



MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE
2023 DIOCESAN EXAM: GRADE 8

Time: 90 Minutes

Maximum Score: 100 Points

Section 1 – Multiple Choice.

Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement. (25 x 1 pt= 25 pts Total)

1. The last six of the 10 commandments focus on our relationship with _____.
A. Our parents B. God **C. Fellow humans** D. the church **L2 P7**
2. The festival of deliverance is called? _____ **L10P48**
A. Lent B. Easter C. Good Friday **D. Passover**
3. After the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples went out to the _____.
A. Mount Carmel **B. Mount of Olives** c. Mount Horeb d. Mount Sinai **L 10 P 47**
4. Joseph said, ‘Go to my father and say, “You shall settle in the land of _____”
A. **Goshen** B. Canaan C. Gildad D. Samaria **[L 4, P 19]**
5. God had commanded the _____ to bring bread and meat to Elijah in the morning and evening.
A. Dove B. Angels **C. Ravens** D. Disciples - **L5 P22**
6. During the journey of Israelites to the Promised Land, they camped at a place named _____ where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees.
A. Elim b. Shur c. Sinai d. Sin **L8 P34**
7. On which day did God command Israelites to gather twice as much food
A. 7th day B. 5th day C. 4th day D. **6th day** **L 8, P 35**
8. The Herodians were also _____.
A. Arabs **B. Jews** C. Pharisees D. Christians **L13 P61**
9. After the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples went out to the _____.
A. Mount Carmel B. Mount Horeb **C. Mount of Olives** D. Mount Sinai **L 10 P 47**

10. Naaman was the commander of the army of the King _____ **L11, P 51**

A. Abijah B. Ahab C. **Aram** D. Aminadab

11. In the parable of the sower and the seed, what does the sower sow?

A. Their morals B. Their faith C. Their actions **D. The word** **L 14, P 68**

12. Using simple analogy of vines and branches, Jesus taught about love, obedience and

A. Faith B. Peace C. Joy **D. Relationships** **L15 P 71**

13. Who said to whom: "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." **A L19 P88**

A. Jesus to John the Baptist B. John the Baptist to Jesus C. Jesus to Peter D. Peter to Jesus

14. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus sat on a hill that rose above the city of _____ and taught his disciples.

A. Capernaum B. Judea C. Elim D. Damascus **L21 P96**

15. The Six stone water Jars at the Wedding in Cana was for the Jewish Rites of _____

A. Purification B. Cleansing C. Wine making D. Drinking **L23 P103**

16. Hometown of Martha & Mary

A. Capernaum **B. Bethany** C. Nazareth D. Jerusalem **L25 P114**

17. Jesus said "Show me the coin used for the tax". And they brought him a _____

A. **Denarius** B. Shekel C. Aureus D. Copper coin **L 13, P 60**

18. Elijah seized and brought the prophets of Baal to _____ (**L5 Pg 21**)

A. Bhishon **B. Wadi Kishon** C. Wadi Jezreel D. Mount Carmel

19. What river did the Syrian army captain have to bathe in to be cured of his condition?

A Jordan B. Abana C. Damascus D. Pharpar **L 11 P 51**

20. He was a judge, a prophet and a priest to the people of Israel. **L6 P27**

A. Samuel B. Moses C. Elisha D. Aaron

21. Seeds that fell on the _____ sprang up quickly, but withered away as it had no root

A. Pathway **B. Rocky ground** C. Good ground D. Thorny ground **L 14, P 68**

22. Abana and Pharpar are the rivers of _____

A. Jerusalem **B. Damascus** C. Israel D. Egypt **L11 P48**

23. Abraham said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir” Who is that slave? **L3P14**

- A. Ishmael **B. Eliezer** C. Ebenezer D. Sarai

24. Which Synoptic Gospels mentions the story of the paralyzed man healed by Jesus

- A. John, Luke B. Luke, Mark C. John, Mathew D. **Mathew, Luke [L 17]- Give one point all**

25. Until the time of Samuel, the primary revelation of God to the people had been through

- A. Offerings **B. Priesthood** C. Traditions D. Sacrifices **L 6, P 30**

Section 2 – Answer any 4 of the following questions. Answers should be brief and to the point. (4 x 5 = 20 points)

