



MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE
2015 Diocesan Exam
Grade 8

Time: 90 Minutes

Maximum Score: 100 Points

Section 1 – Multiple Choice. Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement. (30 x 1pt= 30 pts Total)

1. During the journey of Israelites to the Promised Land, they camped at a place named _____ where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees.
a. Elim b. Shur c. Sinai d. Sin
A (L1 P1)
2. Solomon built the temple based on the plan his father received from God through prophet _____.
a. Elijah b. Isaiah c. Samuel d. Nathan
D (L12 P2)
3. Naaman was the commander of the army of the king of _____.
a. Israel b. Moab c. Judah d. Aram
D (L15 P1)
4. Abana and Phrappar are the rivers of _____ >
a. Jerusalem b. Damascus
c. Israel d. Egypt
B (L15 P1)
5. _____ was the wife of King Ahab.
a. Elizabeth b. Ruth c. Jezebel d. Hannah
C (L8 P2)
6. Samuel's parents Hannah and Elkanah lived in a small town of _____.
a. Bethlehem b. Ramah c. Shilo d. Jezreel
B (L9 P1)
7. The name Hannah means _____.
a. Grace b. Joy c. Mercy d. God's gift
A (L9 P1)
8. From the gospel of John we know that _____ was a disciple of John the Baptist before he became a disciple of Jesus.
a. Peter b. Andrew c. James d. Matthew
B (L20 P2)
9. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible known as _____.
a. Gospels b. Historical books c. Pentateuch d. Epistles
C (L1 P1)

10. “Will anyone rob God, You are robbing me”. Who prophesied these words?
 a. Malachi b. Jeremiah c. Haggai d. Amos
(L13 P1)
11. _____ was the only disciple of Jesus who had a natural death.
 a. Peter b. Philip c. John d. James
C (L20 P2-3)
12. Abraham’s trusted servant and to be heir of his house was _____
 from Damascus.
 a. Isaac b. Ishmael c. Eliezar d. Sarah
C (L5 P1)
13. In Egypt, Jacob and his family settled in the land of _____.
 a. Canaan b. Judea c. Haran d. Goshen
D (L6 P1)
14. After being sold as a slave, Joseph became the _____ of Egypt.
 a. Pharaoh b. Captain of the palace guards
 c. Emperor d. Prime Minister
A (L6 P2)
15. _____ was the father of prophet Isaiah.
 a. Solmon b. Amoz c. Ahab d. Jotham
B (L7 P1)
16. Elizah asked the king to assemble all the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal at:
 a. Mount Sinai b. Mount Horeb c. Mount Moriah d. Mount Carmel
D (L8 P1)
17. God said “Let us make mankind in our own image.” Here the creator(s) is/are:
 a. God and Jesus b. Trinitarian God
 c. God and Holy Spirit d. God and angels
B (L1 P2)
18. God said that whoever kills Cain will suffer _____.
 a. Threefold b. Sevenfold c. Seventyfold d. Sixfold
C (L3 Bible Reading Verse 15)
19. Elijah brought the Baal prophets down to ----- and killed them there.
 a. Kidron b. Tabor c. Cherith d. Wadi Kishon
D (L8 Bible Reading Verse 40)
20. _____ is not a fruit of the spirit.
 a. Gentleness b. Self Control c. Greatness d. Faithfulness
C (L19 P3)

