

Instructions and Exam Study Questions

Module 1-A Exam

The exam ...

will last a minimum of three (3) hours and require four (4) completed essays, logically developed and written in standard English, utilizing one (1) question per Test Section, forty-five (45) minutes each.

The length of each answer ...

should be 500 to 1,000 words. If you wish, you may use a maximum of four hours to finish the exam (up to one hour per essay); however, spending forty-five (45) minutes per essay is typically considered sufficient to complete the testing. When taking the exam, no teamwork is permitted (no working collaboratively with others). You are not allowed to use notes or other study materials to assist you, including electronically-formatted data.

The best way to prepare ...

for the exam is to outline and practice answering each of the questions by using the assigned reading materials. Your essays should focus mainly on the historical period indicated in the Module. When appropriate, resource materials referring to other eras may also be utilized, but you are expected to rely primarily upon the current Module readings.

Organize your thoughts ...

before writing your essays by taking a few minutes to review the main points within each question. If you are asked to compare or contrast several points, make certain to describe their relationship to one another. Avoid overlapping your answers. If the questions within various Test Sections appear similar, either draw material for your essay answers from differing examples and academic methodologies, or choose a question that does not conflict with the answers you have already given.

The content of your answers ...

should employ data from specific readings for this Module. Generalizing and composing vague, speculative answers in your essays is unacceptable. You are free to agree or disagree with statements made in the questions, but you are expected to support your claims by referring to specific examples. If you are asked to provide at least two examples, spending your time developing two case studies in a well-written and thorough manner will be better than merely listing several cases without developing them further. You might also draw upon a third or fourth example for particular cases, but it is most likely that you will not have time to devote serious attention to more than the minimum number required.

A list of questions, ...

from which the exam will be created, is shown below. Only two of the four study questions found within each Study Section will be on the exam. When you take the exam, you may choose one of two questions from each Test Section.

Study Sections:

A. Historical Studies on Development

1. Trace the history of human culture from Paleolithic times to 2000 BC. What were the most important events for the development of civilization and where did they occur?
2. Discuss the issue of chronology in light of the various findings of ancient historical genealogies. Include in your discussion the implications of the genealogies in Genesis 5, 10 and 11.
3. Discuss what the Table of Nations (Gen. 10) tells us about the relationship of the Israelites to the nations. In light of this, what is the significance of the Tower of Babel episode in world history?
4. The Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt raises a number of important issues. Discuss the arguments presented so far in your readings related to the date/age of the Exodus and its relevance for understanding ancient world history. How might the arguments about the date of Exodus affect one's view of the inspiration of Scripture?

B. Cultural and Sociological Studies on Development

5. What is civilization and how do ancient civilizations differ from other early cultures and more recent small-scale societies?
6. Compare the understanding of the spirit world, the physical world, and humanity from two or three different religions studied in this module, and indicate the interrelationships between these concepts and how they affect other aspects of the people's culture and the way they approach problems.
7. Select a kinship relationship and a marriage form whose definitions and functions are unlike those of your own culture. Explain the influence of each of these upon general interpersonal behavior; and briefly discuss an appropriate biblical / missiological approach to people whose culture includes these social forms.
8. Moses "became the son of Pharaoh's daughter and was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians." Explain the cultural dynamics responsible for his recorded behavior and particular loyalties after he became an adult; and make some observations on the missiological significance of those same cultural processes in the conversion and discipling of new Christians.

C. Religious and Philosophical Studies on Development

9. Briefly describe and evaluate the scientific evidence concerning the origin and age of the universe and of humans. Evaluate and compare the major secular and Christian explanations and at least one non-Christian religious explanation of this evidence, and indicate the significance for human development of each viewpoint.
10. Can we say that religious rites and the role of law in Islam have essentially the same functions and meaning as those of the Old Testament Hebrews? In your last paragraph, indicate how these also are similar to or differ from the approach that your religion takes to rites and law.
11. Compare the types of religious specialists (priests ...) and structures (temples, tabernacles, shrines, sanctuaries, etc.) found in 2 or more religions studied during this course. Would you say that their similarities in purpose, function, and building structures outweigh their differences?
12. Discuss the character of God in light of your readings up to this point in the course. Include in your discussion the implications of the law of God and how this relates to an understanding of the ethical formation of Israel. How does a correct understanding of these issues impact the way one approaches cross-cultural transmission of the knowledge of God's character?

D. Biblical Studies on Development

13. Discuss the issue of authorship with regard to the canon of the Old Testament. What are the factors that must be taken into consideration? How do you account for extrabiblical stories and records that seem to parallel the Old Testament record in some places?
14. Explain the difference between exegesis and hermeneutics. Discuss the most important factors for doing correct biblical exegesis and hermeneutics. What missiological implications are there for carrying this out in a cross-cultural setting?
15. Explain the theology of saving faith in the Old Testament. Include references to specific passages. In your last paragraph or two, discuss the implications for communicating the gospel today to peoples who have not yet heard it.
16. Kaiser contends that the law of God is not antithetical to the promise of the gospel. This appears to be consistent with the New Testament principle that the law has implications for us, which are broader than merely condemnatory. How does Stuart's view compare to this? Compare the two approaches and explain what you understand the implications of each approach to be.