For 10-mark exam practice questions, students should use the content in the Key Question feature.

Chapter 1

Exam practice, page 8
Why was the entry into Jerusalem an important event?  [5 marks]

Answers may include:
● Jesus was confirming that he was the Messiah by his actions.
● Jesus fulfilled Zechariah’s prophecy of the Messiah entering Jerusalem.
● Jesus confirmed that he was a humble Messiah by riding a colt.
● The crowds believed Jesus to be the Messiah by placing cloaks and palm branches on the ground and shouting, ‘God bless the coming of King David’.
● It marked the beginning of Jesus’ passion and death.

Examiner’s comment: A question asking ‘why’ worth 5 marks is looking for you to show knowledge and understanding. To answer this question, choose three or four examples of why the entry into Jerusalem was an important event for the disciples, early Christians or the Church today and explain your thinking. Do not simply list reasons or retell the Gospel story. The question is looking for you to show your understanding of the meaning of the event.

Exam practice, page 9
‘Mark’s Gospel shows Jesus as a very different kind of Messiah from Jewish expectations.’

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.  [5 marks]

Answers may include:
● Jesus understood his role as Messiah as that of a peaceful leader, shown through his entry into Jerusalem when he enters on a colt not war horse, showing his humility.
● Peter finds it difficult to accept that the Messiah must suffer. The Jewish expectation of Messiah was that of a warrior, political leader and great King.
● There was a difference between Jewish expectations and what Jesus understood to be his role as Messiah. This caused some conflict between Jesus and his disciples and the Jewish religious authorities who didn’t understand the mission of Jesus and his understanding of Messiahship.
● Only Blind Bartimaeus calls Jesus ‘Son of David’ – even though he is physically blind he clearly can see the identity of Jesus as Messiah.

Examiner’s comment: A 5-mark question asking ‘Do you agree …?’ is testing evaluation. A useful technique is to say if you agree or disagree and explain the reasons for your opinion. You do not have to give different points of view. But if you want to or are undecided, you can. It may help you expand your answer if it is too brief. It is important to refer to examples from Mark’s Gospel. Use events such as the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to develop your point of view but do not write out the story.

Exam practice, page 13
1 Where did the Transfiguration take place?  [1 mark]
2 What did the voice say to Jesus at the Transfiguration?  [1 mark]
3 Who appeared with Jesus at his Transfiguration?  [2 marks]
4 What did Peter suggest doing during the appearance of the Old Testament figures?  [1 mark]

1 Up a high mountain
2 ‘This is my own dear son, listen to him’.
3 Moses and Elijah.
4 To build three tents.

Examiner’s comment: Questions worth 1 mark always test knowledge. Your answer should be short and to the point. You will not be expected to write any more than a brief sentence for your answer. It is not necessary to explain your response.

Exam practice, page 14
Why did Jesus prefer to use the title ‘Son of Man’?  [5 marks]

Answers may include:
● Jesus wanted to show himself as being an ordinary man who was the same as everyone else.
● Son of Man was not a controversial title and was a safe title to use rather than Messiah.
● Jesus used the title when speaking of his suffering and death.
● Jesus did not want to reveal his identity too soon (Messianic Secret).
Examiner’s comment: This question tests your knowledge and understanding of the title Son of Man. A useful technique is to focus on three or four relevant points and make clear how each one is a reason why Jesus preferred to use the title Son of Man. It is important that you do not just list points. The question requires you to explain and develop the point you make to show you understand what you are saying in your answer.

Exam practice, page 15
Explain why the calming of the storm is an important story for Christians. [5 marks]

Answers may include:
- Jesus will help and guide Christians through difficulties in life if they show faith and ask for his support and guidance.
- It gives persecuted Christians past and present hope not to feel abandoned, that God will always watch over them and be at their side.
- This story shows Jesus’ divine power as the Son of God and Saviour.
- This story gives hope and comfort to modern Christians who are suffering, reminding them God is close.

Examiner’s comment: You should NOT write out the story of the calming of the storm. An explanation question requires you to show understanding. You can give a brief quotation from the Gospel and use this to elaborate and develop your answer. Quotes do not have to be ‘word for word’ but should be as accurate as possible. This question asks you to show your understanding of how the story of the calming of the storm can help Christians past and present.

Chapter 2

Exam practice, page 15
1 Where did Jesus heal the man with the paralysed hand? [1 mark]
2 The mother-in-law of which disciple was sick with a fever? [1 mark]
3 What did the man with the evil spirit call Jesus? [1 mark]
4 Why did Jesus order the evil spirits to be quiet? [1 mark]

1 The synagogue.
2 Simon Peter.
3 God’s holy messenger.
4 Casting out an evil spirit.
5 The Messianic Secret. Jesus wanted to keep his identity secret until he was ready to reveal it.

