

# Instructions and Exam Study Questions

## Module 4A 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. Explain what was so unique about the 25 years 1945-1969. Discuss the causes, events, and effects of the major changes that took place worldwide during those years, and briefly indicate their impact on the Christian mission movement. Give specific illustrations from more than one world region.
2. The turbulent 1960s and early 1970s saw social upheaval in several parts of the world. Analyze the causes, manifestations, and results of these events and movements in at least one country. Also evaluate the response of Christians at that time. On the whole, do you think the changes were beneficial or detrimental to individuals and to the society?
3. Compare the patterns of oppression after World War II in two or more of these regions, drawing on specific examples: Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Iran, China, Cambodia. In your concluding paragraph, briefly indicate types of responses, which you feel may be valid for Christians caught in such situations.
4. Analyze the spread and later decline of communism (Marxist-Leninist socialism) in the modern world since 1945. What impact did communism have on the societies which it engulfed? on international relations? on the Christian church in those countries and on its global mission

## **B. Cultural and Sociological Studies on Development**

5. Discuss the changes brought about by the massive and rapid urbanization of the twentieth century world, and the implications for other aspects of life, such as family life, housing, slum communities, voluntary associations, religious life, etc. Would you conclude that the urbanizing trend has been beneficial or detrimental for the majority of people?
6. Assess the impact of scientific and technological advances on the world since World War II. How have these innovations affected lifestyles and international development efforts?
7. For 1 or 2 of the following contemporary social issues, (a) give an overview of recent developments and diverse positions taken by activists or scholars; (b) analyze the social and cultural context; and (c) briefly indicate implications for cross-cultural workers. Issues: gap between rich and poor, bioethics, population policies, abortion, AIDS, violence against women, famine and other relief policies, human rights, environmental concerns.
8. How can one speak of “global civilization” in today’s world of ethnic and religious conflicts, which are hardly “civilized” and which split peoples apart? Hasn’t the world community rather regressed into a period of self-centered greed on the part of wealthy nations, with a lack of concern for poorer countries which are disintegrating into civil war and chaos?

## **C. Religious and Philosophical Studies on Development**

9. How did communist ideology, institutions, and practices become so widely accepted in China? Would you say that Mao’s various campaigns over this period resulted in a wider acceptance of Marxism or in disillusionment with the ideology of the ruling party?
10. Explain the rise of Islamic movements in recent decades, including Islamic fundamentalism in Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East (Southwest Asia and North Africa). What impact have such movements had on the national and international scene and on relations with other forms of Islam and with different religions?
11. Why have so many Westerners turned to Eastern religions or new religious cults in the past several decades? What do they offer that Western Christianity and Judaism do not?
12. Analyze liberation theology and basic Christian communities. In what contexts and why have they arisen? How do they differ from prior Christian traditions and from each other? What have they contributed to the church and its members? What strengths and weaknesses have been identified with these movements?

## **D. Strategies for Development**

13. How would you account for the increasing gap between rich and poor countries, and rich versus poor sectors within countries, since World War II? Has the West, on the whole, and faith-based NGOs in particular, caused the gap to increase or helped to alleviate the problems of the poor?
14. Analyze the impact of NGOs (non-governmental organizations), including Christian missions, in two or more of these realms since the 1930s: translation work, medical care, famine relief, urban slum work, refugee work, reconciliation and peace efforts, survival and improvement in living standards of indigenous tribal and/or peasant peoples. Refer to specific examples.
15. Discuss the search for social and economic justice in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, or the Middle East in recent decades. Has the “Christian” West and its NGOs been a help or hindrance in this quest?
16. Compare two or more of these approaches to holistic development, supporting your position with examples of specific societies: Marxist, capitalist, Islamic, Christian. Would you say that all of these approaches have a strong ethical component? If so, what difference does it make which is selected for a particular people?