



Kingdom Network

Ordination Exams Booklet

Comprehension of Bible

Written Exam

Instructions

This exam is meant to measure your biblical knowledge and your ability to synthesize that information in ways that can be accessible to church members and is faithful to the reformed tradition.

This exam should be taken in one sitting not taking longer than 3 hours. A proctor needs to be present during the exam and approved by the education team; the proctor will need to affirm you took the exam without notes within one three hour period.

The answers should be typed. While you may have a Bible for this exam, study notes are not allowed.

1. Name and briefly describe the various literary forms used in the Bible. Then choose a book of the Bible for each biblical literary form and describe how the book you chose fits that particular literary form.
2. Please explain the various evangelical views of Genesis 1-3 including: whether Adam & Eve were historical figures, major themes of Genesis 1-3 and describe your point of view.
3. Please describe the various views of authorship for the first five books of the Bible (Torah)? Include your understanding of Wellhausen's theory (its development, its thesis, its pitfalls, its modern proponents and opponents) and your position on Pentatuchal authorship.
4. Do you believe that Paul wrote all the Pauline epistles? Please explain the most

common arguments for and against Pauline authorship, and explain and defend your view?

5. What is source criticism? Higher criticism? Form criticism? Textual criticism? Redaction criticism? Postmodern criticism?
6. What is hermeneutics? What are your fundamental hermeneutical principles used when to interpret a biblical passage?
7. What was the New Testament writers' view of the Old Testament? Please give biblical texts to defend your argument.
8. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 mean to you?
9. How do you deal with apparent contradictions, mistakes, scientific errors, etc. in biblical manuscripts? Give two examples.
10. What are the prominent names of God in the Old Testament, and what is their unique significance?
11. What is the importance of the tabernacle and temple? Include the significance of the order of priests and the sacrificial system? What are the various sacrifices? Explain the christological allusions and implications of the tabernacle?
12. Choose one minor and one major prophet that you believe embodies the Old Testament prophetic tradition. Explain why.
13. What is the significance of the flood? How does it inform our understanding of God?
14. What is the significance of the Exodus? What are the theological implications of the plagues? In what sense is the Passover foundational in Old and New Testament theology?

Essay Questions:

1. Write an essay on the covenantal promises in the Old Testament. What passages directly relate to this promise? What New Testament passages continue the theme of the promise fulfilled? Explain the importance of a covenant view of scripture in pastoral ministry.
2. Write an essay on the major themes of the book of Romans and how these themes will shape your ministry

Theology

Oral Examination

Examination Questions

Revelation & Inspiration

1. How is the Bible unique? What is inspiration? Infallibility? Inerrancy?
2. What is the difference between "revelation" and "philosophy"? How many types of revelation do we have? What is the difference between them?

3. What do you think about the trends in interpreting the Bible based on culture? Are its mandates absolute or contextual? Please explain your answer.

Knowing God

4. Who is God? Distinguish between the communicable and incommunicable attributes of God.
5. What is meant when we call God our Father?
6. What is the doctrine of the Trinity?
7. What is the cardinal doctrine of Calvinism with reference to God?
8. What would you say is the relationship of God to the world He created?
9. What do you mean by "Providence"? (Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 27) 5. State how the attributes of God influence and shape your view of prayer.
10. What is the significance of the Doctrine of Creation? What is panentheism? How is it distinct from pantheism?

Christology

11. What is meant by "Christ"? What was His origin? How many natures did he have? What was the relationship of his natures to each other while He was on earth?
 - a. What does the word 'homoousios' mean? Why is it important?
12. What do we mean by "incarnation"? (What was the difference between the views of the Ebionites and the Docetists?)
13. What are the so-called "states of Christ"? Which articles of the Apostles' Creed belong to each?
14. What offices did our Lord fulfill, and why do they matter in the life of the Christian?
15. What is meant by "atonement"? Give some theories. Which do you hold? (Ransom, Commercial, Moral Influence)
 - a. In what sense is Jesus Christ our High Priest?
 - b. What is meant by Christ's work of intercession?

16. What do you mean by “limited atonement”? How extensive is the efficacy of it? What is meant by the atonement’s sufficiency?
17. What are the component parts of redemption? (What must I do to be saved?)
18. What is meant by propitiation? How is it distinct from expiation? Why is propitiation significant?
19. What is the purpose of the Law in salvation?
20. What relationship does Christ bear to the Covenant made with Abraham?
21. What is the benefit of covenant membership?

Pneumatology

22. Who is the Holy Spirit? What are His functions? When does one receive Him? (1 Corinthians 12:13)
23. Name some of the fruit and some of the gifts of the Spirit.
24. What positive contribution has the charismatic movement made to our understanding of God the Holy Spirit? (A second blessing?)
25. What does a charismatic mean by “Baptism of the Holy Spirit”? Critique the traditional Pentecostal view in light of your understanding of Reformed theology.