1. In the parable of the lost son, what did the lost son do to get the acceptance of his father?

L12 P54

- **Realization of his error:** After the younger son had wasted everything he inherited from his father and he was left poor and hungry, he realized the consequences of his actions. He knew he had brought shame to his father and his family by his selfish action.
- **Remorse and repentance on his action:** The son realized he was no longer worthy to be called the son of the household He realized his mistake and felt remorseful about what he had done
- **Decision to return home to ask forgiveness:** The son then decided to return home and ask forgiveness of his father.
- **Re-joining and rejoicing with his father-** He did not expect to be welcomed back or treated with the respect due to a son, yet he went back home and apologized to his father which shows his sincere repentance. • **His father seeing him return welcomed him joyfully and treated him with love and honor**

2. Who Baptized Jesus? (1) What happened when Jesus got baptized? (2) Give any two theological implications of baptism (2) **L19 P 88- 90**

John the Baptist baptized Jesus. As soon as Jesus was baptized heavens were opened to him and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove upon him. A voice from heaven said, “this is my son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”
Implications. 1.Baptism is a process of incorporating an individual into the body of Christ and a new world comes into being in the life of an individual. 2.The candidate is committed to the grace of God through his/her participation in the life of Christ. Through dying and rising with Christ as symbolized in baptism, the believer is reminded to lead a new holy life. 3.The candidate is ordained to the priestly and kingly ministry of Christ in the world.

3. In the Parable of the Sower and the seed, what are the four kinds of soil? What does each soil represent? **L 14 P 67**
 - (a) **Soil on the path:** The hard ground represents someone who is hardened by sin; he hears but does not understand the Word, and Satan plucks the message away, keeping the heart dull and preventing the Word from making an impression
 - (b) **The rocky soil:** The stony ground represents a man who accepts the word of God; however, his heart is not changed, and when trouble arises, his so-called faith quickly disappears as it is not rooted in the Word of God.
 - (c) **Thorny soil:** The thorny ground represents one who seems to receive the Word, but whose heart is full of thoughts of riches, pleasures, and lusts; the things of this world take his time and attention away from the Word, and he ends up having no time for it.
 - (d) **Good Soil:** The good ground portrays the one who hears, understands, and receives the Word—and then allows the Word to accomplish its result in his life.

4. What does Immanuel mean to Isaiah? What does Immanuel mean to Mathew? What are the characteristics of man who lives with God? [**L 18, P 88**]
 - a. **For Isaiah, Immanuel was Jesus Christ, the Messiah, symbol of redemption to the people**
 - b. **In Matthew, Immanuel is referenced for “God is with us”**
 - c. **One who lives with God separates oneself from the world by purifying from everything that makes our bodies or soul unclean**
 - d. **When God is with us, we will not do things which God will not like.**
 - e. **Holy Spirit will give us the strength to face difficult situations, problems and sickness**

5. The parable of the Prodigal Son or the Lost Son is told in five Major steps. (Mention the 5 steps in five points).
 - a. **Request for inheritance**
 - b. **Realization of his state while being away from home.**
 - c. **Remorse and repentance on his actions.**
 - d. **Returning home.**
 - e. **Re-joining and Rejoicing with his father at home**

6. How did the little girl help Naaman, the commander of the army of Aram? **L 11 P 49-50**
Answer: The little girl who was brought up in a home where the true God of Israel was worshiped, his commandments followed and who knew about the miracles of Elisha and who knew the true power of the God of Israel and his mercy. The

witnessing of the little girl about the power and mercy of the God of Israel to her mistress and to Naaman brought Naaman in touch with the God of Israel. God's prophet Elisha taught him that his greatness is nothing in the eyes of the Lord of Israel or his servant and Prophet Elisha. Once he humbled himself and did what was told to him by Elisha, Naaman became a cured man of the dreadful and incurable disease of leprosy, not because of his position, power, strength, or ability but by the mercy of the God of Israel based on the witnessing of one little girl God cared for.

