



MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE
2018 Diocesan Exam: Grade 9

Time: 90 Minutes

Maximum Score: 100 Points

Section 1 – Multiple Choice. Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement. (25 x 1pt= 25 pts Total)

1. In the original Hebrew text, what does “dominion” mean?
a. To exploit b. To control c. To be responsible for d. To steward
C, L1PG3
2. Samuel was dedicated to God from birth by his parents and He grew up under the leadership of _____, the High Priest.
a. Elkanah b. Eli c. Hannah d. Saul
B, L2 PG7
3. In Genesis 1,1, the original Hebrew translation uses the word “Bara” meaning: _____
a. Dark b. Create out of nothing c. God d. light
B, L1 PG2
4. The book of Psalms are divided into _____ sections.
a. 7 b. 3 c. 10 d. 5
D, L3 PG11
5. Who is believed to have written Psalm 42? _____
a. King David b. Asaph c. Cush d. Jeduthun
A, L3 PG 11
6. The Ten Commandments is also known as the ____ or ____ covenant.
a. Sinai; Lord’s b. Torah; Mosaic c. Sinai; Mosaic d. Torah; Lord’s
C, L4 P15
7. God appointed man as _____ over his creation; or in other words, to be responsible for the creation
a. servants b. slaves c. stewards d. a sacrifice
C, L1 PG3
8. What are the three specific offerings described within the first three chapters of Leviticus?
a. Burnt offering, cereal offering, fellowship offering

- b. Worship offering, burnt offering, grain offering
- c. Burnt offering, grain offering, fellowship offering
- d. Fellowship offering, burnt offering, cereal offering

C, L5 P19

9. Paul is known as the 'apostle of the _____,' for he was instrumental in making the good news assessable to _____.

- a. Gentiles; non-Jews
- b. Jews; non-Gentiles
- c. All of the above
- d. None of the above

A, L16P69

10. Who helped Joseph of Arimathea bury the body of Jesus?

- a. Mary, mother of Jesus
- b. Mary Magdalene
- c. Mary, source unknown
- d. Nicodemus

D, L17P74

11. Jesus told Nicodemus, "The _____ blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the _____."

- a. Spirit; fire
- b. Wind; spirit
- c. Spirit; God
- d. Fire; spirit

B, L17P72

12. The early Christians never felt what they had was their own and was willing to share their possessions with the needy. Who was the man from Cyprus who sold all his property and gave it to the Apostles?

- a. Barnabas
- b. Sapphira
- c. Ananias
- d. James

A, L18 PG 77

13. Salvation is a gift and does not _____ on good deeds, but it _____ in good deeds.

- a. Depend; results
- b. Result; depends
- c. None of the above
- d. All of the above

A, L19 P81

14. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, what was the quality of the Levite by designation?

- a. Religious, pious, and should be the representative of God
- b. Religious person, and should show the nature of God
- c. Religious, pious, and should show the nature of God
- d. Religious person, and should be the representative of God

B, L21P90

15. On the way to the crucifixion, Jesus passed a man from Cyrene named, _____, who was compelled to carry Jesus' cross.

- a. Joseph
- b. Simon
- c. Rufus
- d. John

B, L22P93

16. The three crosses at the site of crucifixion, symbolize:

- a. Rebellion, redemption, and repentance

- b. Repentance, renewal, and rebellion
- c. Readmission, renewal, and redemption
- d. Repentance, rebellion, and renewal

A, L22P94

17. The first apostle to ever address Jesus as God was:

- c. Simon Peter
- b. Saul
- c. James
- d. Thomas

D, L23P98

18. The book of Acts was written by Luke and begins with him addressing _____

- a. Babylonians
- b. Romans
- c. Egyptians
- d. Theophilus

D, L24 PG 100

19. What is the Hebrew name of the council that comprises of an assembly of leaders appointed to serve as judges?

- a. Torah
- b. Saducees
- c. Pharisees
- d. Sanhedrin

D, L25 PG 104

20. On his final trip to Rome, _____ and some prisoners got on a ship with centurion named Julius.

- a. Peter
- b. Paul
- c. John
- d. Mark

B, L26 PG108

21. When Paul and Barnabas spoke about the word of God to the governor, _____ was trying to deter the governor from faith and became temporarily blind.