Examiner’s comment: It is a good idea to revise key words and descriptions of religious ideas such as the Messianic secret or exorcism. You could be asked to give a definition as a 1-mark answer. These questions test your knowledge and answers should be to the point.

6 ‘Not everyone was impressed with the miracles of Jesus.’ Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5 marks]

Answers may include:
- The religious authorities were unhappy when Jesus healed people on the Sabbath. They were unhappy he was breaking Sabbath Laws.
- Those healed by Jesus were impressed by his healing power and recognised his identity as God’s Son who shared in his authority.
- Those who witnessed Jesus’ miracles were impressed as he displayed the power of God, controlling nature and evil in a way that only God could.
- Large crowds followed Jesus because of his miracles.
- When Jesus healed the paralysed man, he forgave his sins. This was controversial as Jesus was doing something the Jewish people believed only God could do. They thought he was committing blasphemy.
- Jesus challenged the Jewish religious leaders to put human need before religious laws and this was controversial thinking at the time.

Examiner’s comment: This question tests your evaluation of the statement given. Evaluation means to provide a reasoned response supported by evidence which is explained clearly and fully. You don’t need to provide a counter claim for a 5-mark evaluation question. Try to write your answer as a continuous paragraph and don’t use bullet points to simply list points. It is important to give reasons for your answer. This question focuses on the many responses people made to the miracles of Jesus, both positive and negative.

Exam practice, page 25
1 What was Jairus’ job? [1 mark]
2 In the healing of the woman with the haemorrhage, how did Jesus know he had healed someone? [1 mark]
3 Who did Jesus take with him to Jairus’ house? [1 mark]
4 What words did Jesus use to raise the girl to life? [1 mark]
5 How old was Jairus’ daughter? [1 mark]

1 An official in the Synagogue.
2 The power had gone out of him.
3 Peter, James and John.
4 Talitha, koum.
5 12 years old.

Examiner’s comment: 1-mark questions test your knowledge. Your answer should be brief and direct. It is not necessary to explain your answer and you will
not be expected to write more than a short sentence. When revising Aramaic words copy the spelling exactly and try to be as accurate as possible when working from memory during the examination.

6 What do the healing miracles teach us about Jesus? [5 marks]

Answers may include:
- That Jesus was a compassionate man full of pity and mercy towards those who were suffering in body and mind.
- That Jesus was God’s son who shared in his power and authority to heal on Earth.
- That Jesus was not prejudiced, he often healed those considered the outcasts of society. Jesus did not discriminate.
- Jesus never healed people for his own benefit or reputation.
- Jesus put human need before religious laws.
- Jesus responded to those who had faith.

Examiner’s comment: An explanation question asking you ‘why’ tests knowledge and understanding. A good approach to answering this type of question is to make a point and then develop it using evidence from Mark’s Gospel, if an example is relevant. Alternative healing miracles will be accepted if they come from Mark’s Gospel, but it is best to try and stick to examples used in the specification in each section.

Chapter 3

Exam practice, page 38

1 Give one reason why Jesus used parables. [1 mark]

2 What happened to the seed that fell among the thorn bushes in the Parable of the Sower? [1 mark]

3 What is the meaning of the Parable of the Growing Seed? [2 marks]

4 Where did Jesus say a lamp should be placed? [1 mark]

5 Which seed did Jesus say is the smallest in all the world? [1 mark]

1 To teach people; easily remembered; method of teaching already established in Jewish culture; to challenge and provoke action.

2 They were choked.

3 The Kingdom of God grows secretly inside a person’s heart.

4 On a lampstand, out in the open.

5 A mustard seed.

Examiner’s comment: Short answer questions test your knowledge and are very focused. Your answer should be factual and concise. Make sure that you learn key words and ideas when you are revising. All reasonable alternatives will be considered but it usually best to stick to recognised examples.

Exam practice, page 39

Why did Jesus use children as an example of those who would enter the Kingdom of God? [5 marks]

Answers may include:
- Jesus used the example of children, who were the least in society, to teach people that the Kingdom of God is open to all (universal).
- Children display some of the qualities and attitudes needed to enter the Kingdom, such as being trusting and innocent.
- Jesus used the children as a role model for the disciples who did not understand the importance of the children as members of God’s Kingdom.
- It is a reminder that all are equal in the eyes of God.

Examiner’s comment: A 5-mark explanation question tests knowledge and understanding of a specific passage, in this case Jesus and the children (Mark 10:13-16). A helpful approach to this type of question is to make a point and then develop and expand on it. If possible, back up your point with evidence from Mark’s Gospel. Then repeat this process for each point you make. For a 5-mark question three or four points are enough.