7. Name any five qualities that Andrew had in his successful ministry of Jesus. **L20 P93**
- a. **Andrew began his ministry first at Home by telling his brother that he saw the Messiah.**
 - b. **Immediate Response and Availability**
 - c. **Andrew had a great faith in Jesus and was willing to leave everything behind and follow Him.**
 - d. **Spiritual desire and thirst: Andrew had the spiritual desire and thirst, and he could generate a spiritual thirst in the life of his brother Peter.**
 - e. **Friendliness of Andrew: He was very friendly with all people, even with little children. He was the one who introduced the little child who had five loaves of bread and two fish to Jesus.**
 - f. **Solution oriented attitude: When Jesus asked to feed the multitude, Philip said "it is not possible" in that remote village. But Andrew saw a great possibility in the food package of the boy.**
 - g. **Global vision outlook: Andrew believed that Jesus came for the whole world.**

Section 3 – Memory Verse (5x5 points = 25 points)

Complete any 5 of the following Memory Verses

- 1. Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? John 11:25 -26 (L25, P117)**
- 2. Listen! I am **standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, i will come into you and eat with you, and you with me. Rev 3:20 (L 22, P102)**
- 3. Then pay attention **to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away. Luke 8:18 (L14, P69)**
- 4. I, I am **He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Isaiah 43:25 (L 12 P 62)**

5. Even though you **intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. Gen 50:20 (L4 P22)**
6. In the same **way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (L 17 P 86)**
7. Just as he **chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. Ephesians 1:4 (L 18 P 90)**

Section 4 – Mar Thoma Church: Our Foundation and Vision.

Circle the most appropriate response for the following question/statement. (10 x 1= 10 pts)

1. During the Ordination service, the Celebrant reads out the Amalugia, which is a _____ of the church
A. oath B. prayer C. spoken word **D. declaration of the faith** D (MTFV P188)
2. The three steps of the Calvary Cross represent faith, hope and _____.
A. Freedom B. Forgiveness **C. Love** D. Salvation C (MTVF P183)
3. Prayer of is the prayer to the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine.
A. Epiclesis B. Anamnesis C. Baptism D. Confession (P 181)
4. The prayer to the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and wine for Holy Communion is called:
A. Prayer of Epiclesis B. Intercessory Prayer C. Prayer of Anamnesis D. Prayer of Confession A (MTVF P181)
5. 4. _____ is the sacrament of anointing of the sick with Holy Oil (Mooron) P 188
A. Ordination B. Confession C. Communion **D. Unction**
6. Sacraments are _____ to receive God's unseen blessings (Pg189)
A. Prayers **B. Visible signs** C. Chanting D. Assurances
7. The Aramaic word 'Qurbana' means
A. Sacred Unity B. Eucharist C. Communion **D. Offering** (P 175)
8. 5. The Aramaic word 'Mamodesa' means _____. P 176
A. Forgiveness B. Ordination **C. immersion** D. Marriage
9. What is the "matter" used in Confirmation?
A. Oil B. Wine C. Basin **D. Mooron**
10. The Mar Thoma Church acknowledges baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
A. One B. Many C. Two D. None (P 176, F&V)

Section 5 – Mar Thoma History Short Answer. Answer any two of the following questions.

Answers should be brief and to the point. (2 x 5pts = 10 pts Total)

1. Define 'sacrament' (1). What are the significance of sacraments to the believers? (3)
Name the Optional sacraments of the Mar Thoma Church? (1) P 171
 - a. **Sacrament is derived from the Latin word Sacramentum which means an oath or surety.**
 - b. **Each sacrament administered as a means of God's grace. Every believer needs God's grace to experience salvation. Sacraments are special encounters with the Christ that help believers to grow in grace and lead a holy life. Participating in sacraments is a believers liturgical act.**
 - c. **Optional Sacraments- Ordination, Marriage & Unction.**
2. What are the 10 parts of the St. James liturgy used by the Mar Thoma Church? (MTVF P180)
• Anti Communion • Sermon • Confessional Prayer • Kiss of Peace • First Blessing • Words of Institution • Prayer of Anamnesis • Prayer of Epiclesis • Intercession • Second Blessing • Breaking of Bread • Third Blessing • Participation and Final Blessing
3. What are the main components of the ordination service? (MTVF P188) (1 point each)

Ordination service is conducted in the middle of the Holy Communion Service.

