



**MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS**  
**DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE**  
**2014 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. St. Paul talks about the organizational structure of the church as well as the responsibilities of Bishops, Deacons and helpers in his 1<sup>st</sup> letter to \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Corinthians      B. Timothy      C. Titus      D. Romans

**B L22 P83**

2. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for they will \_\_\_\_\_.”  
A. Inherit the earth.  
B. Will be comforted  
C. Inherit the Kingdom of Heaven  
D. Inherit the earth and the Kingdom of Heaven

**C L20 P77**

3. When Joshua sent two spies to Jericho, \_\_\_\_\_ hid them from their enemies?  
A. Rahab      B. Ruth      C. Phoebe      D. Esther

**A L11 P47**

4. In the original Hebrew text, the word “Dominion” means:  
A. To control  
B. To dominate  
C. To exploit  
D. To be responsible for

**D PL1 P4**

5. \_\_\_\_\_ means unmerited favor or blessing.  
A. Salvation      B. Faith      C. Sin      D. Grace

**D L12 P50**

6. Timothy joined Paul’s missionary group on his \_\_\_\_\_ missionary trip.  
A. First      B. Second      C. Fifth      D. Tenth

**B L21 P80**

7. Which of the following were among the seven chosen to assist the twelve apostles to take over running the social and physical aspects of the early church community?  
A. Peter      B. Paul      C. Stephen      D. Timothy

**C L22 P83**

8. All the following facts were true, about St. Paul, the author of the letter to Romans, except:

- A. His teachings were based on works of the Law
- B. His teachings were based on righteousness through faith
- C. Paul was a highly trained Jew with clear understanding of the Law
- D. He had a clear understanding of Israel's history and traditions

**A L15 P59**

9. \_\_\_\_\_ was A 'Deaconess of the Church' at Cenchreae.

- a. Deborah
- b. Lydia
- c. Phoebe
- d. Priscilla

**C L16 P63**

10. To whom did the people of Israel ask for a king to reign over them, like the nations around them?

- a. Saul
- b. David
- c. Samuel
- d. Joshua

**C PL2 P2**

11. 'Ruha' is the Syriac word for \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Faith
- b. Fellowship
- c. Salvation
- d. Spirit

**D L19 P73**

12. In his letter to the \_\_\_\_\_, Paul explains the hardships he suffered for Christ and urges the church to follow his exemplary life.

- a. Romans
- b. Corinthians
- c. Ephesians
- d. Galatians

**B L20 77**

13. In \_\_\_\_\_, the Psalmist uses an analogy of a deer to describe his thirst for God.

- a. Psalm 23
- b. Psalm 42
- c. Psalm 101
- d. Psalm 119

**B PL3 P3**

14. 'Koinonia' means meaningful \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. actions
- b. faith
- c. fellowship
- d. speech

**C L22 P85**

15. What happened to the Gentiles gathered in Caesarea after Peter spoke to them?

- A. They wanted to be circumcised
- B. They were filled with the Holy Spirit
- C. They travelled to the temple at Jerusalem
- D. All of the above are True

**B L14 P57**

16. \_\_\_\_\_ was believed to be the 1<sup>st</sup> Gentile who accepted Jesus Christ who later became the Bishop of the church in Caesarea.

- a. Paul
- b. Cornelius
- c. Timothy
- d. Barnabas

**B L14 P56**

17. In Genesis 1.1, the original Hebrew translation uses the word “bara” which means:
- A. To create from something
  - B. To create from nothing
  - C. To create in one’s own image
  - D. None of the above

**B PL1 P3**

18. Which of the following statements are true regarding the Ten Commandments?
- A. It is also referred to as the Mosaic Covenant
  - B. It is also referred to as the Sinai Covenant
  - C. It provided guidelines to the Jews on how to worship God and treat others
  - D. All of the above are correct

**B PL4 P3-4**

19. In Leviticus 1, specific details are provided with regard to \_\_\_\_\_ offering
- A. burnt
  - B. grain
  - C. fellowship
  - D. human

**A PL5 P3**

20. \_\_\_\_\_ is considered the son of Simon from Cyrene who carried the cross of Jesus.

