



MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE
2015 Diocesan Exam
Grade 10

Time: 90 Minutes

Maximum Score: 100 Points

SECTION 1: Multiple Choice - Circle the most appropriate response for the following question(s) / statement(s). (25 x 1 pt. = 25 pts. Total)

- _____ is the highest spiritual activity of humans and it is the bridge of fellowship with the divine.
a. Bible Reading b. Worship c. Songs d. none of these
B (L4 BE Purpose of Worship)
- Elijah called together _____ prophets of Baal and _____ prophets of Asherah that ate at Jezebel's table.
a. 450; 400 b. 400; 450 c. 800; 800 d. 450; 425
A (L2 BE The Showdown at Mount Carmel)
- Among Job's friends, _____ provided comfort and strength, and did not accuse job for his sufferings.
a. Eliphaz b. Bildad c. Zophar d. Elihu
D (L6 BE Job's Friends)
- "Ex Nihilio" is a Latin word, which means _____.
a. nothingness b. space and time
c. from the deep blue d. darkness
A (L1 BE)
- What is the core message of the prophet Amos?
a. Social injustice and corruption b. God's sovereignty over good and evil
c. Hope for the hopeless d. Pride and jealousy
A (L14 P)
- When Paul exhorts Timothy, which of the following is metaphoric for the reward for hard work and diligence?
a. Crown of Thorns b. Princely Crown
c. Crown of Righteousness d. The Blessed Crown
C (L19 Bible Portion 2 Timothy 4:7-8)
- Who said the following phrase and about whom did he say it, " he must increase and I must decrease"?
a. John the Baptist about Jesus Christ b. Moses about Joshua
c. Peter about Paul d. Peter about Jesus Christ
A (L18 BE)
- To whom did God say, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your offspring"?
a. Joshua b. Josiah c. Abraham d. Jacob
D (L8 Bible Portion Gen 28: 10-16)

9. The Palestinian Covenant is also called the _____.
- a. New Covenant
 - b. Land Covenant
 - c. Noahic Covenant
 - d. none of these

B (L3 BE)

10. What was a unique feature of the battle led by Joshua at Gibeon?
- a. The people marched around the walls and they came crashing down
 - b. More enemies were killed by the hailstorm sent by God, than by the swords of the Israelites
 - c. Although there were only 200 Israelites, they killed thousands of enemy soldiers
 - d. None of the above

B (L7 BE)

11. Jacob named Luz, the place where he had the dream, to _____, which means _____.
- a. Bethany, House of Prayer
 - b. Bable, House of Power
 - c. Bethel, House of God
 - d. Bethlehem, House of Hope

C (L8 Heavenly Visions at the Crossroads of Life)

12. “_____ did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.”
- a. Jehoiada
 - b. Josiah
 - c. Joshua
 - d. Jacob

B (L7 BE)

13. Which of the following charges was *not* brought to the king against the three Jews; Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
- a. They paid no heed to the King
 - b. They did not serve his Gods
 - c. They did not want to take up the positions that were being offered to them
 - d. They did not worship the Golden statue he had set up

C (L9 BE)

14. The focus of the _____ is reward based on the level of spiritual experience and relation with God rather than material recompense.
- a. Beatitudes
 - b. Pentecost
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. Ascension

A (L16 BE)

15. What does the valley in the vision of Ezekiel represent?
- a. Hope for a new day
 - b. Their physical exile and spiritual exile
 - c. Final death and destruction
 - d. Judgment day for humankind

B (L11 BE)

16. Who came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God;”?
- a. Caiaphas
 - b. Peter
 - c. John the Baptist
 - d. Nicodemus

D (L17 P1 Bible Portion John 3:1-2)