21. The great commission received to us in the gospel of----- highlights the importance of preaching the gospel to every nation.
 a. Mark b. Luke c. John d. Matthew
D (L18 P4)
22. One of the most needed fruits one should have in adolescent years is _____.
 a. Love b. Faithfulness c. Patience d. Self Control
D (L19 P4)
23. In the book of Samuel, we see Samuel is called by God as a boy and then later made him a _____.
 a. Prophet b. Priest c. Judge d. All of the above
D (L9 P2)
24. Paul listed the fruits of the spirit in this epistle _____.
 a. Philippians b. Colossians c. Galatians d. Corinthians
C (L19 P3)
25. The last six of the 10 commandments focus on our relationship with _____.
 a. our parents b. God
 c. others d. the church
C (L4 P2)
26. The first call of discipleship was extended by Jesus at the shores of _____.
 a. Sea of Galilee b. Jordan River c. Red Sea d. Lake Tiberias
A (L20 P2)
27. Genesis is a Greek word meaning _____.
 a. Origin b. Start c. Generate d. Produce
A (L1 P2)
28. The Herodians were also _____.
 a. Arabs b. Jews c. Pharisees d. Christians
B (L17 P2)
29. God spoke to Abraham in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram I am your _____.
 a. Master b. Shield c. God d. Protector
B (L5 P2)
30. In the parable of the sower and the seed, the seed is referred as _____.
 a. Jesus Christ b. Word of God c. Holy Spirit d. Plant
B (L18 P4)

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

1. Who was Isaiah? 1 pt
What was his main prophecy? 1 pt
What was the Lord's complaint against Judah? 1 pt
What was Isaiah's vision? 1 pt
What was Isaiah's warning? 1 pt

L7 P3

1 pt. ea.

- **He was a prophet of Judah and prophesized during the reign of four different Kings (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah)**
 - **Isaiah prophesized the birth of Christ and the second coming of Christ the Messiah.**
 - **The Lord's complaint against Judah was that they had forsaken and angered him by turning away from God.**
 - **Isaiah envisions a future world in which there exists a unity among human beings that overcome all diversities. He also indicates the Kingdom of God in which all creating is brought together with Christ as its head.**
 - **The prophetic message and warning to all people is to repent or you will perish.**
2. How did Elijah prove that the Lord God of Israel is the true God to the prophets of Baal?

L8 P3

- **Elijah asked King Ahab to assemble all the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of Asherah at Mount Carmel.**
 - **He said to the people, let two bulls be given to us. Let the Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, cut it into pieces, and lay on the wood, but put no fire to it.**
 - **I will do the same with the other bull. Then call on the name of your God and I will call on the name of the Lord. "The God who answers by fire is indeed God."**
 - **They did as Elijah asked, but their God did not answer with fire. When Elijah prayed, the fire of the Lord fell on the offering and burnt the offerent. This proved that the Lord, God of Israel is the true God.**
3. The journey through the wilderness was a long and tiresome one. When the Israelites complained to Moses about being hungry, God promised them meat in the evening and Manna in the morning.
What is Manna? 1 pt
What were the instructions the Israelites were given on how to gather Manna? 4 pts

L11 P1-2 Bible Reading

- **Manna is a fine flaky bread**
 - **The Israelites were commanded to gather as much as they needed according to the number of people in their tents**
 - **They were told not to save any of it because it would go bad**
 - **On the 6th day, gather twice as much food**
 - **Cook as much as you need for the day and leave the rest for the 7th day.**
 - **On the 7th day, the Sabbath, don't go out to collect manna.**
 - **People disobeyed God and saved food for the next day and it bred worm and become foul. Some people went out to collect on the Sabbath, but there was none to collect.**
4. Jesus calls God the Father and gardener of a vineyard in the "I am the Vine" conversation with his disciples. Jesus continues to describe how we are called to bear fruits and how God prunes us for his work.

Name any five fruits we are expected to bear as stated in Galatians?