- a. Lucius
- b. Manaen
- c. Elymas
- d. Sergius

C, L27 PG 113

22. The Book of Revelation is considered as a _____ literature.

- a. Prophetic
- b. Torah
- c. Ketuvim
- d. Apocalyptic

D, L30 PG124

23. James, the brother of _____, became the bishop of the church in Jerusalem.

- d. John
- b. Mark
- c. Jesus
- d. Andrew

C, L28 P117

24. When Jesus first appeared to the disciples in the locked room early Easter Sunday, _____ was not there.

- a. Thomas
- b. Mary
- c.. Peter
- d. Andrew

A, L23 P 96

25. Jesus told the disciple after His resurrection that once they receive the power through the Holy Spirit, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all _____ and _____ and to the ends of the earth."

- a. Judea and Rome
- c. Rome and Corinth
- b. Samaria and Corinth
- d. Judea and Samaria

D. L24P99

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

1. What is the Mosaic covenant? What did it describe? What was promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and who was it fulfilled through? **L4P16**

The Mosaic covenant (Ten commandments) provide guidelines on how the Jews were to worship God and treat others. They explicit on what was not to be done, as eight of the commandments began with, “you shall not.” This describes the type of relationship that the people had with the God that delivered them from Egypt.

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 the new covenant that the Lord said He would provide and create an everlasting covenant with the house of Israel and the house Judah which was fulfilled through Christ. Christ died to reestablish the relationship between God and man that was lost in the Garden of Eden.

2. Who was Gamaliel? What reasoning did he provide to change the mind of the council? **L25P105**

Gamaliel was a Pharisee, elder with that reputation of being a great teacher. He was also Apostle Paul’s teacher. Gamaliel asked the council to carefully consider the fate of the apostles and gave them two examples: Theudas and Judas the Galilean. He reasoned that if their movement as of a human source, the apostles would end up like Theudas and Judas the Galilean. But if it was from God, the Sanhedrin would not be able to stop them and possibly by working against God if they were harmed.

3. Identify 5 leaders of the church of Antioch. Include names and backgrounds. **L27 P112**

- Barnabas, a Jew from Cyprus
- Lucius, from Cyrene in North Africa
- Simeon, called Niger, possibly Simon from Cyrene who carried Jesus’ cross
- Manaen, a man with aristocratic connections
- Paul, a Jew from Tarsus

4. In the story of Jesus and the Rich Man, there are many descriptions for the rich man.

How many versions of this story exists? (1 pt)

How did the gospel of Luke describe this man? (1 pt)

What prevents us from inheriting eternal life? (3 pts) **L20 P85-86**

- Three versions of this story exists (in the gospel Mathew, Mark and Luke)
- The gospel of Luke identifies this man as a rich young man and “certain ruler”
- There are 3 obstacles preventing us from inheriting eternal life:
 - Disobedience to God and his commandments. We are saved by his grace, through faith in Christ, but once saved; we must live out that faith by obeying the commandments to maintain our salvation.
 - Temptation of idolizing material wealth and all other values. God must be our chief object of our devotion
 - Not giving God the honor (pre-eminence) that is reserved for Him alone.

5. Write any 5 visible signs or results of a man who has attained true salvation? (1 point for any 5)

L19 P 80

- Faith
- Goodness
- Knowledge
- Self- Control
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Brotherly Kindness
- Love

6. Name the 5 major methods of interpretation about the Book of Revelation. (1 point for each)

L30 PG 124

- Preterits (past) interpretation
- Historical interpretation
- Futurist Interpretation
- Cyclic Interpretation
- Idealist Interpretation

Section 3 - Memory verses. Complete any 5 of the following memory verses as recorded in NRSV

Version. 5 x 5 points total 25 points

1. **God blessed them, and God** said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” **Genesis 1:28. L1 P5**
2. **You have seen what** I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle’s wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. **Indeed, the whole earth is mine. Exodus 19: 4-5 L5 P22**
3. **And the one who was seated on the throne said,** “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, write this, for these words are trustworthy and true. The he said to me, it is done! I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty, **I will give water as a gift from the r spring of the water of life. Rev.21: 5-6 L30 P126**
4. **Moreover as for me, far** be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you and I will instruct you in the **good and the right way. 1 Samuel 12:23 L2P9**
5. **He answered you shall love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind and **your neighbour as yourself. Luke 10:27 L21 PG 91**

