

ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST
DIOCESE OF SOUTH WEST AMERICA

**Centralized Examination Grade 12 Diploma
JUNE 2012**

Reg. No.:



Examination Rules

1. Total time limit for this examination is 2 (two) hours.
2. Do not write your name anywhere on exam booklet.
3. Return the entire exam booklet upon completion.
4. Students may answer in Malayalam.
5. Students may not leave exam hall until at least 60 minutes have expired.
6. Please use only black or blue ink. Pencils are NOT allowed.
7. If needed, please use the separate answer sheets provided, with the student registration number clearly filled on each page.
8. No electronics devices (includes cell phones, iPods, etc)
9. Students **are** allowed to use the Orthodox Study Bible or an NSRV translation of The Holy Bible during the examination. Grading will be strictly based on only these two translations. **Only paper-copies of the Holy Bible are allowed.**

Question 1 - Multiple Choice (15 points)- Please mark the correct answer.

1. The current head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the successor of St. Thomas on his Apostolic throne is
 - a. H.H. Baselios Mor Thoma Didymos I
 - b. H.H. Baselios Mor Thoma Paulose II
 - c. H.H. Mor Baselios Cleemis
 - d. H.H. Baselios Mor Thoma Paulose I

2. The spiritual gift more often witnessed in the early Church but of which St. Paul warned against those who over-emphasized this as an experience of the Holy Spirit rather than a gift (e.g., 1 Corinthians 13:1) is known as
 - a) Unction
 - b) Gnosticism
 - c) Glossolalia
 - d) Hananiah

3. A significant difference between Christianity and Islam is
 - a) the belief in the Holy Trinity
 - b) the direction towards which we pray
 - c) the existence of Jesus Christ
 - d) the lack of an Apostolic Throne in Islam

4. The first Council in the life of the Christian Church was in
 - a) Chalcedon
 - b) Ephesus
 - c) Constantinople
 - d) Jerusalem

5. The ***Filioque*** is the Latin word that refers to
 - a) the Apostle's Creed
 - b) addition of the words "and the Son" to the Nicene Creed
 - c) the Ecumenical agreement on the nature of the Holy Spirit
 - d) the white cloth used to cover both the Chalice and the Paten

6. In the Nicene Creed, we profess that
 - a) Everyone proceeds from Jesus Christ
 - b) Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father
 - c) Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son
 - d) Father sends the Holy Spirit who is the Son

7. The Mystery of the Holy Trinity teaches us that God is
 - a) One person with three faces – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - b) One God who exists as Father, Son or Holy Spirit
 - c) the Triune God who appears as Father, Son or Holy Spirit
 - d) Three distinct persons but one God

8. St. Mary is the Theotokos because
 - a) she is the Mother of God
 - b) she gave birth to Christ, who later became God
 - c) she was unique person and had no sin
 - d) she was blessed and was also the wife of the blessed St. Joseph

9. The Catholicate of the East and the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church
 - a) are not equal and the Pope has more authority than all other Bishops
 - b) are friends and work together for the good and betterment of the world's poor
 - c) are equal in authority per the understanding of the ancient Christian Church and used ecumenical councils as the ultimate authority for all matters of faith and order
 - d) have never had relationships with one another and to this day are separate and independent Churches

10. The Oriental and Eastern Orthodox Churches had a major misunderstanding at the
 - a) Council of Jerusalem
 - b) Council of Chalcedon
 - c) Council of Trent
 - d) Council of Ephesus

11. The movement who's primary objective was to maintain traditional interpretation of the Holy Bible making it the only foundation for faith is known as
 - a) Fundamentalism
 - b) Mormonism
 - c) Liberalism
 - d) Faith Based Disciples

12. The Church declared the teachings of Arius as heretic as he taught
 - a) the Church was evil and only existed for accumulating wealth
 - b) that the Pope was not the head of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church
 - c) Christ was born of the Virgin Mary
 - d) Christ was created by God the Father and not equal

13. The city where followers of Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11:26) was
 - a) Antioch
 - b) Jerusalem
 - c) Rome
 - d) Constantinople

14. The 4th century Saint of our Church for whom the Catholicate of India venerates by including his name in his title, who founded what was probably the first monastery in Asia Minor and greatly influenced Eastern monasticism is
- St. Thomas
 - St. Cryil of Jerusalem
 - St. Basil
 - St. Paul
15. Which Saint of our Church preached the Gospel to many people in Western Asia and Egypt during long journeys and was so well-known for his fight for true teachings of Christ he was known as “upholder of the Orthodox Faith”?
- St. Paul
 - St. Jacob Barradaeus
 - St. Thomas
 - St. Cyril

