

## SECTION A

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

### 1 Explore key ideas about the messianic secret.

(8)

The Messianic secret was a term first used by William Wrede and, generally, refer to the notion that, in the Synoptic Gospels, (particularly Mark) Jesus sought to keep his identity as Messiah a secret. Wrede did not believe that this was historical but instead said that it was a "dogmatic device" used to explain why Jesus was not acknowledged as Messiah during his ministry. He proposed that Jesus never claimed to be the Messiah but, after his resurrection, <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>early</sup> ~~the~~ church came to see him as having that role, but eye-witnesses were sceptical as Jesus never really claimed that title of himself. Therefore, when <sup>Mark's gospel was formed</sup> ~~Mark wrote his gospel~~, the evangelist depicted scenes such as Jesus' telling Peter not to tell anyone that he is the Messiah, when Jesus <sup>told him what he</sup> ~~asked him~~ <sup>do you</sup> thus his identity is, so that the beliefs about Jesus' Messiahship could be attributed to Jesus himself.

Another view of the Messianic secret is proposed by Jackson and Lake who argued that it served an historical purpose. Messianic expectation of the day was dominantly associated with the coming of a warrior messiah who would come to defeat Rome. Jesus did not want to be mistaken for making a claim to "political kingship". Knowledge of his identity as messiah also hampered the progression of his ministry due to the sensationalism that arose when the leper was healed and told others. To ensure ~~that~~ <sup>in large towns,</sup> he could continue his ministry, Jesus kept his identity secret.

(Total for Question 1 = 8 marks)