Anthropology (Man)

26. What (who) is humanity? What is “Imago Dei”? Does fallen humanity retain God’s image? Calvin vs. Luther; Dichotomy v. Trichotomy.
27. What are the three most widely-held theories regarding the soul's origin? (Pre-existence; Traducianism; Creationism)
28. How does theological anthropology inform your view on cultural challenges like abortion and racism?
29. Was Adam a literal historical figure? How do you know? (I Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12)
30. Did God create humanity moral, immoral, or amoral? What happened? (Federal vs. Augustinian theology at this point.)

31. What is meant by “Total Depravity”? Can fallen humanity do any ‘good’?
32. What is sin? How does a person get to know his sin? What is the unpardonable sin? (Mark 3:29)

Ecclesiology

33. What is the Church? Distinguish between the visible and invisible Church. (Romans 9:6)
34. What would you say are the functions and the purposes of the Church?
35. How is the Church a catalyst for personal healing?

Eschatology

36. What view do you hold relative to the second coming of Christ?
37. What alternative destinies confront the members of the human race?
38. State your view of the personal destiny of a soul that does not embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
39. What is the essence of heaven? State your understanding of life in heaven.
40. How would you refute a Jehovah’s Witness or a Seventh-Day Adventist view of eternal punishment? (John 5:28, 29)
41. Conceivably, could you live in the town you live in today after the Second Advent? Why?

Nature and Administration of the Sacraments (General)

42. What is the meaning of the word “sacrament” in relation to the Church?
43. What are the sacraments presented in Scripture?
44. For whom are the sacraments intended? What is their purpose? (Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 66)

Baptism

45. State the central meaning of baptism. Give Scripture references to support this. (Acts 2:38, 22:16; Matthew 26:28, 28:19)
46. What freedoms with regard to baptism do we have in the Kingdom Network?

47. Is baptism a “take it or leave it” matter? How would you respond to someone who says that she or he doesn’t have to be baptized to be a Christian?
48. What is your own position on who is a candidate for baptism? If you are a paedo-baptist, make your best case for a believer’s baptism. If you support only believers' baptism, make your best case for paedo-baptism.
49. How would you handle a request for re-baptism from someone who was baptized as an infant?
50. What is meant by baptismal regeneration? Does the Kingdom Network support this view? Why or why not?
51. Ideally, who should be present for a baptism service?
52. How will you teach the people in your church about baptism and its meaning?

Holy Communion/The Lord’s Supper

53. What is the main theme and significance of The Lord’s Supper?
54. Why does Christ call the bread His body and the cup His blood, or the New Covenant in his blood?
55. Contrast the Reformed position on the meaning of the Lord’s Supper against the Roman Catholic position, the Lutheran position, and any other interpretations you may be aware of.
56. What does the Heidelberg Catechism (Q & A 80) state about the Lord’s Supper and the Mass as observed in the Roman Catholic Church? Do you agree with the Catechism? Why or why not?
57. What does Jesus mean when he says, “This is my body . . . my blood”?
58. Who may participate in the Lord’s Supper?
59. How will you prepare your congregation to celebrate The Lord’s Supper?
60. How would you respond to a request to celebrate Holy Communion at a wedding?
61. A church member is hospitalized for surgery and requests communion. How would you respond?

62. Someone attends your church who is not a church member and wants to take communion. How will you deal with this request?
63. You are invited to join a union service where a Roman Catholic priest will lead in the celebration of communion according to the Roman Catholic liturgy. Will you participate in this service? If so, how will you participate?

Three Forms of Unity Essay Examination

Instructions:

- This examination is designed to assess your understanding of the "Three Forms of Unity" and your ability to articulate and reflect upon its theological concepts in a manner consistent with the Reformed tradition.
- The examination duration is three hours and should be taken in one sitting.
- An education team-approved proctor must be present throughout the examination to ensure adherence to the guidelines.
- Below are fifteen questions, out of which three will be presented in exam form to be answered. The specific questions for the exam will not be known by the student until exam time.
- Essays should be typed, double-spaced, 11 point arial font, and should not exceed two pages in length for each question.
- While you may refer to the "Three Forms of Unity" documents during this examination, no other external notes or resources are permitted.
- Your responses should not only demonstrate factual knowledge but also reflect thoughtful engagement with the subject matter. Aim to present your answers in pastorally helpful ways.
- Remember to structure your essays with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. The ability to write clearly and competently will be assessed and makes up 10% of the assessment score.

Possible Essay Questions

1. What historical events prompted the creation of the Belgic Confession? Do we face the same issues today? Is the Belgic Confession still relevant? Why or why not?

