

Exam Questions

Chapter 1

Exam Questions

Essays

1. Discuss some of the important aspects of ancient religions. How were ancient religions different from a modern Western perspective on religion? How was Judaism similar to and different from other ancient religions?
2. The New Testament is made up of four sections. What are these and what kinds of books are found within each section?
3. In the Jewish tradition, what are the major divisions of the Hebrew Bible, and what kinds of books are found in each section? How do these divisions differ from the traditional English divisions?
4. Compare the Jewish and Christian canons of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. How do they differ?

True/False

1. The entire Old Testament is arranged chronologically.
T F
2. The Torah consists of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.
T F
3. The Latter Prophets are the books named after individual prophets.
T F
4. Both the Jewish and Christian canons put the books of the Hebrew Bible in the same order.
T F
5. The books of the Bible were separated into chapters and verses in ancient times.
T F
6. The Torah was probably the first division of the Bible to gain canonical status.
T F
7. The New Testament was written in Hebrew and Greek.
T F
8. Judaism was different from other ancient religions because it advocated the separation of religion from the state.
T F

9. The English Bible (not including the Apocrypha) includes sixty-six books.
T F
10. The Jewish canon and English canon of the Hebrew Bible are grouped the same way.
T F

Multiple Choice

1. In Jewish tradition, all are parts of the Bible *except* the
 - a. Torah.
 - b. Apocrypha.
 - c. Writings.
 - d. Prophets.
2. Which book is not a part of the Torah?
 - a. Exodus
 - b. Deuteronomy
 - c. Joshua
 - d. Numbers
3. The frequently used scholarly term for the Old Testament is
 - a. Hebrew Bible.
 - b. Pseudepigrapha.
 - c. Writings.
 - d. Chronicles.
4. During the _____, the Bible was first divided into chapters.
 - a. Middle Ages
 - b. Reformation
 - c. Roman period
 - d. Hellenistic period
5. In the Tanakh the book of _____ is found in the Writings, but in the Christian canon it follows the book of Judges.
 - a. Ruth
 - b. Job
 - c. Psalms
 - d. Proverbs
6. In the Christian canon, the book of _____ is included among the Major Prophets rather than among the Writings.
 - a. Job
 - b. Isaiah
 - c. Esther
 - d. Daniel

7. The Minor Prophets contains _____ books.
 - a. eight
 - b. ten
 - c. twelve
 - d. fourteen
8. The frequently used acronym for the Jewish Bible is
 - a. Tonka.
 - b. Talmud.
 - c. Tanakh.
 - d. Tinkha.
9. Which is *not* one of the three major divisions of the Hebrew Bible?
 - a. Torah
 - b. Mishnah
 - c. Nevi'im
 - d. Kethuvim
10. The books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Amos are all part of the _____ Prophets.
 - a. Latter
 - b. Minor
 - c. Major
 - d. Former
11. Which of the following is *not* a designation for the Jewish canon?
 - a. Old Testament
 - b. Talmud
 - c. Hebrew Bible
 - d. Jewish scriptures
12. The Hebrew Bible includes which of the following?
 - a. Prophets
 - b. Gospels
 - c. Acts
 - d. Apocrypha
13. The New Testament was written in what language?
 - a. Greek
 - b. Hebrew
 - c. Aramaic
 - d. Latin
14. Which are the four canonical Gospels of the New Testament?
 - a. Matthew, Paul, Jude, Thomas
 - b. Mark, Matthew, Luke, John
 - c. Mark, Mary, Thomas, John

- d. Peter, Thomas, John, Luke
15. How many books are there in the New Testament?
- a. twenty-five
 - b. twenty-six
 - c. twenty-seven
 - d. twenty-eight
16. The term “canon” means
- a. orthodox.
 - b. heretical.
 - c. authoritative.
 - d. ruler.
17. What is another term for “pagan”?
- a. sinner
 - b. Jew
 - c. non-Jew
 - d. Tanakh
18. Which of the following is not a designation for the Jewish canon?
- a. Old Testament
 - b. Talmud
 - c. Hebrew Bible
 - d. Jewish scriptures
19. How many books in the New Testament claim to be written by Paul?
- a. thirteen
 - b. ten
 - c. eight
 - d. five
20. The New Testament was written in what language?
- a. Greek
 - b. Hebrew
 - c. Aramaic
 - d. Latin
21. The word “epistle” means
- a. biography.
 - b. letter.
 - c. conversation.
 - d. right choice.
22. Ancient religion incorporated which of the following?
- a. creeds

- b. sacrifice
- c. sacred texts
- d. ethical commitments

23. Polytheism is the worship of

- a. one god.
- b. nature.
- c. many gods.
- d. the emperor.

24. The term “cult” means

- a. strange belief.
- b. magic.
- c. gods.
- d. care.

25. Which was a characteristic of ancient religions (with the exception of Judaism)?

- a. organization and hierarchy
- b. polytheism
- c. creeds and statements of religious doctrine
- d. sacred written texts

26. The Septuagint is

- a. the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible.
- b. a Roman emperor.
- c. a country in the Greco-Roman world.
- d. a god.

27. The Pentateuch is

- a. the first five books of the Bible.
- b. the dispersion of Jews.
- c. an early sect of Judaism.
- d. a household god.

