

Final Performance Task Options for Unit 3

Important Information for All Three Options

The following are the main ideas that you are to understand from this unit. They should appear in this final performance task so that your teacher can assess whether you learned the most essential content.

- The canon of the New Testament was formed over a period of nearly two centuries in a process that began with the life and teaching of Jesus and proceeded through oral tradition to written tradition and finally the inclusion of inspired texts.
- Mark, Matthew, and Luke are called synoptic Gospels because they share much in common; John differs in form and content.
- Mark portrays Jesus as a suffering Messiah who experiences all the joys and sorrows of human life.
- In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus proclaims the Reign of God in parables and miracles.

In addition to demonstrating understanding of these four main concepts of the unit, your final performance task must also contain or demonstrate the following:

- In-depth, substantial content appropriate for an upper-level high-school religious studies course
- Responsible and accurate use of Scripture
- Substantive content that creatively and accurately engages with and interprets the material of this unit
- Proper grammar, spelling, and diction
- A neat and well-organized presentation

Option 1: An Exegetical Paper

Choose one passage from the Gospel of Mark, approximately five to fifteen verses in length. Ask your teacher to approve the passage that you select. Then, research and write a four- to five-page exegetical paper in which you interpret that passage. Use one of the exegetical methods you studied in unit 2, and consult at least three sources of information other than your textbook. Your paper should follow this structure:

- An introduction that situates Mark's Gospel in general, and the passage you have chosen in particular, within the larger context of the development of the Gospels
- An overview of the major topics or questions regarding the selected passage that your paper will explore



- A explanation of the methodology you will use to interpret the passage—that is, literary, sociohistorical, or ideological
- At least three substantive body paragraphs in which you analyze the passage using the methodology you have chosen and present your interpretation
- A conclusion in which you apply your interpretation of the passage to some aspect of the world today: for example, a concern that many young people face, a problem that your school is encountering, or a pressing matter of national or international justice
- A bibliography

Option 2: An Artistic Portrait of Jesus with a Written Explanation

Create a portrait of Jesus that effectively captures Mark's Christology. Your portrait must be your own original creation, using any artistic media. It may be any size. Write a one-page (minimum) explanation to accompany your portrait. This written piece should situate Mark's Gospel within the larger context of the development of the Gospels and explain how your portrait reflects Mark's Christology.

Option 3: A Museum Display with an Accompanying Audio Guide

Imagine that the small museum attached to your diocese's cathedral is preparing a special exhibit on the Bible. You are entering a contest to create one section of this exhibit: a display that explores the development of the Gospels, including Mark, the first Gospel written. This display may include images, timelines, artistic pieces, and charts, all with accompanying labels and explanations.

To enter the contest, you must create either a small-scale physical model of the display or a digital version of the display. In either case, you must also submit an accompanying audio guide that offers listeners an in-depth explanation of each part of the display. Be sure to check with your teacher regarding the required format for your audio guide—that is, whether it should be an MP3, wav, Windows Media Player, or other format.

