

Consecration and Ordination: Standardized Exam Question List

The following questions form the core of all consecration and ordination exam interviews. Credentialing councils may supplement this list as they choose. However, this list of questions provides a basis for the candidate to prepare for their interview with the Credentialing Council.

Personal History

1. Please give us a brief summary of your spiritual journey, including your experience of determining God's call to ministry.
2. What is your personal pattern of devotional prayer and Bible study?
3. What particular strengths/weaknesses have emerged in your first years of ministry?

The Holy Scriptures

1. Define and distinguish between revelation, inspiration, and illumination.
2. What does Scripture teach about extra-biblical revelation?
3. What is the relationship between Scripture and divine guidance?
4. What does the term "scriptural inerrancy" mean to you?
5. What criteria were used for determining which books were included/excluded in the canon of Scripture?
6. Explain the relationship between the Word of God and Scripture.
7. Explain how Scripture is relevant to the average person in your church.

The Trinity

1. Where would you go in Scripture for support of the doctrine of the Trinity?
2. What is the biblical basis for the confession, "There is one God"?
3. What is the biblical basis for the belief that God exists "in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit"?
4. Distinguish between Jesus as "begotten not made" and the Holy Spirit as proceeding from the Father and Son.
5. What contemporary theological positions raise serious questions for the traditional doctrine of the Trinity?

The Person of God

1. How does Scripture describe God?
2. What is the basis for the Christian belief that God is a person?
3. Name some of the attributes of God and give a few scriptural incidents that reveal these attributes.
4. Explain the meaning of "holy" in reference to God and explain why it underlies all else in the character of God.
5. Explain the terms theism, deism, atheism, humanism, and agnosticism.

6. What are some of the evidences and arguments for the existence of God?
7. What is your belief concerning God, creationism, and evolution?

The Person of Christ

1. What are some of the names of Christ given in Scripture?
2. Do you believe that Jesus is Lord? Why?
3. Is Christ eternal? (Does He have beginning or end? Was there a time when He was not?)
4. Give examples of the Person of Christ in the Old Testament?
5. What biblical evidence is there that Christ was conscious of His divinity?
6. What is the scriptural foundation for believing that Christ had both a divine nature and a human nature?
7. Why are both natures essential to the Person of Christ?

The Person of the Holy Spirit

1. What qualities and ministries, possible only for a person, are attributed to the Holy Spirit?
2. How is the personal nature of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in the Old and New Testaments?
3. Give us a brief explanation of the scriptural teaching on the gifts of the Spirit.
4. How would you differentiate between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?
5. What does Scripture teach concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling with the Holy Spirit?

The Atonement

1. Give a brief explanation of the teaching of Scripture on the Atonement.
2. Is there any limitation concerning who may benefit from the Atonement of Christ?
3. Is the atonement effective in human lives where the gospel is unknown?
4. What aspects of man's condition made the atonement necessary?
5. Could anyone other than Christ have made an acceptable offering?
6. What assurance do we have that the offering was acceptable to God?

Justification and Regeneration

1. Define and contrast justification and regeneration, and give a brief explanation of the teaching of Scripture on the two.
2. Who performs the work of regeneration?
3. What is the nature of the change brought about by regeneration?
4. What is the continuing purpose of regeneration in one's personal life?

Sanctification

1. Define sanctification.
2. What is the relationship between justification and sanctification?
3. What is the relationship between regeneration and sanctification?
4. In what way is progression connected with experiential sanctification?
5. In what way is the believer "dead to sin and alive to God?"
6. What is the practical significance of sanctification to the Christ follower's lifestyle?

What is meant by positional sanctification and progressive sanctification, and how is “crisis” connected to the two?

What does the scriptural phrase “dead to sin and alive to God” mean?

What is meant by the phrase “the indwelling Christ?”

What are scriptural evidences of a sanctified life?

Healing

1. Explain the biblical basis for healing and its relationship to the redemptive work of Christ.
2. What instruction does James 5 teach in relation to healing?
3. Explain the difference between the “gift of healing” and “healing prayer” as described in James 5.
4. How would you counsel a believer who has followed the instructions of James 5 and is still seeking a miraculous healing?
5. In the anointing and prayer ministry for the sick by the elders, what does “the prayer of faith” mean?
6. How is the problem of sin related to the problem of sickness?
7. What is the difference between miraculous healing and divine life for the believer?

