



MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE
2014 Diocesan Exam
Grade 7

Time: 90 Minutes

Maximum Score: 100 Points

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

1. When the Israelites settled down in the Promise Land their strongest enemies included _____
- a. Moabites & Egyptians b. Assyrians & Babylonians c. Romans & Greeks d. Amalekites and Midianites

D (L11 P39)

2. Philemon was a Christian who lived in a town called _____
- a. Colossae b. Rome c. Egypt d. Palestine

A (L20 P65)

3. King Nebuchadnezzar, destroyed Jerusalem and took the Israelites in to exile in _____
- a. Syria b. Egypt c. Babylon d. Damascus

C (L21 P69)

4. Of the following, who was not a female co-worker of Paul:
- a. Priscila b. Tryphena c. Deborah d. Julia

B (L22 P73)

5. The name Daniel comes from Hebrew language which means _____
- a. God is my Judge b. Exalted Father c. Faithful d. God is my refuge

A (L5 P2 – New curriculum)

6. Salvation means _____
- a. Blessing
b. Deliverance from dangers or evil
c. Confession
d. Repentance

B (L23. P75)

7. What did God create on the sixth day of creation?
- a. Cattle
b. Humans
c. Creeping things and wild animals
d. All of the above

D (L1 P2 – New curriculum)

8. We can overcome spiritual death by _____.
- e. Doing good deeds
f. Going to church every Sunday
g. Taking communion
h. Accepting Jesus Christ as our personal savior

D (PL3 P4 – NEW CURRICULUM)

9. What was the main theme for the teachings of Jesus?
 a. The kingdom of God b. Repentance c. Salvation d. Parables
A (L15 P51)
10. _____ is the longest book in the Bible which is devoted to telling Judah about their judgment
 a. Isaiah b. Jeremiah c. Samuel d. Daniel
B (PL4 P3 – New curriculum)
11. The “gifts” of the Holy Spirit are mentioned in the book of _____
 a. Ephesians b. Colossians c. Galatians d. Romans
C (L18 P61)
12. According to Acts 6:1-6 _____ was one of the 7 men who were appointed to look after the distribution of funds in the early church
 a. Stephen b. Barnabas c. Philemon d. Timothy
A (L25 P81)
13. Saul, son of Kish, who was Israel’s first king, belonged to the tribe of _____
 a. Judah b. Asher c. Reuben d. Benjamin
D (L17 P57)
14. Who was St. Paul referring to in his letter to Philemon : “Formerly, he was useless to you, but now he has become useful to you and me”
 a. Timothy b. Luke c. Onesimus d. Cornelius
C (L20 P68)
15. Cornelius and his family received the Holy Spirit _____
 a. Before baptism
 b. After baptism
 c. During baptism
 d. They never received the Holy Spirit
A (L24 P79)
16. What did Nehemiah do first when he heard about the miserable condition of Jerusalem from his fellow Jews?
 a. He planned revenge
 b. He fasted and prayed
 c. He gathered together an army to fight Nebuchadnezzar
 d. He went to Elijah for advice
B (L21 P69)
17. _____ resolved that he would not to defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine, so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself.
 a. David b. Saul c. Samuel d. Daniel
D (PL5 P5 – new curriculum)
18. A simple story illustrating a moral or religious lesson is called a _____

- a. Short story b. Parable c. Painting d. Sermon
B (L15 P51)
19. At the age of 175, Abraham died and was buried in the Machpelah cave in the east of _____
a. Egypt b. Mamre c. Sodom d. Ur
B (L154 P49)
20. Deborah and Barak fought Sisera and his army at Mount _____
a. Tabor b. Horeb c. Olive d. Sinai
A (L16 P55)
21. Gideon defeated the Midianites with _____ men
a. 32000 b. 300 c. 10000 d. 500
B (L11 P40)
22. The “almond tree” in Jeremiah’s vision announced the coming of _____
a. Spring b. Messiah c. Judgment d. enemy attack
A (L4 P3 – New curriculum)
23. _____ holds a prominent position in the history as the father of the people of Israel.
a. Moses b. David c. Joshua d. Abraham
D (L14 P49)
24. _____ was a Roman Centurion of Caesarea in Palestine
a. Philemon b. Onesimus c. Cornelius d. Peter
C (L24 P78)
25. What was the first sign that God had given Gideon to show that he was chosen to fight Midianites?
a. Dew b. Fire c. Barley cake d. Trumpet
B (L11 P40)
26. _____ cheated his brother Esau to get his birthright
a. Laban b. Lot c. Jacob d. Abraham
C (L13 P45)
27. _____ was a judge and a prophetess
a. Miriam b. Rebekah c. Deborah d. Esther
C (L16 P54)
28. Another name for _____ is “The comforter”
a. Holy Spirit b. King c. Judge d. Prophet
A (L18 P60)
29. Phoebe was a co-worker of _____
a. Timothy b. Philip c. Paul d. Peter
C (L22 P73)
30. This River is referred in the book of Daniel as the ” Great River” _____
a. Pishon b. Gihon c. Tigris d. Euphrates
C (PL2 P2 – New curriculum)

