



**MAR THOMA DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOL
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE**

2023 Diocesan Exam – Grade 9

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Time: 90 Minutes

Maximum Score: 100 Points

Section 1: Multiple Choices

Circle the most appropriate response for the following questions. (25 x 1 = 25 Points)

1. Which one of the disciples witnessed the stoning of Stephen - the First Martyr? **L13 P50**
 - a. **Saul**
 - b. Peter
 - c. John
 - d. James
2. Name the Pharisee who helped Joseph of Arimathea to bury Jesus? **L14 P56**
 - a. Saul of Tarsus
 - b. Barnabas
 - c. **Nicodemus**
 - d. Annas
3. How many years was Paul's first missionary journey? **L23 P90**
 - a. Two
 - b. **Three**
 - c. Four
 - d. Five
4. The famous Thomas' confession of faith was one of the following. **L19 P74**
 - a. I trust you
 - b. You are Son of David
 - c. **My Lord and My God.**
 - d. My Saviour and my God
5. The cross of rebellion was that of? **L18 P71**
 - a. The thief Who asked forgiveness.
 - b. **The thief Who mocked Jesus.**
 - c. Jesus Himself.
 - d. Cross at Calvary.
6. Who did apostle Peter say Ananias and Sapphira lied to? **L15 P58**
 - a. Barnabas
 - b. Peter
 - c. **Holy Spirit**
 - d. Jesus
7. In the Book of Revelation, the Church is presented as a Beautiful _____? **L25 P97**
 - a. **Bride**
 - b. Bridegroom

- c. Garden
 - d. Street
8. Cyclic interpretation of Revelation is about? **L25 P96**
- a. Past
 - b. Present
 - c. Future
 - d. All of the above**
9. The Roman Governor who converted to Christianity after hearing Paul and Barnabas was _____? **L23 P89**
- a. Eliymas
 - b. Sergius Paulus**
 - c. Simon
 - d. Festus
10. The member of Sanhedrin who urged the Council to let go of Apostles? **L21 P82**
- a. Gamaliel**
 - b. Sergius Paulus
 - c. Nicodemus
 - d. Annas the High Priest
11. Ascension of Jesus Christ gave disciple certainty that they had a _____ in heaven. **L20 P78**
- a. Father
 - b. Son
 - c. Friend**
 - d. Holy Spirit
12. To save the people, God told Moses to make a _____ and to place it on the pole so that people looked at it and be saved? **L14 P56**
- a. Flag
 - b. Silver serpent
 - c. Brass Serpent**
 - d. Cross
13. The Book of Acts of Apostles was written by _____. **L20 P76**
- a. Mathew
 - b. Mark
 - c. Luke**
 - d. John
14. Psalms _____ was written by David after Nathan confronted him. **L6 P26**
- a. 51**
 - b. 52
 - c. 53
 - d. 54
15. The well Beer-Lahori is between _____ and Bered. **L5 P21**
- a. Kadesh**
 - b. Brena
 - c. Mesopotamia
 - d. Egypt

16. Who said, "Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for such a time as this". **L11 P43**
- a. King Ash
 - b. Mordecai**
 - c. Haman
 - d. Esther
17. Jesus told disciples after his resurrection that once they receive the power of the Holy Spirit "You will be my witness in Jerusalem and all _____ and _____ and to the ends of the world."
L20 P76
- a. Judea, Samaria**
 - b. Jordan, Egypt
 - c. Jerusalem, Rome
 - d. Galilee, Samaria
18. Israel asked Samuel for a king instead of God as their king when _____ came against them.
L2 P9
- a. King Nahash**
 - b. King of Amon
 - c. King of Moab
 - d. King of Egypt
19. Which Psalm is considered as David's confession of his sins? **L6 P 26**
- a. Psalm 23
 - b. Psalms 51**
 - c. Psalms 100
 - d. Psalms 90
20. What book is considered as a book of war? **L 10 P40**
- a. Esther
 - b. Joel
 - c. Jeremiah
 - d. Joshua**
21. The Council or Sanhedrin as it was known in Hebrew was an assembly of leaders appointed to serve as: **L 21 P81**
- a. Clergies
 - b. Teachers of the law
 - c. Judges**
 - d. peace makers
22. On the road to crucifixion, Jesus passed by a man from Cyrene named ____ **L 18 P 76**
- a. Barnabas
 - b. Nicodemus
 - c. Simon**
 - d. Rufus

23. Which animal is used in the imagery used by Jesus to explain how difficult it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? **L 17 P 71**

- a. Donkey
- b. Camel**
- c. Lion
- d. Eagle

24. How many days was Saul blinded for? **L 13 P 56**

- a. 2
- b. 5
- c. 3**
- d. 1

25. On the final trip to Rome, Paul was accompanied by a roman centurion named **L 22 P 91**

- a. Tiberius
- b. Marcellus
- c. Julius**
- d. Lucius

Section 2: Short Answers

Answer any four (4 out of 6) of the following questions. Answers should be brief and to the point. (4 x 5 = 20 Points)