The Return of the Lord

1. What biblical passages have been major factors in developing your convictions concerning the Second Coming of Christ and related events?
2. How will the Second Coming of Christ differ from His first coming?
3. What are the differences between the doctrines of premillennialism, post-millennialism, and amillennialism?
4. Which of the views do you hold? Why?
5. What major events will occur during and after the millennium?
6. Describe the basic tribulation positions and what your position is.
7. What does the term “the imminent return of Christ” mean to you, and what scriptural foundation do you have for your understanding?
8. What is the relationship between Israel and the Church?

The Resurrection

1. What does the term “resurrection” mean?
2. Do you believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why?
3. How important is the doctrine of the Resurrection to the Christian faith?
4. What are the essential points of Paul’s teaching on the Resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15?
5. What happens to the believer when he is resurrected? To the unbeliever?
6. What is the biblical doctrine of heaven?

The Lostness of Man

1. According to Scripture, what is the inevitable result of lostness?

2. What is the destiny of those who die outside of Christ having never heard the gospel?
3. What does the Bible teach about hell? Is it literal?
4. Is there any possibility of salvation after death?
5. What is the Church?

The Doctrine of the Church

1. What are some of the metaphors used in Scripture to describe the Church?
2. What is the scriptural mission of the Church?
3. What is the purpose and function of the local church assembly?
4. What is the biblical basis for reproducing/growing the church?
5. What is the scriptural procedure for church discipline?
6. What is the role of the pastor in church leadership?
7. What are the scriptural qualifications and functions of elders/church leaders?

Mission and Vision

1. Give a brief overview of Alliance history and distinctives.
2. What is the mission of The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
3. How do you reflect this mission in the life of your congregation?
4. What are the practical implications of the philosophy of ministry represented by the words “win,” “build,” “equip,” “multiply,” and “send”?
5. What is the overall objective of Alliance international church-planting and missionary work?
6. In what way is the task of Alliance Missions also your personal responsibility?
7. What is the responsibility of the local church to the global vision of The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
8. How have you included the missionary emphasis in your regular preaching and church programming?
9. In what ways do you encourage the sending out of “called ones” to participate either short term or long term in missions?
10. What is the importance of an annual missions conference to your local church and to The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
11. How have you implemented in your congregation intercession for international workers?

Alliance Church Government

1. What is the form of local church government in The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
2. In what way is the local church subordinate to General Council and District Conference?
3. What is the role and function of the district superintendent as it relates to you and your church?
4. What would your attitude and anticipated action be if your superintendent suggested that you make a change in your place of ministry?
5. If the majority of your governing board desired your resignation and you felt otherwise, what would you do?
6. What is the proper procedure for submitting a pastoral resignation?

7. What procedure should be followed in seeking an opportunity to candidate in another church?

Constituted Authority in the C&MA

1. What is the scriptural basis for the concept of “constituted authority” as understood in The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
2. If you should become personally involved in doctrines contrary to the Statement of Faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, what would you do?
3. Are you willing to serve under the leadership of a district superintendent?
4. What difference is there in being led by the Spirit and being subject to recognized authority in the church?
5. Why is it important for the pastor to attend General Council and District Conference?

Pastoral Ministry and Personal Relationships

1. Give a Scriptural definition of shepherding.
2. What is the relationship between the pastor and the governance authority of the local church?
3. How would you deal with a conflict between you and a member of the governance authority?
4. What is your attitude about your personal convictions that may conflict with the church you serve?
5. What is your procedure in counseling or working with persons of the opposite sex?
6. How do you cope with criticism? What if it becomes personal?
7. How do you manage your time as it relates to both personal and work time?
8. What does the Scripture mean when it says to “avoid all appearance of evil?”
9. What is your attitude about stewardship and the personal use of money?
10. What is your attitude and current status toward personal financial indebtedness?
11. Have you had any involvement with pornography in any form since your accreditation interview?
12. Do you have any controls on the use of your personal and office computers?
13. Do you have an active personal accountability relationship with one or more persons? What is the nature of that relationship?
14. What is a biblical understanding of marriage?
15. Explain your involvement in personal and corporate prayer.
16. What is the relationship between prayer and pastoral ministry?

Doctrinal Statement of The Christian and Missionary Alliance

1. Have you read and are you in full support of the Statement of Faith as found in the current *Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance*?
2. How will you deal with controversial theological issues within the evangelical community in your church?
3. Have you read all of the statements found in the Section H of the *Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance*?
4. What is your position related to these statements?