

FAQs on Bible Knowledge paper

1. What are some basic tips on answering the questions?

- a. Answer all questions in complete sentences.
- b. Marks are not deducted for English or spelling mistakes.
- c. If you cannot remember certain terms in English, you can use BM e.g. Roh Kudus for Holy Spirit; malaikat for angel.
- d. If your spelling mistake leads to a different person, marks will be deducted e.g. Simeon and Simon.
- e. For the “Temple” in Jerusalem, we need to use capital “T”.

2. How much time should we spend on each section of the paper?

The following is only just a suggestion:

- a. Use the first 5 minutes to read through the whole paper.
- b. For Section A, spend 5 minutes for each context question. That will be a total of 15 minutes altogether.
- c. For Section B, also spend 5 minutes for each context question. That will be a total of 15 minutes altogether.
- d. For Section C, Part 1, spend 15 minutes for the question.
- e. For Section C, Part 2, spend 20 minutes for each question. That will be a total of 60 minutes altogether.
- f. Lastly, use the remaining 10 minutes to check through all your answers for the whole paper again.

3. How should we present our answers for the paper?

Use one sheet of paper for Section A, one sheet for Section B and one sheet for Section C - Part 1, One sheet of paper here refers to both the front and back sides of the paper.

Use one sheet of paper for each long question in Section C – Part 2, for a total of 3 sheets of paper here.

Altogether, you will use 6 sheets of paper for your answers.

4. For Section C, Part 1, what does it mean to answer in one short paragraph?

It means that your answer must be written in one paragraph only. However, it does not mean that your answer must be only one to three sentences long.

5. If I answer the paper fully in BM, can I score full marks?

Yes, you can still score full marks. However, do attempt to answer at

least partly in English. Remember, you are not penalised for grammatical and spelling mistakes (except when a difference in spelling can mean a totally different thing). You are also allowed to use a BM term if you have forgotten the English term, eg Roh Kudus for Holy Spirit.

6. Can we write the short names of the people in the Bible or must we use their full names?

If you can remember their full names, then give their full names. For example, if you just write Barsabbas when referring to Joseph Barsabbas Justus as in Acts 1:23, you may not get full marks as there is another Barsabbas mentioned in the Bible, i.e. in Acts 15:22, where a Judas Barsabbas is mentioned.

7. When narrating an event, do we need to quote the exact words as used in the Bible or can we paraphrase? For example, in Lk 8:48, do we write, 'Jesus said to her, "My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace,"' OR can we just write, 'Jesus told the woman that her faith has made her well and asked her to go in peace.'

You may use your own words but remember to cover every point. What you think is unimportant may be important. However, if the question asks to quote someone, then you would have to quote verbatim.

8. Can I quote the Bible using another version of the Bible?

The Today's English Version (Good News Bible) is the accepted standard text for the paper. Candidates, however, will not be penalized if they use other versions in their answers. You would need to state the Bible version used.

9. If the question asks for two lessons/reasons/events/etc, for example, can I give more?

Yes. However, do take note that it is not so much about the quantity of points but the quality of the answers that matters. There needs to be full explanations, understanding and support for the arguments.

What happens if one or more of the extra answers is wrong? If it is a glaring mistake, then marks may be deducted; but if the first two answers given are correct, the student would be given full marks.

10. If I answer more than the required number of questions in Section C, will I get marks for the best answers given?

Generally, yes. Examiners will mark all your answers and the answers with the highest marks are then chosen.

11. Can students from Private schools sit for the paper?

Private candidates would need to register for SPM at the Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri and sign up for the six compulsory papers of BM, English, Maths, Science, History and Moral Education on top of the Bible Knowledge paper. They do not need to sit for all the papers but can just sit for the BM and BK papers only.

However, to get an SPM certificate, they would need to get a credit in BM and a pass in History. Otherwise, they would just get a result slip.

12. Can an International student sit for the paper?

Yes. They would be treated like the private candidates.

13. Can the principal of a school prevent a student from taking BK for SPM?

No, it is the prerogative of the student to pick whatever elective subjects they want to take for SPM because SPM is an open certification system. However, some principals fear the poor performance of some students for BK would bring down the school's GPS (Gred Purata Sekolah). Therefore, students taking BK should aim to perform well for the paper. They should be taking regular BK lessons and tests. Nonetheless, the principal nor anyone else cannot stop a student from taking BK.

If the principal continues to be antagonistic, parents can meet up with him/her and explain that the family are Christians and the importance of the Bible in their lives. Furthermore, the Lembaga Peperiksaan has placed BK in the SPM timetable and it will not clash with any other papers.

If the principal refuses to budge, parents can meet up with the Pengarah in the PPD and inform on the matter.

If this is also of no avail, parents can then write to the Lembaga

Peperiksaan.

14. Is BK open to all candidates, including non-Christians?

Yes.