17. _____ is made up of rabbinical writings dealing with Jewish laws, ethics, customs, and history.
 a. Torah b. Talmud c. Pentateuch d. Apocrypha
B (L4 BE Jesus, Son of God in History)
18. In Isaiah’s vision, which of the heavenly beings worshipped God by one calling to another and saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.”?
 a. Cherubim b. Seraphim c. Angels d. Archangels
B (L4 Isaiah 6: 2-3)
19. What did Elijah say to the prophets of Baal to taunt them?
 a. Serpahs b. Samaritans c. Pharisees d. Sadducees
A (L2 Bible Portion 1 Kings 18:27)
20. As the “Crown of Creation”, what is the role of human beings in the created universe?
 a. To act as owners b. To be stewards and caretakers
 c. Exploiting it for our desires d. Being oblivious to it
B (L1 BE)
21. What is the ladder in Jacob’s vision a symbolic representation of?
 a. The only way to Heaven
 b. The gap between God and man that cannot be fixed
 c. It has no meaning
 d. The connection between God and His people
D (L8 BE Heavenly Vision at the Crossroads of Life)
22. It was during the reign of _____, King of Judah, that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem.
 a. Hezekiah b. Uzziah c. Jehoiakim d. Joseph
C (L9 BE)
23. Which statement best describes Paul’s teachings of “Faith Alone”?
 a. Justification is through God’s grace and salvation is through faith in God’s justification.
 b. Faith in justification is all that’s needed in life
 c. Justification is possible through words alone
 d. All things work together for those who love Him
A (L10 BE)
24. What does the name Ezekiel mean?
 a. God Protects b. God Advantage c. God Empowers d. God Blesses
C (L11 BE)
25. _____ was an official in charge of Ahab’s palace, a contemporary of the prophet Elijah.
 a. Amos b. Daniel c. Matthew d. Aramaic
A (L13 BE)

SECTION 2: Short Answers - Answer any four (4) of the following questions. Answers should be brief and to the point. (4 x 5 pts. Ea. = 20 pts. Total)

1. What are five characteristics of an Eternal Being?

(L5 BE)

Any 5, 1 pt. each

- a. **Eternal/Infinite**
- b. **He is the cause or creator of all we see and what we do not see**
- c. **Infinitely Knowledgeable – Omniscient**
- d. **Possesses infinite power – Omnipotent**
- e. **Exists everywhere – Omnipresent**
- f. **Unchanging Nature**

2. What are the four points of the Palestinian covenant.

(L3 BE)

1.25 pts each

- a. **You can choose life or death (blessings or curse) – (Deut 30:1, 15)**
- b. **These commands are not too hard for you, nor is it far off, but the word is near you; it's in your heart, so you can do it. (Deut 30: 11-14)**
- c. **You can obey His commandments by loving the Lord your God. (Deut 30: 2,16)**
- d. **You will perish and will not live long if your heart turns away from the Lord and His commandments (Deut 30: 17, 18)**

3. What are the qualities of a Godly leader as described by St. Paul in his 1st epistle to Timothy and how does Joshua embody these qualities?

(L7 BE Qualities of a Godly Leader) 2.5 pt. each

- a. **Paul said a Godly leader should be able to manage his own household, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way.**
- b. **Joshua was the embodiment of this when he made the statement on behalf of his family, “But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”**

4. What are the five pieces of the “Armor of God”?

(L19 BE)

1 pt each

- **Belt of Truth**
- **Breastplate of Righteousness**
- **Shield of Faith**
- **Helmet of Salvation**
- **Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)**

5. What was the fundamental message of John the Baptist as seen in his sermon in Luke 3?

(L19 BE)

1.5 pts each

- 1. Repent for the kingdom of heaven has come near**
- 2. He condemned the wealthy people for their luxurious lifestyle**
- 3. He told tax collectors not to collect more than the amounts they are supposed to**
- 4. He told the soldiers not to extort money from anyone by threats or false accusations**

SECTION 3: Memory Verses - Complete any of five (5) of the following.