- A. Timothy
- B. Paul
- C. Cornelius
- D. Rufus

**D L16 P63**

21. “Here I am the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word”.  
Who made this statement?

- A. John the Baptist
- B. Mary, mother of Jesus
- C. Apostle Peter
- D. Apostle Paul

**B L12 P50**

22. Ananias and his wife Sapphira tried to deceive Peter and other believers of the early church by:

- A. Stealing the share of funds given to the other members of the church
- B. Bringing only a portion of the proceeds of the sale of a field
- C. Saying that they were Jews when they really were not
- D. None of the above

**B L24 P91**

23. Which of the following is known as the Jewish confession of faith, which is recited every morning and evening by all Jewish men?

- A. Torah
- B. Talmud
- C. Shema
- D. Ruha

**C L18 P70**

24. At the time of Jesus’ birth, Israel was under the rule of the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Greeks
- B. Babylonians
- C. Romans
- D. Ephesians

**C L17 P67**

25. \_\_\_\_\_ admonished Herod for marrying his brother's wife.  
A. Paul                      B. Cornelius                      C. Simon                      D. John the Baptist  
**D L25 P94**

**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 Mosaic Covenant and what is its significance? (2pts) What is the new covenant and explain its significance in our lives? (3pts)

**(Pilot Lesson 4 P4)**

**2pts**

**The Ten Commandments is also called Mosaic covenant or Sinai covenant. These are the rules all Israelites are to follow and if they broke the rules they would have to face God's wrath.**

**Any 3, 1pt each**

- **God established a covenant through Jesus Christ, this is the new covenant.**
- **He allowed his only son to die for our sins.**
- **God reestablished the relationship between man and God that was lost in the Garden of Eden.**
- **It is through Jesus Christ's sacrifice that he taught us what true love is.**
- **Breaking Ten Commandments will subject to God's wrath, but through the new covenant we have access to God through Jesus Christ even if we sin.**

2. Who was Timothy and describe his qualities as a man of God.

**(L21 P81)**

**1pt each**

- **Timothy was an young man of faith from Lystra**
- **Father was Greek, his mother was Eunice and Grandmother Lois.**
- **Strong faith, prayer, and sincerity**
- **Readiness to suffer for the sake of Christ and Gospel**
- **Good training, testimony, and reputation**

3. Explain what three things we learn from the 'Burnt' offering as described in Leviticus.

**Pilot Lesson 5 P 3-4**

- **If anyone offering burnt offering, the animal should be from their own herd or from the flock. It implies that what is offered should be of value to the worshipper. (2 points)**

- **If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you shall offer a male without blemish. It means that the quality or value of the sacrifice we are offering to God. We should offer our best to the Lord. (1.5 pts)**
- **A burnt offering by fire will produce pleasing aroma to the LORD. Our sacrifice, prayers and our acts should be pleasing to God. (1.5 pts)**

4. Describe three life lessons that we learn when we suffer for Christ.

**L20 P77**

**Any 3, 1.5 each, plus .5 for 3 correct**

- **Purity: We are called to be holy because we worship a Holy God. Our commitment to Jesus involves a good reputation and witness for which the purity of body, mind and spirit are essential.**
  - **Love: Paul declares all gifts however excellent are nothing without love [1 Corinthians 13:13]. Divine love is always tolerant and patient, willing to love the unloved and goes to the extreme of self-denial.**
  - **Truthful Speech: Truthful speech is essential for a successful Christian ministry. The primary condition of effective preaching is that people should know that the preacher's statements could be trusted. In telling people what Christ means to him, it is important to be strictly honest. Truthful speech is important to the fellowship among believers. (Mathew 12:37).**
  - **Strength: Paul exhorts to all those who are engaged in Christ's mission to be strong in the Lord, for His power is your might. God's power is mightier than any physical force [2 Timothy 2:1]. Not by might not by power, but by the spirit says the Lord [Zechariah 4:6b]**
  - **Righteousness: Righteousness is the right relationship with God and hence with fellow human beings and environment. It is the courage to stand for what is righteous. It is the commitment to fight for Divine Justice without counting its cost. Thus righteousness is a mark of a soldier for Christ.**
  - **Kindness, Discernment, integrity, forbearance and fear or knowledge of God is also part of the life of a soldier for Christ.**
5. John the Baptist addressed the social evils during his time. Identify the three groups of people he addressed and what his message was to them.

