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Edexcel

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Biblical Hebrew (1BH0) Paper 2

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Publications Code 1BH0_02_pef_20240822

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Report on the Units 1BH0/02 Summer 2024

The range of standards varied, with some impressive essay answers in the highest mark brackets, and many accurate translations.

On the whole, unless stated, responses were correct. Comments below refer to questions for which specific and repeated errors were made:

3 There was much confusion among candidates about the 2 methods of drinking (either prostrate and lapping direct from the water like dogs, or on their knees cupping the water in their hands). Many candidates wrote about the people being “on their knees, lapping like dogs” and similar.

9(a) Many candidates wrote that this was the gentillic yud

17 Generally the passage was accurately translated to a level 3 or more. Certain phrases posed a challenge such as “ולכדו להם את המים” which cannot mean to capture the water “for” the Midianites; and “וירדפו אל מדין” as to whether this meant they pursued the Midianites, or they pursued until (the land of) Midian. The word הביאו was incorrectly translated by many as it were a passive (“were brought”). A number of candidates translated ויצעק as an active “and they called out”.

18 Almost all candidates recognised the use of parable and extended metaphor; many failed to identify the many examples where the wording/language was used to create effect (see examples on mark scheme).

20 A significant proportion of candidates inaccurately answered that ‘he would be killed’ rather than ‘he would (surely) die’.

22(a) Many incorrect answers with a variety of suggestions, which failed to identify that the letter was part of the root.

27 Many candidates stated simply that these two cities were at the edges of Solomon’s empire, failing to identify that the purpose was to express its vast size and the large extent of his power.

30 Many candidates were writing that the trees were transported ‘on’ rafts, without explaining that they were in fact formed ‘into’ rafts and floated along the sea.

34 On the whole, translations here were superior to those for question 17. Some were translating והיית לאיש as “you should show yourself to be a man” though this had been omitted from the mark scheme.

35 Many candidates had understood that the speaker was the bereaved but lying mother, rather than the actual mother of the living child, skewing their responses accordingly. Most recognised the deferential tone and wording when addressing the king. Some candidates spoke of the ‘pausal form’; however, these forms of language did not seem to be out of the ordinary or denote any special significance.

36 Some very good answers which identified a range of relevant points of comparison and contrast, though many responses were made without analysis or evaluation, but rather as almost a list of free-standing identified points without drawing conclusions.