(5 x 5 pts. Ea. = 25 pts. Total)

1. I will put **my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act**, says the Lord.
Ezekiel 37:14
(L11 P5)
2. I appeal to you **therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**
Romans 12:1
(L4 P7)
3. If a brother or sister **is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.**
James 2: 15-17
(L10 P5)
4. But in your **hearts sanctify Christ as lord. Always be ready to make defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope** that is in you.
1 Peter 3:15
(L5 P8)
5. He must **increase, but I must decrease.**
John 3:30
(L18 P5)
6. I have made your name **known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.**
John 17:6
(L20 P5)

**SECTION 4: Mar Thoma Church: Our Foundation and Vision - Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement.
(10 x 1 pt. = 10 pts. Total)**

1. Servant ministry is also known as _____.
- a. diakonial ministry
 - b. centripetal ministry
 - c. ministry of the church
 - d. koinonia ministry
- A (MTFV P217)**
2. _____ was considered as the great spiritual leader who led a simple life.
- a. Thomas Mar Athanasius
 - b. Alexander Mar Thoma Metropolitan
 - c. Philipose Mar Chrysostom
 - d. Joseph Mar Ireneus

B MTFV 223

3. _____ is a Greek word for communion and fellowship refers to the attitude of the early church.
- a. Agape
 - b. Koinonia
 - c. Ecumenism
 - d. Diskolos
- B (MTFV P217)**
4. _____ was called by Time Magazine as the World's Greatest Missionary in 1938.
- a. Rt. Rev. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma
 - b. Mother Teresa
 - c. Dr. E. Stanley Jones
 - d. Pope John XXIII
- C (MTFV P227)**

5. Which of the following was a contribution of Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Thoma Metropolitan?
- a. Believed that Mar Thoma Church has a special role in evangelizing India; sent missionaries to all parts of India
 - b. He exhorted every member of the Mar Thoma Church to be an Evangelist and established the Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists' Association
 - c. His entire life as a priest, bishop, and Metropolitan was dedicated to making the Mar Thoma Church as a pioneer evangelistic church.
 - d. All of the above

D (MTFV P222)

6. The _____ dynamic of the ministry is reaching out and bringing in people into the fellowship of the church.
- a. Centripetal
 - b. Centrifugal
 - c. Gravitational
 - d. Peripheral
- B (MTFV P217)**

7. What is the name of the book that Dr. Stanley Jones wrote?

- a. The Christ of the Indian Roads
 - b. How to be like Jesus
 - c. Missionary: God's Calling
 - d. Heaven is for Real
- A (MTFV P228)**

8. What was the name of the original church bulletin?

- a. Sabha Tharaka
 - b. Christia Jeevithum
 - c. The Mar Thoma
 - d. Mar Thoma Messenger
- A (MTFV P224)**

9. Who laid the foundation of the Mar Thoma Church in North America?

- a. Thomas Mar Athanasius
 - b. Mathews Mar Athanasius
 - c. Alexander Mar Thoma Metropolitan
 - d. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius
- A (MTFV P221)**

10. When was the Sunday School Samajam established?

- a. 1888
 - b. 1905
 - c. 1924
 - d. 1884
- B (MTFV P240)**

SECTION 5: Short Answer on Mar Thoma Church History - Answer one of the following questions. Answer shall be brief and to the point. (1 x 5 pts. = 5 pts. Total)

1. There are over 38 organizations and institutions devoted to the growing needs of the "less fortunate ones" in society. List five out of seven various categories these organizations are listed under.

(MTFV L4)

Any 5, 1 pt. each

- a. Rehabilitation and Development for the Mentally Challenged**
- b. Rehabilitation Centers for Physically Challenged**
- c. Guidance and Counseling Centers**
- d. Homes for Boys and Girls**
- e. Shelter for the Destitute and Homeless**
- f. Old Age (Nursing) Homes and Hospice Center**
- g. Medical Centers**

2. What is mission? What is Ministry?

(MTFV P117)

2.5 pts each

- a. Mission of the church is centrifugal – reaching out and bringing people into the fellowship of the church**
- b. Ministry is centripetal – taking care of the people's total needs. Diakonia mission of Christ to serve the total needs of the people. Involvement of both priests and laity. Church follows the "Feed my Lamb commission taking care of social, economic, and spiritual needs of the Christian community.**

SECTION 6: Essay - Choose one of the following two topics to write an essay in 200 words. (15 pts. Total)

1. "Faith versus Good Works". Write an essay discussing the 2 main perspectives. Include the following points:

- a. Introduction 2 points
- b. Background of Paul and James 4 points
- c. Paul's view of salvation 2 points
- d. James' view on salvation 2 points
- e. How can these two views be reconciled 3 points
- f. Conclusion 2 points.