1. What was the mistake made by Ananias and Sapphira that cost them their lives? **L15 P63**
 - **They lied about the amount they got from the sale of their property.**
 - **Lying about it in the church meant lying to God.**
 - **Lying to God is not the same as lying to people so it cost them their lives.**
 - **They tried to build a false reputation for themselves in front of others by pretending to be giving more when they were not.**
 - **Their sin was not that they didn't give the whole amount, but that they lied about it.**
2. Witnessing the murder of the first martyr of Christ deeply influenced Saul's life. Discuss. **L13 P55**
 - **He initially approved of that murder.**
 - **It reinforced his belief system that Christians were wrong and should be imprisoned.**
 - **Later on, when Saul became Paul, then he was retrospectively on all his acts.**
 - **He was crucial to spreading the gospel to the gentiles and doing everything without any care for his own life just like Stephen.**
 - **Saul must have been guilty for all that he did in his ignorance including supporting the murder of Stephen.**

3. Nathan shared a parable to make King David realise his mistake. Did it work? What did King David do next? **L6 P24**
 - **Parable of the rich man taking the lamb of the poor man was exactly what was needed to make King David realise his mistake.**
 - **King David was angry to hear the parable and vowed to make him pay.**
 - **King David realized his mistake and immediately repented saying "I have sinned against God."**
 - **Nathan said God forgave King David because he repented.**
 - **King David fasted for the life of his child even though Nathan said God would punish his child for his sin.**
 - **King David fasted and cried feeling guilty.**

4. Why did the people of Israel ask for a King? Who led them and what was their current leader's reaction? **L2 P6**
 - **They wanted to be like other nations.**
 - **They wanted to have a king like neighbouring countries they invaded.**
 - **Samuel the last prophet was their leader.**
 - **Samuel asked why they wanted a King.**
 - **Samuel asked the people to point out if he had done any mistake or if they could point out any fault in his integrity.**

5. Why did Thomas ask for proof of Jesus being alive? (3pts)
 What are the words of Thomas after he saw the resurrected Christ and why is it called the biggest confession of Faith? (2pts) **L19 P 80-81**
 - **When the other disciples told Thomas that they had seen Jesus, Thomas was not convinced. He wanted proof. He had seen Jesus being crucified. He has seen the wounds on the body of Christ. Therefore Thomas needed proof of Christ being alive- just like he had seen physical proof that Jesus had died during the crucifixion**
 - **Thomas' words that follow are the first and biggest confession of faith: "My Lord and my God". Not only is Thomas declaring that Jesus is really alive, but that Jesus is God. This is the first time in the Bible that someone declares that Jesus is God!**

6. Upon Jesus's death on the cross, the curtain of the high temple was torn into two. What does this signify? (3 pts) What does "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani" mean? (2pts) **L18 P 77**
 - **The curtain in the temple was torn in two. This is of great significance for the Christian. The Holy of Holies (altar in the temple) was separated from the people and only the High Priest could approach God and intercede on behalf of the people. In the tearing of the curtain, God is telling us that the separation between God and man because of sin has been removed because of the sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus is our high priest who intercedes for us.**
 - **"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani" means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (They don't need to provide a verbatim translation)**

Section 3: Memory Verse

Complete any five (5 out of 7) of the following in the sheet provided. (5 x 5 = 25 Points)

1. Go and learn what this means, '**I desire mercy, not sacrifice.**' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners. **Matthew 9:13 L8**
2. And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "**Shout! For the LORD has given you the city**". **Joshua 6:16 L 10**
3. In him we have redemption **through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of his grace. **Ephesians 1:7 L18**
4. David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan said to David, "Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die. **2 Samuel 12:13 L6**
5. Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **1 Peter 3:8 L15**
6. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this. **Esther 4:14 L11**
7. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **Acts 1:8 L 20**

Section 4: MTC Foundation & Vision Multiple Choices

Circle the most appropriate response for the following questions. (10 x 1 = 10 Points)

1. Until which Bishop did we have Syriac liturgy, and which language did he translate it to? **L1 P194**
 - a) Rt. Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan started the celebration of Holy Qurbana in Malayalam.
 - b) Abraham Malpan started the celebration of Holy Qurbana in Malayalam.**
 - c) Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos Suffragan Metropolitan started the celebration of Holy Qurbana in Tamil.
 - d) Abraham Malpan started the celebration of Holy Qurbana in Tamil.
2. Laity is derived from the Greek word "Laos". What is its meaning? **L4 P204**
 - a) Teachers
 - b) People**
 - c) Kings
 - d) Bishops
3. 1 Peter 2:5 speaks about the believers and calls them to be a community of? **L2 P199**
 - a) Priests**

- b) Deacons
 - c) Bishops
 - d) Office bearers
4. The church recognizes how many sacraments? **L2 P199**
- a) One
 - b) Two
 - c) Seven**
 - d) Eight
5. Who is the head of the Mar thoma church? **L2 P200**
- a) Metropolitan (Methran)**
 - b) Episcopa
 - c) Deacons
 - d) Every Parish Vicar
6. Reformation was a major concern for which of our Seminary professors? **L1 P194**
- a) Abraham Malpan**
 - b) David Malpan
 - c) Thomas Malpan
 - d) Joseph Malpan
7. For how many years is the Executive Committee, called the Sabha Council, elected by the Mandalam for? **L3 P202**
- a) 7 years
 - b) 5 years
 - c) 3 years**
 - d) 8 years
8. 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