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. What is unique about the creation of “man” with respect to the rest of God’s creation? 5pts

(L1 – New curriculum pilot lesson Pg. 2-3)

Any 5, 1pt each.

- **God formed man from the dust of the ground**
- **God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being**
- **Man was given dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.**
- **Man was created in the image of God. God’s image upon humans is not physical. It is the soul of a human that bears the image of God**
- **Man was created last in the order of creation**
- **God has blessed humans with the power of thought, the power of communication, will power and emotions**
- **Humans are spiritual beings with the ability to worship, love and serve a living God and to live in communion with him**

2. Jesus taught his disciples many truths about the kingdom of God. Write 5 truths about the kingdom of God. 5pts

Any 5 points @ 1 pt. each - max 5pts.

L15 P52

- i. **The Kingdom of God is a great treasure. It is very difficult for the rich to inherit the Kingdom of God as they love their wealth more than God.**
- ii. **The Kingdom of God belongs to the children and you need to be born again to see it.**
- iii. **Everyone is welcome in the Kingdom of God. The least deserving will receive the kingdom of God by his mercy if the chosen ones turn down the invitation**
- iv. **It is a just society, where God rewards everyone according to His mercy.**
- v. **It is like yeast or a small seed. A small quantity of yeast ferments the whole flour. The small seeds grows in to a big tree giving shade and shelter to many**
- vi. **It is of the past present and future. Jesus wants to make it clear that the Kingdom of God is open to all irrespective of wealth, creed, race or gender. The only requirement is that you accept His call.**

3. The gifts of the Holy Spirit is called “Fruit”. Name the 9 “Fruit” of the Holy Spirit (3 pts). What does the Holy Spirit do today (2 pts)? (L18 P61)

- **The “fruit” of the spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (3pts)**

- **The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us. The Holy Spirit shows each willing person his/her sin and allows them to accept Jesus Christ as their savior. (1 pt)**
- **Once a person accepted Jesus, the Holy Spirit continues to live inside each believer. It is the Holy Spirit that makes you a Christian and lives as a Christian. (1pt)**

4. Who was Stephen? (3 pts) What was Stephen's prayer? (2 pts)
(L25 P81 & 82)

Any 3, 1 pt each

- **Stephen was one of the 7 men who were appointed to look after the distribution of funds in the early church**
- **He was the first martyr of the church**
- **Stephen was a courageous disciple, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit.**
- **He did great wonders and signs among the people. He was committed to the Lord and his disciples multiplied**

Stephen's prayer: 2 pts

- **While being stoned to death, Stephen prayed to God for his spirit to be received.**
 - **He also prayed for the people who persecuted him. He pleaded that the Lord did not hold this sin against them**
5. Explain briefly two signs given by God to show Gideon that he was chosen to lead the Israelites against their enemies. 5pts

(L11 P39 & 40)

Signs: Any two (2.5 pts each)

- **Gideon never had an encounter with the Lord before. So, he wanted to make sure that it was really God that is talking to him. He begged the angel of the Lord to stay until he brings an offering for him. When he returned, the angel of the Lord asked him to put the offering on the rock in and when the angel touched it with his staff, fire flared from the rock and consumed the meat and the loaf. This convinced Gideon that it was indeed the Lord that appeared to him.**
- **Again Gideon asked God for a sign to prove that he will be able to save Israel from their enemies. He put a wool fleece on the threshing floor and said to God that if he finds dew only on the fleece and the ground is dry, he will believe God. And it happened that night. He again tested God by requesting him to make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew. It happened as he requested and then he knew that God will save Israel by his hands. Judges 6:36-40**
- **The previous night of the battle, God asked Gideon to go down to the enemy camp and hear what they are saying. He overheard a man telling a dream in which a barley cake was rolled in to the Midianite camp and struck the tent. They were sure it was the sword of Gideon, When Gideon heard this he knew that God is with him and made plans to attack his enemy.**