L19 P3 (Any five 1 pt each)

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Love | • Patience | • Faithfulness |
| • Joy | • Kindness | • Gentleness |
| • Peace | • Goodness | • Self-Control |

5. What was the question the Pharisees and the Herodians asked Jesus to trap Him? How did Jesus answer them?

L17 P3 (2.5 pts each)

- **The question to Jesus was about paying poll tax which was the clearest sign of submission to Rome. The Pharisees and the Herodians asked Jesus, "Teacher, is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"**
- **Jesus asked them to show a Roman coin. As they handed Jesus a denarius, he asked his questioners a question "Whose head is this, and whose title?". They answered, "The emperor's". Then Jesus said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and give to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed and they left him and went away.**

Section 3 – Memory Verses. Complete any of five (5) of the following on the answer sheet provided (5 x 5pts = 25 pts. Total)

1. Each of you **must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.** – 1 Corinthians 9:7
(L13 P5)
2. **O LORD, how manifold is your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.** - Psalms 104:24
(L1 P4)

3. By faith Abraham, **when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up** his only son. - Hebrews 11:17
(L5 P5)
4. So God **created humankind, in his image of God he created them, male and female he** created them. – Genesis 1:27
(L17 P5)
5. “If my people **who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and** heal their land.” - 2 Chronicles 7:14
(L7 P5)
6. By contrast, **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law** against such things. – Galatians 5:22, 23
(L19 P5)

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

1. Which of the following is a Dominical Sacrament?
a. Marriage b. Ordination c. Baptism d. Confirmation
C (MTVF P175)
2. Each sacrament has _____ essential elements.
a. Seven b. Six c. Five d. Four
C (MTVF P172)
3. The _____ is not just a text or a set of prayers, but an act of the congregation.
a. Sacrament b. Holy Communion
c. Confirmation d. Liturgy
D (MTVF P180)
4. The Aramaic word “Qurbana” means _____
a. Offering b. Good taste c. Last supper d. Sacred unity
A (MTVF P179)
5. The three steps of the Calvary Cross represent faith, hope and _____.
a. Freedom b. Forgiveness c. Love d. Salvation
C (MTVF P183)
6. Unction is _____.
a. Funeral Service b. Anointing of the Sick

- c. Fellowship
B (MTVF P188)
- d. Dominical sacrament

7. In the Mar Thoma liturgy, during the _____ we remember ordained clergies, evangelists, believers, forefathers, and state leaders.

- a. Anamnesis
c. Epiclesis
- b. anti-communion
d. Intercession

D (MTVF P181)

8. _____ denotes sacred unity of the participants.

- a. Eucharist
c. Holy Communion
- b. Lord's Supper
d. Quarbana

C (MTVF P179)

9. During the Holy Communion service, participation comes before the _____

- a. First blessing
c. Sermon
- b. Third blessing
d. None of these

D (MTVF P181)

10. Anointing with "Mooron" during Baptismal service is done only for _____.

- a. Baptism
b. Ordination
c. Mamodisa
d. Confirmation

D (MTVF P176)

Section 5 – Mar Thoma History Short Answer. Answer one of the following questions. Answers should be brief and to the point. (1 x 5pts = 5 pts Total)

1. What are the main components of the ordination service?

(MTVF P188)

Ordination service is conducted in the middle of the Holy Communion Service.

- **The celebrant, the Metropolitan reads out a declaration of the faith of the church.**
- **Then the candidate draws the sign of the cross against his name in the register and puts his signature under the cross, expressing his agreement with the faith of the church declared.**
- **As an expression of his dedication to the Lord's ministry, the candidate is to get his hair removed from the top of his head in a circular shape the previous day and in the form of a cross during the ordination service.**
- **Special dress (Kapa) and girdle are given to them after special prayers as symbols of authority to administer Sacraments sacrificial service.**

2. What are the two parts in the order of service in a Christian wedding? Explain

(MTVF P185)

- The order of service of Christian marriage consists of two parts. First part is the blessing of the rings. It is the service of betrothal. The celebrant on behalf of the Church adorns the couple with the rings offering special prayers for the blessing of God.
- The second part of the service is the service of consecration, which is the blessing with crown. The blessing of the Almighty is invoked on the bride and the bridegroom.

