

Instructions and Exam Study Questions

Module 2A Final 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. Discuss the forces that shaped Alexander the Great, his accomplishments, and the continuing influence of Hellenism.
2. Summarize historical developments in the Near East and Mediterranean worlds from 600 BC to just before the Roman period. How did these differ from earlier periods, and what impact did they have on the cultures involved?
3. Compare Israelite historiography with those of other early cultures' approaches to history and society.
4. How would you explain the rise of Rome in the Hellenistic world? What implications did this have for the culture and society in which the people of the Gospels lived?

B. Cultural and Sociological Studies on Development

5. Discuss similarities and differences between these classical societies: Greek or Hellenistic, and Persian. Explain the impact of their cultural and political character on religious developments.
6. Describe several important features of Hellenistic culture and social organization, indicating their historical roots, philosophical basis, and impact on Jewish life in the Diaspora.
7. List key features used in phonetic analysis to distinguish different sounds in human languages, giving several examples. How do the writing systems studied thus far in this module and in Module 1 relate to sound systems?
8. Compare the use of parables, proverbs, story-telling, and other oral literary forms in the Gospels and at least two (2) non-biblical cultures, indicating applications for cross-cultural communication.

C. Religious and Philosophical Studies on Development

9. Compare the major non-canonical Jewish writings with the scriptures that became part of the recognized Jewish and Christian canons, indicating both differences and similarities. How do these extrabiblical works reflect the historical and cultural contexts within which the Jewish people found themselves during this period, 400 BC to AD 200?
10. Briefly describe the view of human nature, evil, and society advocated by Plato and other Greek philosophers and compare it to the biblical view.
11. Discuss the historical development of the Jewish religious sects of the first century AD and compare their beliefs with Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God and the Messiah.
12. Explain how Jesus' understanding of salvation differs from the views found in at least two (2) of the following: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, or first century Judaism.

D. Biblical Studies on Development

13. Give specific examples of how the cultural values of honor/shame influence the interpretation of Scripture. Take your examples from the Gospels.
14. Analyze the value of the Septuagint and the Dead Sea Scrolls for the study of the New Testament and the understanding of the Mediterranean world of that era.
15. Analyze the Kingdom of God as a theme in the Gospels and briefly indicate its importance for development work today.
16. Discuss the reactions of Jewish leaders, ordinary villagers, and city dwellers to Jesus' conception of his mission and to his relations with religiously-marginal persons (the poor, the possessed, women, public 'sinners', etc.). Do you find parallels in Christianity today?