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

- 1) Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations” Jeremiah 1:5
L4 – New Curriculum
- 2) Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Psalms 91:3-4
L16 – Pg.56
- 3) I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.
Genesis 12: 2-3
(L14 P50)
- 4) For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:27-28
(L22 P74)
- 5) “Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace”. Nehemiah 2:17
(L21 P71)
- 6) “Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do(es) what is right”. Acts 10: 34-35
(L24 P80)

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. Madbaha is an Aramaic word, which means _____
 - a. An altar to celebrate the Holy Qurbana
 - b. Symbol of the divine presence
 - c. Vessel for burning incense
 - d. The vestment that the priest wears during the Holy Qurbana**A (MTFV P158)**
2. Who wrote the draft of the Nicene Creed?
 - a. Arch Bishop John of Persia
 - b. Emperor Constantine

- c. Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea
- d. Abraham Malpan

C (MTFV P167)

3. During the Holy Qurbana, the smoke that comes out of the incense is a symbol of _____
- a. Divine presence
 - b. Honor
 - c. Respect
 - d. Offering

A (MTFV P158)

4. The Mar Thoma worship service without Holy Communion is known as
- a. Intercessory prayer
 - b. Divine worship
 - c. Praise & Worship
 - d. Devotional worship

B (MTFV P151)

5. The cross symbolizes _____
- a. Light
 - b. Peace
 - c. New life received through Christ
 - d. All the above

D (MTFV P159)

6. The Holy Spirit poured on the Church on _____, marking the beginning of Christianity
- a. The Day of Ascension
 - b. The Day of Pentecost
 - c. Epiphany
 - d. Easter

B (MTFV P163)

7. The day that the gentiles saw the Glory of the Lord is called _____
- a. Pentecost
 - b. Day of Annunciation
 - c. Day of Ascension
 - d. Epiphany

D (MTFV P162)

8. The Great Lent period lasts for _____ days
- e. 25
 - b. 50
 - c. 3
 - d. 40

B (MTFV P162)

9. The Mar Thoma church mainly uses the _____ liturgy in Holy Communion
- f. St. Peters
 - b. Mar Jacob
 - c. St. Thomas
 - d. St. James

D (MTFV P154)

10. The Mar Thoma church belongs to the _____ as evidenced by its liturgy, mode of worship, ceremonies, rituals and traditions

- g. Protestant church
- h. Lesser Eastern Churches
- i. Coptic church
- j. Anglican church

B (MTFV P161)

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 is Lent? (1 pt). The last week of the Great Lent is known as Holy week or Passion Week. Briefly explain the significance of the 4 important days during Passion Week. (4 pts)

(MTFV P163-164)

Lent is a period of the manifestation of the Kingdom of God (1 pt)

1pt each for the following

- **Palm Sunday (Hosanna) – On Palm Sunday, the church celebrates Christ’s triumphant entry in to Jerusalem when the people acclaimed Him as King, hailing and carrying palm leaves in their hands**
 - **Passover (Maundy) Thursday – It is the observance of the Last Supper of our Lord with His disciples. The Holy Qurbana was established on that day**
 - **Good (Sad) Friday –Church remembers the agony, pain and death of our Lord on the Cross. Worshippers prostrate themselves repeatedly during the prayers to partake in the suffering of Christ**
 - **Easter (Feast of resurrection) – Signifies the resurrection of Christ. The worshippers proclaim “Jesus is risen, Yes, He is risen indeed”. The lent comes to an end with Easter celebrations and all people rejoice that day with feast and greetings**
2. What are the 5 faith proclamations (We believe (or acknowledge)) in the Nicene Creed?