(L P)

- a. Paul emphasizes justification of salvation through faith.
 - Paul says we are saved by our faith in Jesus Christ and not by what we do.
 - Biblical Scholars support this view by dissecting the idea of grace which can be defined as unmerited favor by God.
 - We didn't deserve this grace. It was freely given to us and by it we are justified.
 - Any action we do to try to justify this Grace as being strange is outlandish since "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
 - This perspective is seen in the Gospels as well. The thief on the cross that confessed that Jesus was innocent and asked Jesus to remember him in Paradise was saved regardless of any kind of action. In many instances, Jesus also performs miracles where he simply says, "your faith has healed you."
 - Paul also says that we cannot continue to live in sin. We must uphold the law and the standards upon which society is built.
 - Justification is through the grace of Christ, whereas salvation is attained through faith in God's justification.
 - Pauline view ascribes to a faith that bears fruit
- b. James states faith without works or good deeds is dead.
 - The natural result of faith in Christ is action
 - James argues that works will inevitably characterize genuine faith.
 - James distinguishes between false and genuine faith through his description of the man with faith but no deeds.
 - Genuine faith should lead a person to have a Christ-like manner e. James points to Abraham as being justified by works leading to righteousness. James' use of justified means demonstrated to be right.
 - Abraham's faith was justified by God and through this it was shown to be right by his actions
 - Complete faith is manifested through action.
- c. How can these two views be reconciled?

- A misunderstanding can arise because these views appear to oppose each other
- James doesn't write this letter to oppose Paul's message.
- The timeframe (mid 40's AD) when James wrote this indicates he wouldn't have known about Paul's teachings.
- James writing to oppose people who pervert Paul's teaching. Both James' and Paul's teachings are very similar.
- Both Paul and James agree in a faith that strives to bear good fruit showing similar views of justification.
- The expression of Grace isn't the issue, but what we do in response to grace.
- Sanctification is our response to God's Justification by setting our lives apart to be holy and following Jesus.
- We are justified by God's Grace through faith and as a result, sanctify ourselves to the will of the Father by deeds we try to exemplify a Christ-like nature.

2. In the Old Testament, Job is the epitome of the beauty that blossoms in misery. Address the Christian understanding of suffering based on the life of Job including the following points:
- a. Introduction 2 pts
 - b. Job's life and suffering and his response to it 3 pts
 - c. God's blessings to Job and Job's response 4 pts
 - d. Compare Job's suffering to Jesus' suffering 4 pts
 - e. Conclusion – Our response to suffering in our lives and in the lives of others 2 pts

(L P)

1. Satan came along with heavenly beings who were presenting themselves. Satan's response to where he had been was, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."
2. God points out the character of Job and Satan says the only reason Job is upright is because God has blessed and challenges God saying if he had his blessings taken away, Job would turn away. God gives permission to do so.
3. What was Job's response to losing everything? Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, fell on the ground and worshipped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." He did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing
4. Satan once again came in front of God. God once again points out Job's righteousness of Job even though he was suffering. Satan says, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives." Satan implies that if his health was affected, Job would turn from God.
5. God allows Satan to inflict Job with disease but not kill him.

6. What did Satan inflict Job with? Loathsome sores from head to toe. Job had to take a potsherd to scrape himself and sit among ashes.
7. What was Job's wife's response to his suffering? Job's wife said, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." What was Job's response? "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?"
8. In all this Job did not sin with his lips.
9. God's response to Job – "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding?" (This response to Job is not an answer to Job's question, rather an assurance of God's sovereignty over all creation and that His ways are beyond human understanding)
10. Job replies, "I have uttered what I did not understanding, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."
11. The story of Job is precursor of obedience to God's will as seen in the life, suffering, and death of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 5:7 – "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death and he was heard because of his reverent submission."
12. Conclusion – Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shu'ite, Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console/comfort him. They saw him from a distance and did not recognize him. They wept aloud; tore their robes, threw dust upon their heads. They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that he was suffering greatly. We must instead be a source of comfort like his young friend Elihu who did not accuse him of any wrongdoing as a reason for his suffering