Exam practice, page 42

‘Christians today cannot keep the commandment “Love your neighbour”.’

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. [5 marks]

Answers may include:
- It is hard to help people who we do not know and sometimes it is very difficult to help people who we feel negativity towards for a justified reason.
- Christians love their global neighbour by donating to charitable organisations such as Trócaire, Concern or Christian Aid.
- Many Christians give up their time to work as volunteers, helping people they do not know or in other countries.
- By loving their neighbour, Christians are also showing through their actions they love God and therefore are working for God’s Kingdom on Earth.

Examiner’s comment: A 5-mark question asking, ‘Do you agree with this statement?’ is testing evaluation. To answer the question, you can say if you agree or disagree and explain the reasons for your opinion. It is not necessary to give an alternative point of view or to make a counterclaim. However, if you are unsure where you stand on the statement and provide another point of view you will not lose marks. This question is assessing your ability to offer a reasoned argument and provide a conclusion. The question focuses on the issue of the demands of discipleship in the modern world. It would be helpful to include personal, historical or modern examples as evidence.
Chapter 4

Exam practice, page 49

1. What instructions did Jesus give to the two disciples who prepared the Passover meal? [2 marks]

2. What words did Jesus say over the bread and the wine during the Last Supper? [2 marks]

1. ‘Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house he enters, and say to the owner of the house: “The Teacher says, where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover meal?”’

2. ‘Take it, this is my body. And ‘This is my blood which is poured out for many, my blood which seals God’s covenant. I tell you: I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine in the Kingdom of God.’

Examiner’s comment: In a knowledge question, when asked to recount what was said or done in a passage, it is not necessary to explain your answer. Try to be as accurate as possible when working from memory during the examination.

3. Why was the Last Supper important for the disciples and Jesus? [5 marks]

3. Jesus let the disciples know that it was the final meal he would share with them and he was saying goodbye. He announces his death and that Judas was going to betray him and God’s plan was now in motion. He gives a new and deeper meaning to the Passover and establishes the Eucharist, which will be a lasting reminder of Jesus with the Church.

Examiner’s comment: A question asking ‘why’ worth 5 marks is looking for you to show knowledge and understanding. To answer this question, choose three or four examples of why the Last Supper was an important event for the disciples and Jesus and explain your thinking. Do not just list reasons or write out the Gospel story. The question is looking for you to show your understanding of the importance of the event.

Exam practice, page 52

‘Jesus’ suffering in Gethsemane was the most difficult part of his last days on Earth.’

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5 marks]

Answers may include:

- The emotional suffering that Jesus experienced was so excessive he described it as ‘so great that it almost crushes me’.
- Jesus shows his humanity in Gethsemane. He was at his most vulnerable.
- He was let down by Judas and Peter and now the disciples couldn’t stay awake and keep watch when he needed them the most. He was let down by his most faithful friends and this caused him great anguish.
- The physical pain of crucifixion was much more difficult, and the suffering was greater.

Examiner’s comment: This question asks for your opinion on material you have studied throughout your course. It is testing your ability to come up with a reasoned argument. It does not matter if you agree or disagree if you justify your point of view and back it up with evidence. There is no right or wrong answer as long as you can support your viewpoint you will be credited. Don’t use bullet points to list facts try and write your answer as a continuous paragraph.

Exam practice, page 57

1. Who was Pontius Pilate? [1 mark]

2. How did Pilate try to find a way to release Jesus? [1 mark]

3. Who was Barabbas? [1 mark]

4. Who finally demanded the crucifixion of Jesus? [1 mark]

5. Of what crime did the High Priest find Jesus guilty? [1 mark]

6. Explain why the Jewish Council (Sanhedrin) changed the charge when they brought Jesus before Pilate? [2 marks]

7. Pilate did not want to have Jesus killed. Why did he finally sentence him to death? [2 marks]

1. Roman Governor/Procurator.

2. Passover Amnesty.

3. A rebel who had committed murder.

4. The crowd.

5. Blasphemy.

6. The Romans were not interested in a religious charge (blasphemy). They needed to get a verdict that would secure the death of Jesus.

7. To please the crowd; to placate them; to prevent a riot; to avoid any disturbances during the festival of Passover.

Examiner’s comment: Short answer questions test your knowledge of material you have studied. Your answer should be clear and to the point. It is not necessary to write any more than a brief sentence. When asked to describe what was said or done in a Gospel passage you do not need to explain your answer. Try to be as accurate as possible when working from memory during the examination. It is a good idea to revise key words such as blasphemy. You could be asked to give a definition as a 1-mark answer.