Ans: B

9. Of the following bodies of the Mar Thoma Church, which one is the executive committee?
- a) Sabha Pradhinidhi Mandalam
 - b) Sabha Council**
 - c) Diocesan Council
 - d) Diocesan Assembly

Ans: B

10. Which of the following is NOT a sacrament?

A. Offertory

B. Holy Communion

C. Baptism

D. Unction

Ans: A

Section 5: MTC Foundation & Vision

Answer any 2 out of 3 of the following questions. Answers should be brief and to the point. (5 x 2 = 10 Points)

1. List 5 prayers/practices that were removed from Thaksa; that did not carry scriptural base. **MTFV P210** 1pt each, max 5
 - **Removed petitions addressed through the departed saints**
 - **Removed prayers for the dead**
 - **Decided to serve bread and wine separately**
 - **Stopped the practice of private confession with the priest and receiving absolution before the communion.**
 - **Holy Communion will not be celebrated when there is no one to receive communion**
 - **Holy Communion is for participation and not for worship**

2. What does the Mar Thoma church accept as the final authority of the church and which verses are used to support that clause (write out verses)? **MTFV P207**

The Holy Bible is the final authority and the verses used to support that clause are 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. (1 Point)

- **First of all, you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God**
- **All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.**

3. List and explain any five elements or components of worship used in the Mar Thoma Church.

1 pt. ea. (max 5)

Worship: Worship of God through a corporate body experience which allows us to

focus more on worshipping God as a corporate body rather than individuals.

Liturgy: Use of liturgy with theological phrases and scriptural portions

Symbolism: Placing of the altar towards the East since the sun rises in the east

Incense: Represents Sweet smelling sacrifice and prayers rising towards God

Candles: Representing the presence of God and that believers are called to be the light of the world

Vestments: Garments worn by the priest

Gestures: Outward expression of inner penitence, submission, and respect in the presence of God

Section 6 – Essay

Choose one of the following two topics (1 out of 2) to write an essay in approximately 150 to 250 words (10 points):

1. Explain why the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation and describe the message it conveys. (5 marks). What are some of the characteristics of the “New Jerusalem”? (5 marks) **(L25 P96 & 97)**

The book of Revelation was written to give hope to Christians who were being persecuted at that time. The author, John was given visions of these messages and much of the book contains signs, symbols, and imagery to describe the main message.

When Christ returns, He will reign for 1,000 years and after that reign, all those who have accepted Christ as their Savior will be resurrected because God has given them eternal life. God will transform our earth into a pure, fresh, and beautiful new earth.

The dream of a new heaven and a new earth was deep in Jewish thought. The New Jerusalem is not a re-made or re-done city, but a brand-new city, a better heaven and better earth. This new city is where God will live in His glory. And unlike before, the new heaven and new earth are not separate from each other. God has always desired to live in close fellowship with us, and so He will be when He lives among us. Not only is this a new city, but a holy city. This holy city is perfect, sinless, pure and a community of righteousness. There will be no more sorrow, no darkness, and no sin. It is also a perfect community of the people of God. This represents the ultimate restoration of what was lost during the fall of mankind.

2. Explain the spiritual transformation that took place in Saul’s life. Your essay should include:
 - a. Describe the stoning of Stephen and the rise of Saul (3 pts)
 - b. Explain God’s plan for Saul (5 pts)
 - c. Explain the difference between being religious versus knowing God (2 pts)

The following is only a suggested response. Actual answers can vary.

Saul was a zealous Pharisee. He was a strong follower of Judaism and believed initially that the gospel of Jesus was a major deception. Therefore he went around persecuting the Christians and throwing men and women into prison. Stephen was a follower of Christ. He gave his testimony but Stephen was stoned for his faith. Saul was there giving approval to his death.

b. However, God had a plan to use Saul to serve the kingdom of God. Saul was on his way to Damascus when he saw a bright light. A voice spoke out and said “Saul, Saul why are you persecuting me.” Saul realized at that the moment he was persecuting the very same God that he was zealously concerned about. Saul spent three days in prayer. It was a very important moment in Saul’s life. It shows how much God is willing to use people for his glory even if they are the same people that are bringing so much pain to his people. God knew that Saul was misdirected and was truly searching and trying to protect what Saul was the truth. God knew this zeal would be tremendously beneficial for the growth of the kingdom of God.

c. The difference between being religious and knowing God is that being religious means that someone is more concerned about following the rules prescribed by that religion. Being religious doesn’t require any effort to know about God. Knowing God means that one is focused on learning about what God wants for their life and doing what it takes to continue to know God more. God took Saul from being just religious to someone who made it the sole purpose in life is to know Jesus Christ more and more each day.