Section 6 – Essay. Choose one of the following two topics to write an essay in 150 words. (Total 10 points)

1. Introduction: What is a parable? (1 pt)
How did Jesus use parables? (1 pt)
Describe the parable of the sower and the seed. 2
Analyze the different types of soils and conditions. How did Jesus compare it with its growth to human beings? (4 pts.)
Conclusion: How do we prepare ourselves to get the Word of God rooted in our hearts and bear fruits. (2 pts)

(L18 P1-4)

- a. **Introduction: A parable is a comparison of something on earth to something in God’s Kingdom. In order to keep people engaged, Jesus taught them by telling attractive stories. Jesus was called the master of parables for he made up parables spontaneously and used them effectively.**
- b. **A sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some of the seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on the rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell on among thorns, and the thorns grew up choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.**
- c. **The sower is God and the seed is the Word.**

The soil on the path is not plowed or prepared for seed. These are those who hear the Word, but Satan comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. The soil on the wayside represents hardness and unproductiveness of human hearts.

These are the ones sown on the rocky grounds: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while, then, when trouble or difficulties arise on account of the word, immediately they fall away. The shallow soil represents a weak faith of superficial hearers. When difficulties or persecution comes their way, they defect their faith.

Those sown among the thorns: they hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of the wealth, and the desire for other things come and choke the word, and it yields nothing. The thorn hearted people hear the word, but their thoughts are dominated by worldly things. They hear the word of God preached but it is choked right away by the mental concerns for other things.

These are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit. They are receptive to the word of God. Such people receive the message whole-heartedly and the word grows in them. They avoid distractions, overcomes temptations, stand firm in the time of trouble and produce many fruits and also produce seeds for new sowing.

Our hearts should be the good soil, which is ready to accept God's word. We shouldn't be distracted by the worldly things. We should stand firm in the face of trials that arise for the sake of God's kingdom. We should let the word of God roots in us, produce fruit and seeds for new sowing.

2. Introduction: Why did God give the Israelites the Ten Commandments? Where and to whom was the Ten Commandments entrusted? (2 pts)
What are the Ten Commandments? Explain each one of them briefly. (6 pts)
Conclusion: How can we apply these commandments in our present day lives? (2 pts)

(L8 P1-3)

a. Rules are very important for the survival of any society. Without rules there will be no order but only chaos. It is also important to have rules in our families. God gave the Israelites the commandments to distinguish their identity as His people. As His people, they had to live under a new standard of conduct.

b.

- I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me. There is only one God, one source and one creator. We should put God first in our lives.**
- You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.**
- Do not worship any other idols or images or objects (money, power, education position in society, etc.). Nothing should be more important than God in our lives.**
- You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.**
- Do not use God's name for selfish gain or in any other purpose which is not intended to be used.**
- Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- Sabbath day is the day of God and for his worship. This day, we should use for relaxation and the rediscover God's mercy through our worship.**

- **Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.**
- **Respect of authority. Respect and honor our parents, our elders and all legitimate authority.**
- **You shall not murder.**
- **To live and let live.’ Life is a gift from God and the goal of this commandment is preservation of life. We shouldn’t do anything that harm others. We should respect and care for each other.**
- **You shall not commit adultery**
- **This commandment respects and protects marriage. It forbids any kind of immorality.**
- **You shall not steal**
- **This commandment teaches us the Godly attitude towards property and livelihood of others. What we have is a gift of God and we must share that with others.**
- **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- **God forbids every kind of falsehood, including half-truth, flatteries, fibs, intentional omissions, exaggerations, misinterpretations, rumors, gossips, etc. Our communications should be grounded in the character of God.**
- **You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.**
- **God wants us to be on guard against covetousness. We should be content with what we have.**

c. **Conclusion: The Ten Commandments, given by God to his people through Moses, are a set of commonsense rules that are relevant always. Obeying these commandments is very important in our lives. They help us to follow in His footsteps. They provide a divine order in our lives. (Students may write their own conclusion relevant to the Commandments)**