Exam practice, page 60

‘The death of Jesus is the most significant event in Mark’s Gospel.’

Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer. [5 marks]
Answers may include:

● Jesus’ death was a significant event for Christians as through his death, humanity was saved from sin. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice.
● It shows God’s great love for humanity that he allowed his son to die in such terrible pain and suffering in order that we may be saved. It was part of God’s plan.
● It gives Christians who are suffering hope and encouragement that Jesus also went through the same.
● Death as a crucified criminal may appear as his mission ending in failure but in fact the cross and death of Jesus are a great victory over evil and a fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies.
● The resurrection is the most significant event as it shows Jesus’ victory over death.
● The teachings and miracles of Jesus are important events in Mark’s Gospel as they reveal Jesus’ identity and show people how to live.

Examiner’s comment:

A 5-mark question asking, ‘Do you agree with this statement?’ is testing evaluation. A useful technique is to say if you agree or disagree and explain the reasons for your thinking. You do not have to give a counter claim or another point of view for a 5-mark evaluation question. However, if you want to or are undecided, you can. It does not matter if you agree or disagree if you explain the reasons for your point of view. It is important to refer to examples from Mark’s Gospel. This question concentrates on the importance of the death of Jesus and asks if it is the most important event in the whole of Mark’s Gospel.

Chapter 5

Exam practice, page 66

1. What does the word ‘disciple’ mean? [1 mark]
2. Name the disciple who betrayed Jesus. [1 mark]
3. Which two disciples were brothers? [2 marks]
4. Which disciple was a tax collector? [1 mark]
5. Where did Jesus call the first four disciples? [1 mark]

1. Follower.
2. Judas.
3. Simon (Peter) and Andrew or James and John – there were two sets of brothers.
5. On the shore of Lake Galilee.

Examiner’s comment: Short answer questions test your knowledge. Keep your answers factual as there is no need to explain your answer. When asked to recount what was said or done in a Gospel story it is not necessary to develop your answer. Try to be as accurate as possible.

Exam practice, page 70

1. Why was Jesus unable to perform miracles in Nazareth where he was rejected? [1 mark]
2. Why were the Apostles sent out in pairs on their mission? [1 mark]
3. Name two items the Apostles were not to take on their mission. [2 marks]
4. During their mission what warning were the Apostles to give as a sign to towns who had rejected their message? [1 mark]

1. Lack of faith.
2. For safety and to have a witness.
3. Bread, beggars’ bag, money or an extra shirt.
4. Shake the dust off their feet.

Examiner’s comment: Questions worth 1 mark always test knowledge. Your answer should be short and to the point. You will not be expected to write any more than a brief sentence for your answer. It is not necessary to explain your response.

5. What did Jesus teach was the cost of discipleship? [5 marks]

Answers may include:

● Discipleship may involve suffering, rejection and even death.
● Disciples may have to sacrifice material wealth and possessions.
● Disciples must put others’ needs and concerns before themselves.
● Jesus expects his followers to publicly declare their faith in him and not be ashamed of displaying their faith.
● Disciples must accept their burdens as they cannot choose their responsibilities in life.

Examiner’s comment: You may have learned several examples of the cost of discipleship. You do not need to include every example to be awarded top band marks. A useful technique is to make three or four points and explain your thinking. In this question, it is suitable to make a statement about discipleship in general. However, the focus is on the cost which should be the central part of your answer. It is important not to list examples as the explanation and development of your chosen points, such as ‘take up your cross…’, is the most important skill.

Exam practice, page 72

‘Christians should always obey the laws of the country they live in.’

Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. [5 marks]
Answers may include:
- Some laws such as ‘Do not murder’ are also contained in the Ten Commandments. Therefore, by keeping these laws, Christians are also keeping the Commandments.
- In the question of paying taxes, Jesus said it was important to keep the laws of the land and the laws of God. Sometimes it is difficult to obey both God and the state.
- It is important to obey the state or else people would get into trouble. Jesus wanted people to live in peace and agreement.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed for his part in a plot to overthrow the Nazis. Sometimes the laws of the land may conflict with religious beliefs and it is up to everyone to follow their conscience.

Examiner’s comment: This question is testing your ability to evaluate the statement and present an argument. A useful technique when answering a 5-mark evaluation question is to say if you agree or disagree and explain the reasons for your view. You do not have to give different points of view, although if you want to or are undecided, you can. Make your point, explain it and back it up with an example. It does not matter if you agree or disagree if you justify your point of view and back it up with evidence. There is no right or wrong answer. If you can support your viewpoint, you will be credited. This question explores the relationship between religion and state and asks the question if it is possible to be a good citizen and a good Christian.