(MTFV P167-168)

- **We believe in one true God, the father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible**
- **We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God**
- **We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life**
- **We believe in one, Holy, Catholic and apostolic church**
- **We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins and look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the new life of the world to come**

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

1. God’s love urges us to pardon the wrong doers. Based on Paul’s letter to Philemon, answer the following questions:

- a. Who was Onesimus? 1 pt
- b. Who was Paul and what was his relationship with Onesimus? 3 pts
- c. Who was Philemon and what was the purpose of Paul's letter to him? 3 pts
- d. What do you learn from Paul's letter about forgiveness? 3 pts

L20 P65

Who was Onesimus? 1 pt

Onesimus was Philemon's runaway slave. He may have either stolen his master's property or did something wrong to him before he escaped. The name Onesimus means profitable or advantage. But he was of no use to his master before he met Paul. Onesimus ran away to the city of Rome where he thought he may be safe from his master.

Who was Paul and what was his relationship with Onesimus? 1pt each, max 3

- **St. Paul was a disciple of Jesus Christ and a great teacher and missionary.**
- **While writing this letter to Philemon, St. Paul was held as a prisoner in Rome because he taught people about Jesus Christ.**
- **This letter is considered as the 1st prison epistle of St. Paul**
- **While Paul was in prison, he received a visitor called Onesimus, who was a runaway slave.**
- **Onesimus converted to Christianity through Paul's teachings.**
- **A strong bond developed between Paul and Onesimus**

Who was Philemon? What was the purpose of Paul's letter to Philemon? 1pt each, max 3

- **Philemon was a Christian who lived in the town of Colossae. He had become a Christian through the teachings of St. Paul**
- **After becoming a Christian, Onesimus wanted to return to his master but he was afraid to do so because of the harsh punishment for run-away slaves.**
- **Paul did not legally own Onesimus. Hence he could not keep him and had an obligation to return him to his master.**
- **So, Paul writes a letter of recommendation to his good friend Philemon and sends back Onesimus through a bearer named Tychicus to Colossae.**
- **Paul issues no command to Philemon but appeals to him to do what is proper for the sake of Christian love and he speaks of his love and goodness**

What do you learn from Paul's letter about forgiveness? 1 pt each, max 3

- **Paul addresses Onesimus as his beloved brother and appeals to Philemon on his behalf. He admits that Onesimus was formerly useless to Philemon, but is now useful to both of them (10,11)**

- **Onesimus is being returned to Philemon not as a slave, but as a Christian brother in faith. (15,16). Paul is asking Philemon to accept his plea for forgiveness**
- **Paul appeals to Philemon to receive Onesimus as he would receive Paul himself, that is, with great kindness (Philemon 17)**
- **Paul offers to repay Philemon for whatever loss Onesimus may have caused him, (Philemon 18-20)**
- **In the end Paul continues to say that it would refresh and renew his strength and faith in Christ to see Philemon forgive Onesimus.**

2. Who was Nehemiah? 2 points

What was his mission and how did he plan it? 4 points

How did he accomplish his mission? 4 points

L21 P69&70

Who was Nehemiah? 2 points

- **Nehemiah was a bright young man of the Persian Court. He was a cup bearer in the court of the Persian King Artaxerxes. As a cupbearer he was also a confidant and counselor to the king. His official position as a cupbearer made him well respected and influential.**

What was his mission and how did God help him with his plans? 4 points

- **When Nehemiah was in Susa, the winter capital of the Persian Kings, he received a delegation of Jews from Judah. They gave a dismal report of the state of affairs at Jerusalem, his home town. The walls and gates were in ruin and were not re-constructed after he was taken to exile in Babylon.**
- **When Nehemiah heard about the dismal plight of the walls of Jerusalem, he fasted and prayed. He confessed his past sins and appealed to God to hear his prayers.**
- **When he got the right opportunity, he discussed with the King about his desire to go to Jerusalem and help his people rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.**
- **He requested letters of introduction from the king for his safe passage through the country and some timber for rebuilding the walls and gates of Jerusalem.**

How did he accomplish his mission? 4 points

- **When he reached Jerusalem he made a personal survey of the situation around the walls.**
- **Nehemiah organized all the leaders of Jerusalem together and exhorted them to unite, rise up and build.**
- **He took measures to protect the work against the attack of their enemies.**
- **He set an example of devoted service and hard work**

- **He motivated the people and organized them and accomplished the task of rebuilding the walls in 50 days.**
- **He made a list of the clans of Israel with the number of those from each clan that returned from exile.**
- **He asked the people to be loyal to the Temple of Jerusalem and the Holy Book “Torah”**
- **Nehemiah’s abiding faith in the Lord, his prayerful life and his dedication to his mission helped him succeed his mission**