guessing as shown in the percentage of those selecting option A, B and C. Teachers as mentioned earlier should encourage candidates to keenly read the Bible.

Question 70

Which one of the following was said about Jesus by Angel Gabriel? The child will

- A. be mighty
- B. be called Holy
- C. Not drink any wine
- D. Be a light to the Gentiles.

Response Pattern

Option	A	B*	C	D
% choosing the option	27.98	32.37	3.47	34.74
Mean mark in other questions	18.20	18.65	16.72	17.52

The question came from the New Testament section of the syllabus. It was a comprehension question touching on the annunciation of the birth of Jesus by angel Gabriel. It is noted that all the options apart from C were chosen by a large percentage of candidates. These responses made indicate a kind of mix up on the part of the candidates. Only the brightest in the group with a mean mark of 18.65 in other questions got it correct.

Question 74

A lesson that Christians learn from the raising of Jairus' daughter is that they should

- A. ask for help
- B. protect themselves against evil
- C. give out their belongings
- D. repent their sins.

Response Pattern

Option	A*	B	C	D
% choosing the option	37.02	13.36	6.21	42.32
Mean mark in other questions	20.06	15.21	15.09	17.53

The question tested the skill of application. It came from the New Testament covering the ministry of Jesus. It is not surprising that a higher percentage of candidates choose option D. It is showing that candidates lack Biblical knowledge.

Teachers need to bring out the above issues clearly when teaching.

Question 75

Which one of the following parables teaches Christians to accept others? The parable of the

- A. sower
- B. mustard seed
- C. lost son
- D. rich man and Lazarus.

Response Pattern

Option	A	B	C*	D
% choosing the option	7.79	6.12	24.95	59.95
Mean mark in other questions	15.27	14.17	18.94	18.38

This was the poorest performed question with majority of the candidates choosing the wrong option. The emphasis in this parable is about extreme riches verses poverty. The parable of the lost son shows clearly how the elder son was unwilling to accept the brother when he returned until the father put sense into him.

This seems to suggest that the candidates are not well exposed to the parables of Jesus. The brightest candidates with a mean mark of 18.38 in other questions got it right.

8.1.4 General Comments

- (i) There was a slight improvement in the performance of the paper as indicated in the statistics provided.
- (ii) Questions of the New Testament seem to be pausing challenges in the candidates as was the case in 2010.
- (iii) Reading of the Bible to acquire the knowledge is mandatory. This is evident in all the questions that were poorly performed as majority of them come from the New Testament.