The celebrant, the Metropolitan/Bishop/Episcopa reads out a declaration of the faith of the church.

Then the candidate draws the sign of the cross against his name in the register and puts his signature under the cross, expressing his agreement with the faith of the church declared.

As an expression of his dedication to the Lord ministry, the candidate is to get his hair removed from the top of his head in a circular shape the previous day and in the form of a cross during the ordination service

Special dress (Kapa) and girdle are given to them after special prayers as symbols of authority to administer Sacraments sacrificial service.

SECTION 6 Essay

choose one of the following two topics to write an essay not exceeding 250 words. (1x10 pts=10 pts).

1. Name any four fruits we are expected to bear as stated in Galatians? (2) How can one remain in Christ's Love and explain the purpose of true discipleship? (8) L15

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (0.5 Pt x 4 = 2 Pts)

One can remain in his love by obeying his commandments. (1 pt)

Jesus made it very clear to his disciples that they must learn to love one another and others. (1Pt)

His words are external and do not change. (1pt)

The love and obedience relationship is so important that John explained it decades after Jesus went back to heaven. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. (John 3:16) .Jesus dies on the cross in obedience to the father's will. (1pt)

Love is the relationship that unites the disciples to Christ as branches are united to a vine .This relationship results in obedience and that leads to joy. It is obeying him that we become fruitful .bearing fruit always brings joy .Jesus intends that his disciples live a happy life rather than a life of hardship and sorrow. (1pt)

Our obedience to Christ leads to friendship .Jesus does not see the disciples as mere tools but makes us partners in his mission .He had revealed to the disciples everything the father had given him. (1pt)

In Summary, every believer is a branch. Everyone has to remain in the True Vine, Jesus. He requires obedience and love for him, and love for each other. It is accomplished by remaining in him. It takes earnest prayers as well as obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We will be able to bear fruits as he expects. The fruits will attract others to Christ and thus glorify God. Bringing people to Christ is the mission of God. That is the purpose of true discipleship. (2pt)

2. We live in an era where we have freedom to choose any religion or worship any god or not worship.

Explain how Elijah confronted the King? (2pt)

Where did Elijah go during the time of drought? How did God provide for Elijah during the drought? (2pt)

Explain how Elijah confronted to prove the True Living God. (2pt)

How did Elijah prepare the altar? (3pt)

Conclusion: How can we relate to Elijah in the world and society we live in today? (1pt)
(L5 P 20-21)

Introduction: (2 points)

• Elijah was sent to confront Ahab and the rulers of Israel. • Elijah's words reflected God's sure judgment, to prove that the Lord God was powerful than their false god, 'Baal'

Where did Elijah go during the time of drought? How did God provide for Elijah during the drought? (2 points)

• After the confrontation God told Elijah to go and hide near the brook of Cherish, east of Jordan. • God had commanded the ravens to bring bread and meat in the morning and in the evening from the King's palace. • Elijah had to drink the water from Cherish brook.

Explain how Elijah confronted to prove the True Living God: (2 points)

• There are 2 groups, Elijah & 450 Baal's prophets • Two separate alters, and two bulls cut it in pieces with no fire • 450 prophets of Baal will sacrifice a bull and pray to Baal to prove he is god. • The god who answers by fire indeed God

How did Elijah prepare the altar? (3 points)

• Elijah had repaired the damaged altar of God by using 12 stones. Those 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Jacob. It shows reinstatement of the broken relationship with God and fellow worshippers. • Elijah made a trench around the altar, deep enough to contain 2 measures of seed. • Arranged the bull properly and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. • Then he asked volunteers to fill four jars with water they poured water on the burnt offering and wood also three times according to Elijah's request. • Elijah prayed and God answered Elijah's prayers. • God's fire came down and consumed the burnt offerings, the wood, the stones, the dirt, and dried up the water in the trench.

• Conclusion: How can we relate to Elijah in the world and society we live in today? (1 point) •

Any variation in student's point of view should be honored