6. **For I am convinced that neither death** nor life nor angels nor rulers nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from **the love of God in Christ Jesus our lord. Roman 8:38,39 L26 P109**
7. **Not everyone who says to me,** Lord. Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of **my Father in heaven. Mathew 7:21 L16P71**

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. All decisions affecting the church are made by Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam, consisting of ___% elected lay members from the parishes and ___% clergy including the bishops?
 - a. 35; 65
 - b. 65; 35
 - c. 56; 53
 - d. 50; 50

B MTFV P201
2. When a bishop is consecrated, a new name is given to him, of a known church father. Before the new name, “Mar” is used as an _____.
 - a. Form of prestige
 - b. Form of honor
 - c. Form of leadership
 - d. Form of authority

B MTFV P200
3. How many crosses does the Masnapsa contain?
 - a. 14
 - b. 12
 - c. 40
 - d. 7

B MTFV P200
4. The term Laity is derived from the Greek word, “____,” meaning _____.
 - a. Laus; people
 - b. Laos; people
 - c. Laois; people
 - d. Laois; people

B MTFV P204
5. What were the two forms of Ancient Christianity?
 - a. Eastern and Western
 - b. Southern and Northern
 - c. Southern and Western
 - d. Northern and Eastern

A MTFV P197
6. The Mar Thoma church is an independent, autonomous, and _____ church.
 - a. Indigenous
 - b. Indignant
 - c. Indigestible
 - d. None of the above

A MTFV P201
7. The _____ represents the “Throne of God” or “Table of Life”.
 - a. Pulpit
 - b. Vestments
 - c. Candles
 - d. Altar

D MTFV P199
8. Candles lighted during Holy Communion symbolizes _____.
 - a. fight against darkness
 - b. presence of God
 - c. expression of Power
 - d. none of these

B MTFV P200

9. In 1889, the Jacobite Church opted to continue under the Patriarch of _____
a. Alexandria b. Antioch c. Persia d. Portugal

B MTFV P195

10. The Sabha Council is elected by the Sabha Mandalam for a period of _____ years
a. two b. four c. seven d. three

D MTFV P202

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

[Comments] Please note: This should have been “Answer any two (2) of ... “ (2 x 5 pts =10 pts total)

[Resolution] : Either we have to make the score of this one question as 10 OR keep the score as 5 and give every child 5 marks to avoid the total from becoming 95.

1. a. What are the seven sacraments recognized by the church? (7x .6pts). **MTFV P199**
b. What do these features identify? (.8pts) **MTFV P199**

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Confession
- Holy Qurbana
- Marriage
- Ordination
- Extreme unction

b. These features identify the Eastern orientation of the MTC.

2. What does the Mar Thoma church accept as the final authority of the church and which verses are used to support that clause (write out verses)? **MTFV P207**

The Holy Bible is the final authority and the verses used to support that clause are 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. (1 Point)

- First of all, you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God

•All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

3. Explain the 3 forms of ordained ministry in the Mar Thoma Church. (**MTFV P 200**)

Deacon – First ordained position (1 pt)

Priest – ordained to cater to the spiritual needs of members of the church, sacraments of the church, and administrative responsibilities of the parish. (2 pts)

Bishop – elected position that needs 75% of the votes and is given a new name “Mar”.

The Metropolitan in the Mar Thoma Church is the head of the church and represents the church in ecclesial matters. (2 pts)

SECTION 6*Essay—choose one of the following two topics to write an essay not exceeding 100*

words. (1x10 pts=10 pts).

1. Explain the spiritual transformation that took place in Saul’s life. Your essay should include:

a. Describe the stoning of Stephen and the rise of Saul (5 pts)

b. Explain God’s plan for Saul (5 pts)

c. Explain the difference between being religious versus knowing God (5 pts)

L16 P67 -70

a. Saul was a zealous Pharisee. He was a strong follower of Judaism and believed initially that the gospel of Jesus was a major deception. Therefore, he went around persecuting the Christians and throwing men and women into prison. Stephen was a follower of Christ. He gave his testimony but Stephen was stoned for his faith. Saul was there giving approval to his death. When Stephen was stoned, a great persecution has begun between all the believers except the Apostles throughout Judea and Samaria. Saul was determined to persecute all Christians. Saul was proud of his Jewish heritage. He was blind to any other faith other than Judaism. Saul obtained permission from the high priest to visit Damascus to find Christians to be taken as prisoners. Raised among Greek culture. Well educated. A powerful Roman citizen.