2. The Heidelberg Catechism is structured around guilt, grace, and gratitude. Briefly explain this structure and its pastoral importance.
3. Describe the primary controversies that led to the convening of the Synod of Dort and the subsequent drafting of the Canons of Dort. Do we face the same issues today? Is the Canons of Dort still relevant? Why or why not?
4. Reflect on Article 27 of the Belgic Confession, which discusses the nature of the Church. How does it define the true church, and what implications does this have for church life today?
5. Q&A 1 of the Heidelberg Catechism is one of the most popular Q&A's in the catechism. Why do you think this is true? What truths does it display?
6. The Canons of Dort address the "Five Points of Calvinism." Summarize these five points and their importance. Then describe the marks of Calvinism (whether the 5 points in Dort or other truths of Calvinism) you believe are the most relevant in your pastoral ministry today.
7. The Belgic Confession, in Article 29, speaks of the marks of the true and false church. What are these marks, and how are they relevant in the church today?
8. Reflect on Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 27 and its definition of faith. Explain its pastoral helpfulness.
9. The Canons of Dort heavily emphasize the doctrine of predestination. Reflect on how you might answer a question from someone struggling with predestination using the truths of the Canons of Dort..
10. Article 5 of the Belgic Confession addresses the authority of Scripture. How does this article understand and establish the Bible's authority, especially in contrast to human writings?
11. In Lord's Day 44 of the Heidelberg Catechism, the topic of the Law is addressed. Reflect on its interpretation of the Ten Commandments and its relevance for Christians under the New Covenant. How might this help a member at church struggling with guilt?
12. The Heidelberg Catechism, in Lord's Day 23, addresses the topic of justification. How does it describe the believer's righteousness before God? Why is this good news?
13. Discuss the Canons of Dort's understanding of the perseverance of the saints. How does it reassure believers of their salvation? How might this help a parent despairing over a prodigal child?

14. Article 33 of the Belgic Confession addresses the sacraments. Reflect on its description of the sacraments as "visible signs and seals of something internal and invisible." Write your answer in a way a high school student would find helpful.
15. In Lord's Day 30 of the Heidelberg Catechism, the topic of the Lord's Supper is discussed. How does it differentiate between the Reformed understanding of the sacrament and the Roman Catholic view? Do these distinctions matter today? Why or why not?

Exam on the Kingdom Network Bylaws and Rules of Church Order

This is intended to be a written exam during which the student can refer to the Bylaws and Rules of Church Order. It should be taken in one sitting with a designated proctor present.

1. According to the Preamble to the Bylaws, what is the purpose of the Kingdom Network?
2. Of the Center Set Beliefs and Values of the Network, which three are most important to you and why?
3. The Center Set Beliefs and Values state that "We exist to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ" (#3). In your view, which two of our Center Set Values and Beliefs might an unbeliever exploring the Christian faith in a Network church most struggle with? How would you help him or her with those struggles?
4. What procedures have been put in place in our Bylaws and Church Order to help us as a Network to be faithful to our Center Set Beliefs and Values? Are you in agreement with these procedures?
5. The Center Set Beliefs and Values state that "we gladly adhere to the Heidelberg Catechism."
 - a. What is a catechism? What is the purpose of a catechism?
 - b. What can you tell me about the Heidelberg Catechism? When was it written? Why was it written? Who wrote it? What are its three parts? What other important Christian documents are explained in the catechism?
 - c. Of all the questions (and answers) in the Heidelberg, what three mean the most to you? Why?
6. What is the major focus of each of the following documents? How and when might they be helpful to you in your ministry? (The examiner can select two or three of these documents to focus on.)
 - a. The Apostles Creed

- b. The Nicene Creed
 - c. The Athanasian Creed
 - d. The Belgic Confession
 - e. The Canons of Dort
 - f. The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy
 - g. The Belhar Confession
 - h. The Great Lakes Catechism on Sexuality and Marriage
7. According to the “Rules of Church Order” what is a reference?
8. If there is a question about procedure at a Network meeting (Regional or Global), in what order would you consult the following three documents?
- a. Robert’s Rules of Order
 - b. Kingdom Network “Rules of Church Order”
 - c. Kingdom Network Bylaws
9. In the situations listed below where would you go first: to your local church leaders, to the Regional Network Executive Team or the Global Board? Or would it be appropriate to go to some other person or group before going to your local church leaders, Regional Network Executive Team or the Global Board?
- a. A person from your church has told you he or she is feeling called to full time ministry and wants to pursue ordination in the Kingdom Network.
 - b. You disagree with a decision made by your local church board and believe that the board has violated its own constitution as well as the teaching of Scripture.
 - c. You believe that your Regional Network is in violation of the core values and covenant of the Kingdom Network.
 - d. Your pastor is teaching that there is more than one way of salvation.
 - e. As a member of a Regional Executive Team you have received a reference from a church that the Executive Team is struggling to answer.
 - f. You are a pastor with concerns about your compensation package.

- g. A pastor comes to you and wants to become a part of the Network, even though his or her church is not ready to take that step.
 - h. You know of a speaker who would be a great asset and blessing to the Network's Global Gathering.
 - i. A church that has applied to join the Network needs to be reviewed.
10. What groups within the Kingdom Network can establish a Judicial Business Team? Why would they do this?
11. Can the act of excommunication be reversed? When? How?
12. You are preparing to install elders and deacons in your local church. Where would you find the suggested vows for these leaders?
13. Where will you find the declaration that you will read when you are ordained? What in this declaration encourages you? What in the declaration challenges you?

Bonus Question: The Kingdom Network uses a short tagline to summarize its ministry. What is that tagline?