Question 2 - TRUE or FALSE (10 points)- Please circle T or F

- T F The Mar Thoma Church is a member of the Oriental Orthodox Churches
- T F Missionaries are those who work and serve the poor in another country
- T F Nestorianism is a heresy that de-emphasized the divinity of Jesus Christ
- T F Infants who are baptized are not fully accepted into the Church and are confirmed and born-again when they are at the age of reasoning
- T F Prior to the Council of Chalcedon, the Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches were in full-communication with each other
- T F All members of the World Council of Churches (WCC) recite the Nicene Creed
- T F Avatar are incarnations of Hindu gods to various earthly forms
- T F The Basiliad was established by St. Basil to serve the poor, the diseased, orphans and the aged and give food, shelter, and medical care free of charge
- T F The Orthodox Church only recognizes 66 books in the Holy Bible as Canon
- T F In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, the Good Samaritan represents Jesus Christ

Question 3 - Word meaning (5 Points)

1. Barekmor _____
2. Amen _____
3. Sthoumankalous _____
4. Hosanna _____
5. Adamo Dosenno _____

Question 4 - Fill in the blanks (10 Points)

Fill in each blank space with the most appropriate word as it appears in the prescribed textbooks.

1. Martin Luther challenged the authority of the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church by teaching that the _____ is the only source of divinely revealed knowledge.
2. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37), the Samaritan is an image of _____ and the inn reveals the _____ in which Christ's care is received.
3. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-31), the significance of the gifts the Father gave the Son who repented include the robe which signifies righteousness granted by _____, the ring which represents the family _____ and the sandals which represent walking according to the _____.
4. The _____ is one God in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who are distinct, but not separate and are not three gods.
5. _____ was a young deacon who debated against priest Arius in the Council of Nicea.

6. The vision of the Lord in heaven that we read in Isaiah 6 and the “live coal” that cleansed of the effects of Sin is an experience of the _____ .
7. The city where followers of Christ were first called Christians was at _____ (Acts 11:26)

Question 5 Short Paragraph Answer (20 Points).

Answer any TWO (2) of the following questions at the end of the booklet, supporting your thoughts and views with Scripture, examples from the Holy Qurbana as well as your own experiences.

Please include the Question numbers with your answers.

1. Discuss how the Orthodox understanding of the fall of man in Genesis differs from other Christian denominations, and how our view is that of a more loving God
2. Compare the Orthodox understanding of Holy Baptism with that of the Protestant/Evangelical and Catholic views on Baptism. Specifically address the question of how we are “born again”
3. Expand on the different ways we remember the departed during the Holy Qurbana, and write an explanation of these practices to someone outside of our Church who does not understand why we would pray for those who have died
4. Compare the beliefs and practices of Hinduism with that of Orthodox Christianity, highlighting how “salvation” is attained in both religions

Question 6: Nicene Creed (10 points)

At the end of the booklet, write the Nicene Creed

Question 7: Apologetics Essay (20 points)

Choose any one of the topics, and structure your answer so that the following points are clearly conveyed:

- 1. Describe views that are held by the major non-Orthodox Christian providing your own examples or experiences to communicate the differences of beliefs and/or misunderstandings**
- 2. Explain how you would clarify to a person the Orthodox Christian viewpoint to those who question or criticize. Extra credit will be given to those who support your points with Scripture, Liturgical prayers or hymns, actions at the Holy Qurbana or other sources from the Church.**

1. Where did Jesus go after He died on the Cross?
2. St. Mary and her importance in our Salvation
3. Liturgical worship
4. Fasting

Question 8: Short Answer (10 points)

Answer the following questions based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)

1. Who do the following actors in this parable represent?
 - a. A certain man
 - b. Samaritan
 - c. Inn
 - d. Innkeeper
2. What is the significance that the priest and Levite did not help the wounded man, but the Samaritan did so?
3. In the parable, the Samaritan tells the innkeeper – “Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you”. What is the significance of this message to us?
4. As a Church, what is the main message that we receive from this parable?
5. St. John Chrysostom expounded on this parable, saying - *“Think the same way about your fallen brothers; consider that tending his wounds is like finding a treasure. If you pour the word of instruction on his wounds like oil, if you bind them up with your mildness, and cure them with your patience, your wounded brother has made you a richer man than any treasure could.”*
 - a. Reflecting on the fact that Jewish people resented Samaritans during the time of Christ, who does the blessed Saint refer to when he says “fallen brothers”?
 - b. As Indian Orthodox Christians and members of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, given the wisdom of St John Chrysostom and your study of major denominations and religions through the year, what are your thoughts on how to interact, speak and visit those who are not members of our Church or parish?