**L25 P94**

- **When the tax collectors asked John what they should do, he instructed them not to collect more than they had been ordered to. Publicans purchased the right to collect taxes from Rome and they often increased their wages by unfairly taxing the Jews. (2pts)**
- **When the Roman soldiers heard John, they also repented. He told them not to accuse anyone falsely, not to take money from anyone by force, and to be content with their wages. (2pts)**
- **When the Pharisees and Sadducees came to hear John, he called them a "brood of vipers," and warned them to repent. (1pt)**

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

1. Unless the LORD *builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stands guard in vain.*  
Psalm 127:1  
**L11 P48**
2. And it is *by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ* once for all.  
Hebrew 10:10  
**PL4 P5**
3. The Spirit himself *testifies with our Spirit that we are god's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*  
Romans 8:16-17  
**L16 P64**
4. You have seen *what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 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  
**PL5 P6**
5. He answered: " '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, 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'  
Luke 10:27  
**L24 P92**
6. All the believers **were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their (his) own, but they shared everything they had.** Acts 4:32  
**(L22 P86)**

**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. The altar is generally placed to the east because:
  - A. To face Jerusalem
  - B. The direction of the rising sun, a symbol of the risen Christ
  - C. To face Thiruvilla, headquarters of the Mar Thoma Church
  - D. None of the above

**B MTFV P199**

2. The Mar Thoma church recognizes \_\_\_\_\_ sacraments.  
A. 3                      B. 7                      C. 10                      D. 12

**B MTFV P199**

3. What happened to Indian churches because of the synod of Diamper in 1599?  
A. United the Indian church with the Roman catholic church  
B. Forced the Indian church to accept Roman Catholic doctrine and practices  
C. Resulted in the formation of the Mar Thoma Church  
D. Freed the Indian church from Roman catholic influence

**B MTFV P192**

4. The Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam consists of:  
A. 50% elected lay members from parishes, 50% clergy including bishops  
B. 35% elected lay members from parishes, 65% clergy including bishops  
C. 25% elected lay members from parishes, 75% clergy including bishops  
D. 65% elected lay members from parishes, 35% clergy including bishops

**D MTFV P201**

5. \_\_\_\_\_ symbolizes the offering of our prayers to God.  
a. liturgy                      b. Holy Qurbana                      c. Vestments                      d. Incense

**D MTFV P199**

6. The Bishops wear Masnapsa on their head as a sign of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. position                      b. power                      c. total submission                      d. episcopacy

**C MTFV P200**

7. The term Laity is derived from the Greek word 'Laos' meaning \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. faith                      b. clergy                      c. people                      d. salvation

**C MTFV P204**

8. Candles are lighted in the altar symbolizing \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Light                      b. presence of God                      c. tradition                      d. Holy Communion

**B MTFV P199**

9. The Mar Thoma church follows an "orthodox" liturgy. "orthodox" means :  
a. strict                      b. true worship                      c. catholic                      d. priesthood

**B MTFV P198**

10. In the Intercessory prayers in the Holy Qurbana, we refer to the following councils *except* :  
A. Nicaea  
B. Constantinople  
C. Ephesus

D. Udayamperoor  
D MTVF P210

**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. List 5 changes made by Abraham Malpan Achen to the Thaksa in 1837.

**MTFV P210**

**1pt each, max 5**

- 1. Removed the petitions addressed through the departed saints.**
  - 2. Removed the prayers for the dead.**
  - 3. Decided to serve bread and wine separately**
  - 4. Stopped practice of private confession before the priest and receiving absolution before communion**
  - 5. Holy communion will not be celebrated when there is no one receive communion**
  - 6. Holy communion is for participation and not for worship**
2. Explain 3 historical evidences/traditional bases that support the establishment of a church in Kerala from ancient times.

