

1

a) **Exam Questions**

Chapter 1

What Is the Old Testament?

Essays

1. In Jewish tradition, what are the three major divisions of the Hebrew Bible? What are the characteristics of the books found in each of these divisions? Describe the processes that led to the canonization of each of these components.
2. Compare the Jewish and Christian canons of the Old Testament. How do they differ? What are the reasons for the differences in the order and content of these collections?
3. What is involved in the process of textual criticism and what is the goal of the textual critic? What role has it played in scholars' efforts to translate the Bible?
4. What is redaction criticism? How does it compare with textual criticism?

True/False

Please note, all odd-numbered answers are featured on the website.

1. All of the books in the Old Testament were accepted as canonical at the same time.
T F
2. The Old Testament includes all of the writings that the Israelites produced.
T F
3. The entire Old Testament is arranged chronologically.
T F
4. The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Bible produced by an unknown individual.
T F
5. The Latter Prophets are the books named after individual prophets.
T F

6. Both the Jewish and Christian canons put the books of the Hebrew Bible in the same order.
T F
7. The books of the Apocrypha are not included as a part of the Jewish canon.
T F
8. The books of the Old Testament were separated into chapters and verses in ancient times.
T F
9. The Torah was probably the first division of the Bible to gain canonical status.
T F
10. The Dead Sea Scrolls provide evidence for a fixed canon already in the first century CE.
T F

Multiple Choice

Please note, all odd-numbered answers are featured on the website.

1. In Jewish tradition, all are parts of the Bible except:
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. The Former Prophets begin with the divine appointment of _____ as leader of Israel.
a) Moses b) Saul c) David d) Joshua
6. 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

7. In the Christian canon the book of _____ was moved from the Writings to the Latter Prophets.
 a) Job b) Isaiah c) Esther d) Daniel
8. After the Protestant Reformation in the _____ century, the Apocrypha was excluded from Protestant Bibles.
 a) 16th b) 5th c) 14th d) 8th
9. The word *torah* means:
 a) book b) law c) history d) prophet
10. The Minor Prophets contains _____ books.
 a) 8 b) 10 c) 12 d) 14
11. For a book to be canonical in Jewish tradition, it must be written in:
 a) Greek b) Aramaic c) Yiddish d) Hebrew
12. The last part of the Jewish canon to be collected and designated authoritative was:
 a) Writings b) Torah c) Latter Prophets d) Former Prophets
13. Which book is found in the Apocrypha?
 a) Ezekiel b) Nahum c) Malachi d) 1 Maccabees
14. The _____ is a category of noncanonical Jewish literature from the Hellenistic and Roman periods attributed to famous biblical characters.
 a) Apocrypha b) Prophets c) Pseudepigrapha d) Writings
15. The book of _____ is part of the Writings in the Jewish canon but in Christian Bibles is relocated among the Former Prophets.
 a) Nehemiah b) Tobit c) Ecclesiastes d) Job
16. Most scholars identify the _____ as the group for whom the Dead Sea Scrolls served as a library.
 a) Romans b) Sadducees c) Essenes d) Pharisees
17. According to legend, _____ translators of the Torah independently produced identical translations and thus proved that the Septuagint was as inspired as the original.
 a) 60 b) 70 c) 600 d) 700
18. The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, _____, and Greek.

- a) Arabic b) Ugaritic c) Akkadian d) Aramaic
19. Scholars use _____ criticism to account for the editorial processes that produced the biblical texts.
- a) redaction b) form c) historical d) textual
20. The earliest manuscripts for the Old Testament date from the _____ century BCE.
- a) fourth b) third c) second d) first

Fill in the Blank

1. The technical term for the official list of books comprising the Bible by a religious community is _____.
2. The frequently used acronym for the Jewish Bible is _____.
3. _____, _____, and _____ are the three major divisions of the Hebrew Bible.
4. The _____ was published in 1611 as the culmination of the work of dozens of translators over seven years.
5. The Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, and Esther are collectively known as the five _____.
6. The _____ Text is the stabilized version of the Hebrew Bible that eventually became the standard version.
7. _____ involves examining the evidence from thousands of _____, or hand copies of the Bible, to determine the earliest form of a text.
8. The twelve books from Hosea to Malachi are collectively known as _____.
9. At the _____ in 1546 the Catholic Church decreed that all forty-six books of the Old Testament, including the Apocrypha, were equally authoritative.
10. According to ancient Jewish tradition _____ wrote the Torah.

Chapter 2

The Promised Land: Geography, History, and Importance

Essay

1. Discuss the value of the Bible as a historical document. Can it ever be used as a reliable historical work? What other methods and materials are used to supplement our knowledge of the biblical period?
2. Trace the development of the terms “Israel” and “Judah” over time.
3. Compare and contrast the climate and rainfall of Israel and Egypt.
4. What significance did the land of Israel hold for the authors of the Bible?

True/False

Please note, all odd-numbered answers are featured on the website.