b. However, God had a plan to use Saul to serve the kingdom of God. Saul was on his way to Damascus when he saw a bright light and he was blinded. A voice spoke out and said “Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me.” Saul realized at that the moment he was persecuting the very same God that he was zealously concerned about. Saul spent three days in prayer. It was a very important moment in Saul’s life. It shows how much God is willing to use people for his glory even if they are the same people that are bringing so much pain to his people. God knew that Saul was misdirected and was truly searching and trying to protect what Saul was the truth. God knew this zeal would be tremendously beneficial for the growth of the kingdom of God.

c. The difference between being religious and knowing God is that being religious means that someone is more concerned about following the rules prescribed by that religion. Being religious doesn’t require any effort to know about God. Knowing God means that one is focused on learning about what God wants for their life and doing what it takes to

continue to know God more. God took Saul from being just religious to someone who made it the sole purpose in life to know Jesus Christ more and more each day.

2.
 - a. Who was Samuel and what was his relationship with God?
 - b. Can you briefly explain God's desire to lead the Israelites and the desire of the Israelite's people?
 - c. Compare God's reaction of the request to that of the Prodigal Son's Father
 - d. Discuss the natural rebellion of man and God's answer to redeem us.
 - e. How God has interceded for us?

L2 P 7-9

- a.
 - Samuel was dedicated to God from birth by his parents.
 - He grew up in the house of the Lord under the leadership of the High Priest, Eli.
 - God called Samuel when he was a child and began to speak to him.
 - Samuel stayed close to the voice of the Lord and allowed the Lord to make him a blessing to Israel.
 - He spoke as a prophet to turn the hearts of the people to the Lord.
- b.
 - The Lord led Israel and protected Israel against their enemies.
 - God wanted them to be separate and unique from everyone else, but they wanted to conform to the world around them.
 - The Lord wanted to continually guide Israel and be their Saviour and Redeemer.
 - Sadly, the people of Israel decided that they preferred to have a king reign over them like the nations around them.
- c.
 - The request of Israel to Samuel was similar to the request of the Prodigal Son to his father.
 - The request grieved God just as it grieved the father.
 - Israel rejected God as the son rejected the father.
 - Neither the father nor God forced their will. They had free will.
 - God gives into their request for a king.
- d.
 - Just as the Israelites, we continually choose to turn away from God.
 - This is the nature of man.
 - This is why we need to the Holy Spirit to change our lives.
 - Romans 5:8 show how God demonstrates His love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- e.
 - If we recognize God's love for us like Samuel, we will truly find our hearts overflowing with love for Him.
 - The beauty of Christianity is that God loves us and rather than demanding that we do more, he declares that everything has been done already.

- His Son's death on the cross has redeemed us.

2. In the lesson 26 (Acts 27), Paul and the shipwreck, as Paul was being taken as a prisoner on the ship.

- a. Why was Paul being taken as a prisoner and what was the intend of the voyage? (2 pts)
- b. Who all (name a few) who were on board? (1 pts)
- c. Describe the events that happened on board? (5 pts)
- d. Conclusion. (2)

Paul was held a prisoner in Caesarea for 2 years. Paul, as a Roman citizen, requested Governor Festus his case be heard by Caesar in Rome, rather than Jerusalem.

Paul, Centurion Julius, Aristarchus, prisoners, and solders.

Within hours of leaving Fair Havens, a violent storm with close to hurricane force winds takes control of the boat, leaving the captain and crew powerless to control its direction. During the storm, they lost most of their cargo, the lifeboat, the ship's tackle, and their food. The storm would last approximately two weeks, But, God again spoke to Paul, reassuring him that he would, indeed, make it to Rome, and that every single person on the ship would be saved from the storm. Eventually, their boat ran aground on a sandbar off the coast of the island of Malta, and was battered to pieces by the pounding waves. They jumped overboard to swim for the shore, and they all made it!

Paul's focus was spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and his words and actions reflected that. With faith in Christ, we realize that this world is temporary. Our focus needs to be on Jesus Christ. We may face minor difficulties but we must realize that we need to put our trust in the one true God. We need to let him steer our ship, rather than us trying to.