28. Ancient Jews believed that the place of God’s presence on earth was the

- a. synagogue.
- b. Torah.
- c. Holy of Holies.
- d. *cultus deorum*.

29. People in the ancient world were interested in religion because they

- a. were very concerned with the afterlife.
- b. were very concerned with avoiding suffering in this life and in ways of postponing death.
- c. were very philosophical and had insatiable curiosities about metaphysical issues.
- d. sought personal power.

30. In the ancient world, the religious and political realms typically
- a. functioned together in hopes of securing peace and prosperity.
 - b. remained distinct; politicians did not participate in religion.
 - c. remained distinct; politicians created their own religions.
 - d. clashed; they couldn't agree on appropriate forms of worship.
31. Pagan religions typically lacked all of the following *except*
- a. solid doctrine.
 - b. an ethical system.
 - c. sacred texts.
 - d. temples.
32. Which of the following activities did *not* take place in synagogues?
- a. gathering of Jews
 - b. reading of scripture
 - c. offering of sacrifices
 - d. praying

Chapter 2

Exam Questions

Essays

1. Discuss why it is important to assign a piece of literature to a particular genre before attempting to interpret it.
2. What kinds of conventions unite different types of literature into a single genre? How do these conventions help the reader know what to expect when reading work of a particular genre?
3. Why is the Bible so difficult to understand? List several factors that make the Bible difficult for modern audiences to understand and how modern readers can best attempt to overcome these difficulties.

True/False

1. We have the original copies of the Hebrew Bible but not of the New Testament.
T F
2. The Dead Sea Scrolls include the original copies of several books of the Hebrew Bible.
T F
3. The Jewish scriptures were written in Hebrew and Greek.
T F
4. The Bible nowhere contradicts the historical evidence archaeologists have found.
T F
5. All English translations of the New Testament are based on a single manuscript from 1000 C.E.
T F
6. The Bible can be described most accurately as an anthology, or collection of writings assembled over many centuries.
T F
7. Pieces of literature that share a range of formal conventions are classified together as a trope.
T F
8. The entire New Testament was written in Greek.
T F
9. The book of Isaiah talks about the virgin birth of the future messiah.
T F

10. The Bible contains books that claim to be written by authors who did not write them.
T F

Multiple Choice

1. What is the term for a category of literature in which members share a range of conventions?
 - a. genre
 - b. prose
 - c. editorial
 - d. collective
2. In pre-Christian Judaism, the term “Son of God” referred to
 - a. God.
 - b. a person used to do God’s will on earth.
 - c. Jesus.
 - d. the coming messiah.
3. Modern English translations of the Hebrew Bible are based upon
 - a. manuscripts from the Dead Sea Scrolls.
 - b. a single manuscript from 1000 C.E.
 - c. the original Hebrew manuscripts from ancient Israel.
 - d. thousands of manuscripts collected from across the ancient world.
4. In pre-Christian Judaism, the term “Son of God” referred to
 - a. God.
 - b. a person used to do God’s will on earth.
 - c. Jesus.
 - d. the coming messiah.
5. The word “messiah” literally means
 - a. Son of God.
 - b. the rightful king of the world.
 - c. a person who has been anointed with oil.
 - d. a person born of a virgin.
6. When Isaiah 7:14 refers to the young woman who will be with child and give birth to a son named Immanuel, it is talking about
 - a. how God will swiftly resolve a crisis in ancient Judah.
 - b. a person used to do God’s will on earth.
 - c. Jesus.
 - d. the coming messiah.
7. In Greek and Roman pagan contexts, “son of God” meant
 - a. a member of the Trinity.
 - b. a person used to do God’s will on earth.

- c. the coming messiah.
 - d. a demigod produced by the sexual union of a god and a human.
8. One positive value of the discrepancies found among different books in the Bible is that they
- a. prove that God does not exist.
 - b. show that each book of the Bible has its own message.
 - c. cause headaches for scholarly interpreters.
 - d. expose false interpretations and demonstrate the true historical value of the Bible.
9. Which of the following genres does *not* appear in the Bible?
- a. apocalypse
 - b. myth
 - c. novel
 - d. mystery
10. Who wrote the New Testament Gospels?
- a. Matthew, Peter, Paul, and Mary
 - b. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
 - c. Matthew, Peter, Luke, John
 - d. none of the above (The authors wrote anonymously.)
11. Most scholars think _____ was the last book of the Bible to be written
- a. Revelation
 - b. 2 Peter
 - c. 3 John
 - d. Daniel
12. The books of the Bible were written in which languages?
- a. Hebrew and Greek
 - b. Hebrew, Greek, and Latin
 - c. Hebrew, Aramaic, and Latin
 - d. Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek
13. Historians can only access
- a. what is written in texts.
 - b. what happens in the natural world.
 - c. the natural and supernatural realms.
 - d. data from texts and archaeology.
14. Not including the deuterocanonical books, how many books are found in the English tradition of the Jewish scriptures?
- a. twenty-four
 - b. twenty-seven
 - c. thirty-nine
 - d. sixty-six

15. Approximately how many ancient or medieval Greek manuscripts of texts from the New Testament exist today?
- a. 250.
 - b. 1,370.
 - c. 5,600.
 - d. 10,100.