1. Canaan is another name for the land of Israel.
T F
2. The name “Israel” can refer to just the northern kingdom of Israel.
T F
3. The words “Jew” and “Judaism” are derived from the name “Judah.”
T F
4. The Israelites were the first inhabitants of Israel.
T F
5. The terms “Levant” and “Canaan” are equivalent.
T F
6. Mesopotamia means “in the middle of the rivers.”
T F
7. Ancient Israel is roughly the size of France.
T F

8. The rainy season in the eastern Mediterranean is usually from April to July.
T F
9. The Fertile Crescent was linked by shared culture, by related language, and, at times, by imperial control.
T F
10. Israel could not grow enough food to feed its population in antiquity.
T F

Multiple Choice

Please note, all odd-numbered answers are featured on the website.

1. In the Late Bronze Age, Egypt fought against the kingdom of _____ for control of the Levant.
a) Hatti b) Sumer c) Israel d) Philistines
2. Israel's southern border is frequently identified with:
a) Zoar b) Beer-sheba c) Dan d) Kadesh-barnea
3. The traditional eastern boundary of Israel is:
a) Egypt b) Shephelah c) the Jordan River d) the Mediterranean Sea
4. All controlled the arc of the Fertile Crescent into the Levant at some point except?
a) Assyria b) Persia c) Israel d) Babylonia
5. The people who originated in central Turkey and later controlled the northern Levant during the later half of the second millennium are the:
a) Babylonians b) Hittites c) Chaldeans d) Assyrians
6. All are traditional geographical features of Israel except:
a) Shephelah b) the Hill Country c) the Dead Sea d) the Tigris River

7. All are features of the Rift Valley except:
- a) Lake Huleh b) the Dead Sea c) the Sea of Galilee d) the Caspian Sea
8. The historical period from 2000 BCE to 1550 BCE is called the:
- a) Early Bronze Age b) Middle Bronze Age c) Late Bronze Age d) Iron Age
9. All are listed as crops of ancient Israel except:
- a) grapes b) wheat c) barley d) potatoes
10. Urban civilization in Mesopotamia began around:
- a) 4000 BCE b) 3000 BCE c) 2000 BCE d) 1000 BCE
11. All are peoples originating from central Mesopotamia except:
- a) Sumerians b) Assyrians c) Akkadians d) Persians
12. During the Second Intermediate Period, Egypt was ruled by:
- a) Hyksos b) Assyrians c) New Kingdom Pharaohs d) Persians
13. Israel's monarchy began during what century?
- a) 12th b) 11th c) 10th d) 9th
14. The capital of Northern Israel was:
- a) Samaria b) Jerusalem c) Persepolis d) Horeb
15. The king who released the deportees from Babylon in 538 BCE was:
- a) Ahab b) Cyrus c) Sennacherib d) Alexander
16. The Assyrian capital was:
- a) Ur b) Damascus c) Nineveh d) Babylon

17. The name Israel can refer to all of the following except:

- a) Esau b) Jacob c) the northern kingdom d) the united kingdom

18. The Seleucid king who tried to force the Jews into worshiping Greek gods was:

- a) Seleucus I b) Alexander III c) Ptolemy VI d) Antiochus IV

19. The Romans destroyed Jerusalem in the year:

- a) 23 BCE b) 61 CE c) 70 CE d) 122 CE

20. Another name for Jerusalem is:

- a) Zion b) Shechem c) Ur d) Megiddo

Fill in the Blank

1. The Late Bronze Age lasted from _____ to _____.
2. The name Palestine is derived from _____.
3. The Rift Valley runs from _____ to _____.
4. The first of the twelve tribes of Israel to lose its land was _____.
5. The major international route that ran from Arabia to Damascus was called _____.
6. The twelve tribes of Israel were named after _____.
7. Egypt's primary rival for control of Israel in the Late Bronze Age was _____.
8. Israel's first king was _____.
9. The Egyptian pharaoh _____ invaded Israel in 924 BCE.
1. The state that destroyed Samaria in 722 BCE was _____.

Answer Key

Chapter 1

True/False

1. F
2. F
3. F
4. T
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. F
9. T
10. T

Multiple Choice

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. A
5. D
6. A
7. D
8. A
9. B
10. C
11. D
12. A
13. D
14. C
15. A

Fill in the Blank

1. canon
2. Tanakh
3. Torah, Prophets, Writings
4. Prophets
5. *megillot* or “Scrolls”
6. Masoretic
7. deuterocanonical

8. Minor Prophets
9. Council of Trent
10. Moses

Chapter 2

True/False

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. F
6. T
7. F
8. F
9. T
10. F

Multiple Choice

1. D
2. D
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. D
7. D
8. B
9. D
10. B
11. D
12. A
13. B
14. A
15. B
16. C
17. B
18. D
19. C
20. A

Fill in the Blank

1. 1550 to 1200 BCE

2. Philistines
3. Turkey to Africa
4. Reuben
5. the King's Highway
6. Jacob's sons
7. the Hittite empire
8. Saul
9. Shishak
10. Assyria