**MTFV P191-192**

**Any 3 for 1.5 pts each (.5 for all correct)**

- **Bishop Eusibius of Caesarea and St. Jerome wrote about the visit of Pantaenus to Malabar where he found a Christian group with an Aramaic version of the Gospel of Matthew**
- **Bishop John of Persia, documented his representation from churches of Persia and great India which shows the connection between Persian and Malabar churches.**
- **The writing of Cosmas, a merchant from Alexandria, records the presence of a strong Christian community with clergy ordained by a Bishop from Persia.**
- **The Acts of St. Thomas describes St. Thomas assigned to build a palace for an Indo-Parthian King, Gundaphar. Confirming evidence is provided in King Gundphar's coins being found in Punjab and kept in the London Museum**
- **At the dawn of Christianity there existed trade routes from west Asia to Kerala. It was very much possible for St. Thomas to have traveled by these routes to Kerala.**
- **There is a reference to St. Thomas in the Rambban Pattu and Margam Kalipattu**
- **The oral traditions of the community in relation to its identity as seen by outsiders give it a distinct nomenclature prevalent only in the ancient church.**

**Section 6 – Essay. Choose one of the following two topics to write an essay in 200 words. (Total 15 points)**

1. The Holy Spirit leads us to truth.

Describe the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and New Testament and the different terms used to refer to it. (5pts)

Describe the different ways the Holy Spirit works. (7pts)

Describe how the Holy Spirit works in the Church. (3pts)

**(L19 P73,74)**

**Describe the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and New Testament and the different terms used to refer to it. (5pts)**

- **The Hebrew word Ruah or Ruha as in Syriac, Spirit or breath that creates life.**
- **The act of spirit is empowering, it anoints, equips god's chosen ones for His divine service.**
- **Anointing of Holy Spirit is manifested when a believer heeds to the call of God.**
- **Holy Spirit in New Testament is also known as "pneuma".**
- **Holy Spirit is also the parakletos, counselor, or advocate.**
- **It can also be understood as one who is called in to render a service.**

**Describe the different ways the Holy Spirit works. (7pts)**

- **He will lead us to experience that are joyful**
- **He will enable us in taking right decisions**
- **He will give wise counsel in the midst of uncertainties**
- **He will lead us to all truth**
- **He will be our leader and will lead us into the end of life.**
- **The work of Spirit in creation.**
- **The work of the Spirit in equipping for service. Certain elected servants of God enjoyed the power of the Spirit to do special tasks and also conferred upon them skill for their duty, craftsmanship. He is the renewing and reforming Spirit**
- **The work of the spirit in inspiring the prophets.**
- **The work of the Spirit in producing a moral living.**
- **The work of the Spirit is foretelling as well as forth telling.**

**Describe how the Holy Spirit works in the Church (3pts)**

- **The Holy Spirit is the Lord and giver of life.**
- **By the power of the Holy Spirit, God is ever present in the lives of the people who surrender themselves.**
- **By the same power, God brings them to himself through Jesus Christ, so that they may acknowledge their sin, receive forgiveness and become his children and heirs of eternal life.**

2. Write an essay about the Israelites request to Samuel for a King. Your essay should include:

1. **God's desire to lead his people of Israelites and the peoples' desire (3pts)**

2. Describe who Samuel was and his relationship with God (3pts)
3. Compare God's reaction of the request to that of the Prodigal Son's Father (3pts)
4. Discuss the natural rebellion of man and God's answer to redeem us (3pts)
5. Conclusion – How God has interceded for us? (3pts)

**(Pilot Lesson 2)**

1. **God's desire to lead his people of Israelites and the peoples' desire**
  - **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 Savior and Redeemer.**
  - **Sadly the people of Israel decided that they preferred to have a king reign over them like the nations around them.**
  - **God wanted them to be separate and unique from everyone else, but they wanted to conform to the world around them.**
2. **Describe who Samuel was and his relationship with God**
  - **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.**
3. **Compare God's reaction of the request to that of the Prodigal Son's Father**
  - **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.**
  - **Instead they allowed them to make their own choice. They had free will.**
  - **He gives into their request for a king.**
4. **Discuss the natural rebellion of man and God's answer to redeem us**
  - **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.**
5. **Conclusion –How God has interceded for us? (3pts)**

- **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.**