

Pacific Conference of The Evangelical Church
Board of Ministry Course of Study
Bible Knowledge Examination
(last edit: March 2022)

The purpose of this exam is not so much educational as informational so the Board of Ministry can know that the ministry candidate is competent in the area Biblical knowledge and understanding.

Psalm 78:5-7 points to the expectation of passing on to the next generation a foundational knowledge of the Scriptures for the people of Israel. The early church was led by people who were trained in the synagogues with a foundational knowledge of the Scripture. The Bible is called the “Sword of the Spirit” and is listed among the Armor of God denoting its necessity for the believer. The Bible is authoritative, which means we do not preach and teach our opinions, but we hold up the Word of God before the congregation and say, “look at what God is saying to us.”

In this exam there are some questions which seem a bit basic and can be answered with some slight research. There are other questions which are designed so that the Board of Ministry can learn about your knowledge, approach, and integration of Scripture. This is no mere academic exercise. Before the Board of Ministry recommends someone for credentialing, they need to know that the person is competent in certain areas and one of those is knowledge of the inspired, inerrant, authoritative Word of God.

Reading Requirement:

1. Read the entire **New Testament**, in order of the books being written (the answer to a question below). You are expected to read through New Testament specifically for this exam, previous readings do not apply.
**I have read the entire New Testament in order of being written. Initial: _____
2. Read **How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth**, by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart. Initial: _____
If you have already read the book by Fee & Stuart as part of your course work for PESM, you do not need to read it again, although you will need the book in order to answer the questions in section three. Initial here _____ if you have already read this book as part of your coursework for PESM.

Exam Questions:

This exam is open book, you may use any resources you require, but you must give original work (do not cut and paste other people's words). The exam administrator reserves the right to request your sources. Please note that Wiki-sites are not dependable sources to cite.

Bible Content

1. Identify the activities mentioned in Nehemiah 8:8 that take place before "the people could understand" God's Word.
2. Ezra devoted himself to three tasks described in Ezra 7:10. Briefly explain what these tasks were and how each task is important for a minister to give their lives to.
3. Which book of the Bible and chapter introduces Abram?
4. Which books of the Bible cover the life of Moses?
5. Write out the *Shema*. Why is it significant?
6. What is the major event in Exodus that most clearly foreshadows Christ's redemptive work on the cross?
7. Under whose leadership did the people of Israel enter the Promised Land?
8. Which prophet was dedicated to God by his mother Hannah and raised by the priest Eli?
9. Who were the first three kings of Israel?
10. When did David serve as King of Israel (approximately)?
11. What is the (approximate) date of the fall of Israel? And of Judah?
12. List the books of the New Testament in chronological order of their being written. (give your sources)
13. Where in the Bible is the "Sermon on the Mount" and why is it important to understanding the ministry of Jesus?
14. Read through each Resurrection account in the 4 Gospels. Why are the details different? What does this tell you about the accuracy of the accounts? Do the writers of the Gospels believe in the physical resurrection of Jesus?
15. Which book was written as a companion volume to Acts?
16. Where was Paul's conversion?
17. Paul saw an altar to "the unknown God" while in what city?
18. Give an outline for the book of Romans, using perhaps seven or eight headings.
19. Where in the Bible is this description of Jesus, "who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant..."? And what is this passage commonly called?
20. Write a one-sentence description of the message to each of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation.
21. What passages would you use to share the gospel with someone? Write out the actual verses below, with references.
22. What Scriptures would you be able to use to instruct a person regarding baptism? Write out the actual verses below, with references.
23. What Scriptures would you be able to use to instruct a person regarding communion? Write out the actual verses below, with references.

The Church and The Bible

1. How and when was the canon of the Scriptures determined?
2. According to paragraph 203 of the Discipline (2014), how does the church value the Scriptures?
3. On a Sunday morning, someone walks up to you and tells you they'd like to begin reading the Bible on a regular basis. What steps do you take to help them?
4. How can a pastor help people in the congregation know their Bibles personally?
5. Someone in your congregation started reading the Bible for themselves sends you this message on Facebook: *"Hey Pastor, I was reading my Bible and read that King Solomon had 700 wives (plus 300 of something called "concubines"?). That's crazy! Why? And why did God let him be king?"* How do you respond?
6. Someone tells you that they can't believe the Bible, because the God of the Bible seems angry and mean, how do you respond to that?
7. What do you think is the relationship of the Apostle's Creed to the Scripture?
8. What is the purpose of textual, historical, form, source, and redaction criticism of the Bible? How is this helpful and/or hurtful to understanding Scripture?

Fee & Stuart's "How to Read the Bible for All its Worth"

1. According to chapter 1, what is required to do good biblical exegesis?
2. According chapter 1 (as well as chapter 3) what is the basic rule of hermeneutics? Why is this important?
3. Chapter 2 talks about Bible translations. List a good Bible copy by each of these translation categories:
 - a. Word-for-word:
 - b. Phrase-by-phrase:
 - c. Paraphrase:
 - d. Youth/Young Adults:
 - e. Children:
4. In chapter 5, what are some cautions in interpreting Old Testament narratives?
5. In chapter 8, what do you think are some dangers in Augustine's approach to interpreting parables?
6. What was the role of the Old Testament prophets? How did they fulfill this role?
7. What is a difficulty in interpreting the Psalms?