



VCE Texts and Traditions

Written examination – End of year

Sample questions

These sample questions are intended to demonstrate how new aspects of Units 3 and 4 of VCE Texts and Traditions may be examined. They do **not** constitute a full examination paper.

Note:

The sections in the examination will be organised in the following order:

Section A – The books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel

Section B – The Gospel according to Luke

Section C – The Gospel according to John

Section D – The Qur'an

For each section, Part 2 will consist of three extracts from the passages for special study and Part 3 will consist of three essay topics.

SECTION A – The books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel

Part 1 – Extended responses

Answer two questions from Questions 1 to 3.

Question 1 (10 marks)

Chapter 29 of the book of Jeremiah contains a letter that the prophet Jeremiah composed.

Who were the intended audience of the prophet Jeremiah’s letter? Identify **three** warnings that the prophet Jeremiah delivered to his audience. Briefly explain **one** political and **one** social change that had occurred and that prompted the prophet Jeremiah to compose this letter.

Question 2 (10 marks)

Who was King Zedekiah? Summarise why the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel condemned King Zedekiah. How did the two prophets account for the acts of divine justice that King Zedekiah will undergo?

Question 3 (10 marks)

In Chapter 18 of the book of Ezekiel, the prophet introduces the following proverb: ‘Parents eat sour grapes and their children’s teeth are blunted.’

Outline what this proverb meant to the prophet Ezekiel’s audience. Explain why the message of this proverb was particularly significant to his audience. Describe how this message challenged the prevailing attitude of the time.

Answer all parts of Question 4.

Question 4 (10 marks)

Name a textual theme arising from the set text that was interpreted by the later religious tradition that you have studied.

- a. Explain why this particular textual theme was important for the set text’s original community. 2 marks
- b. Briefly outline a controversial interpretation of this textual theme by a person or group belonging to the later religious tradition. 2 marks
- c. Explain how the later religious tradition’s community responded to this controversial interpretation. 3 marks
- d. Describe the continuing relevance and meaning of the set text for the later religious tradition as it developed its response to this controversial interpretation of this textual theme. 3 marks

SECTION B – The Gospel according to Luke

Part 1 – Extended responses

Answer two questions from Questions 1 to 3.

Question 1 (10 marks)

Who was Zacchaeus and what was his role in first-century Palestine? Describe Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus and explain what this encounter teaches the reader about the kingdom of God.

Question 2 (10 marks)

Identify and describe the literary form of chiasmic structure within Chapter 4:14–30. Explain the importance of this type of literary form and provide an example of this style of writing.

Question 3 (10 marks)

Briefly describe the way in which the evangelist uses the theme of 'prophecy and fulfilment' in Chapter 1 in the Gospel according to Luke. Explain the significance of the accounts foretelling the two births in the gospel to support your response.

Answer all parts of Question 4.

Question 4 (10 marks)

Name a textual theme arising from the set text that was interpreted by the later religious tradition that you have studied.

- a. Explain why this particular textual theme was important for the set text's original community. 2 marks
- b. Briefly outline a controversial interpretation of this textual theme by a person or group belonging to the later religious tradition. 2 marks
- c. Explain how the later religious tradition's community responded to this controversial interpretation. 3 marks
- d. Describe the continuing relevance and meaning of the set text for the later religious tradition as it developed its response to this controversial interpretation of this textual theme. 3 marks

SECTION C – The Gospel according to John

Part 1 – Extended responses

Answer two questions from Questions 1 to 3.

Question 1 (10 marks)

The evangelist makes regular use of the terms ‘glory’ and ‘signs’ throughout the Gospel according to John. Define each term and explain the meaning and significance of both these terms, using **one** example from the gospel for each term.

Question 2 (10 marks)

The Gospel according to John presents various levels of discipleship. Among many key characters are Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple. Using evidence from the text, describe how each of these two characters is portrayed.

Question 3 (10 marks)

The evangelist uses a number of literary techniques as a means of teaching to the Johannine community. Provide a definition of the literary techniques of misunderstanding and irony. Briefly explain the purpose of each literary technique with reference to **one** example for each technique from the gospel.

Answer all parts of Question 4.

Question 4 (10 marks)

Name a textual theme arising from the set text that was interpreted by the later religious tradition that you have studied.

- a. Explain why this particular textual theme was important for the set text’s original community. 2 marks
- b. Briefly outline a controversial interpretation of this textual theme by a person or group belonging to the later religious tradition. 2 marks
- c. Explain how the later religious tradition’s community responded to this controversial interpretation. 3 marks
- d. Describe the continuing relevance and meaning of the set text for the later religious tradition as it developed its response to this controversial interpretation of this textual theme. 3 marks

SECTION D – The Qur’an

Part 1 – Extended responses

Answer two questions from Questions 1 to 3.

Question 1 (10 marks)

Who was Zakariya? With reference to Surah 19 (*Maryam*), describe what Zakariya requested in his prayer and describe God’s response to Zakariya’s prayer. Explain how the story of Zakariya in Surah 19 supports the prophet Muhammad in his mission.

Question 2 (10 marks)

The Qur’an uses literary techniques to help convey God’s message to the prophets.

Explain the literary techniques of rhetorical question and imagery as they are used in the Qur’an. Give **one** example of a rhetorical question and **one** example of imagery from the surahs that you have studied this year. Explain the meaning and significance of your examples.

Question 3 (10 marks)

Outline what the title of Surah 67 (*Al-Mulk*) refers to. Explain the connection between this title and **two** themes from Surah 67. Describe how these two themes reflect the sociocultural conditions existing in Makkah at the time of the surah’s revelation.

Answer all parts of Question 4.

Question 4 (10 marks)

Name a textual theme arising from the set text that was interpreted by the later religious tradition that you have studied.

- a. Explain why this particular textual theme was important for the set text’s original community. 2 marks
- b. Briefly outline a controversial interpretation of this textual theme by a person or group belonging to the later religious tradition. 2 marks
- c. Explain how the later religious tradition’s community responded to this controversial interpretation. 3 marks
- d. Describe the continuing relevance and meaning of the set text for the later religious tradition as it developed its response to this controversial interpretation of this textual theme. 3 marks