

Exam Questions

Chapter 1

Essays

1. Compare and contrast the views of God, Jesus, and salvation held by two of the following groups: adoptionists, Marcionites, Gnostics.
2. Describe the process of the canonization of the New Testament. When might it have begun? When did it end? What factors were involved in choosing its books?
3. In what ways did the proto-orthodox Christians agree with adoptionists, Marcionites, and Gnostics?
4. RESOLVED: Early Christianity was essentially unified in belief. Pick a side of this resolution and argue for it using as many specific examples from the text as possible. Keep in mind that the most persuasive arguments anticipate (and answer) counterarguments.
5. A variety of Christian groups, some of which were subsequently labeled “heretical,” used the books of the New Testament. How did the process of canonization limit possible interpretations of these books and make them acceptable to orthodox Christians?

True/False

- *1. Revelation is an example of a Christian apocalypse.
T F
2. The book of Acts is attributed to Paul.
T F
3. The Nag Hammadi library features writings from the Marcionites.
T F
- *4. The manuscripts of the Nag Hammadi library are written in Greek.
T F
- *5. According to some Gnostics, the Old Testament God was evil.
T F

Multiple Choice

- *1. Which early Christian group believed in two Gods: the just God of the Old Testament and the merciful God of Jesus?
 - a) Gnostics
 - b) Proto-orthodox Christians
 - c) Jewish-Christian adoptionists
 - d) Marcionites

- *2. What does the term “heresy” mean?
 - a) Evil
 - b) To choose
 - c) To reject
 - d) To agree with

- 3. What is the name of a collection of second-century proto-orthodox writings?
 - a) Nag Hammadi Library
 - b) New Testament
 - c) Pentateuch
 - d) Apostolic Fathers

- *4. The term “canon” means:
 - a) Orthodox
 - b) Heretical
 - c) Authoritative
 - d) Ruler

- 5. How many books are there in the New Testament?
 - a) Twenty-five
 - b) Twenty-six
 - c) Twenty-seven
 - d) Twenty-eight

- 6. What Christian group lived in Palestine and taught that Christians should keep the Law?
 - a) Jewish-Christian adoptionists
 - b) Gnostics
 - c) Marcionites
 - d) Proto-orthodox

- 7. According to the Jewish-Christian adoptionists, Jesus was:
 - a) God
 - b) Moses
 - c) A man
 - d) A phantasm

8. According to Marcion, the Jewish Law:

- a) Was good
- b) Did not bring salvation
- c) Continued to be binding after Jesus' death
- d) Didn't exist

*9. What does the term "gnosis" mean?

- a) Knowledge
- b) Salvation
- c) Savior
- d) Choice

*10. Which of the following groups thought it was blasphemy to call Jesus God?

- a) Marcionites
- b) Gnostics
- c) Jewish-Christian adoptionists
- d) Proto-orthodox Christians

11. Gnostics believed which of the following brought salvation?

- a) Jesus' death
- b) Jesus' resurrection
- c) Knowledge
- d) Martyrdom

12. Jewish Christians thought which of the following was a heretic?

- a) Jesus
- b) Paul
- c) Matthew
- d) Peter

13. The Marcionites particularly liked which of the following apostles?

- a) Paul
- b) Peter
- c) James
- d) Mary

14. The Marcionites used a form of which Gospel?

- a) *Thomas*
- b) John
- c) Mark
- d) Luke

15. The Jewish-Christian adoptionists used a version of which of the following books?

- a) Romans
- b) Acts

- c) Revelation
- d) Matthew

*16. The Marcionites believed Jesus came to save people from

- a) Sin
- b) The Jewish God
- c) Rome
- d) Paul

17. Which of the following thought Jesus' body was a phantasm?

- a) The Apostolic Fathers
- b) Marcionites
- c) Jewish-Christian adoptionists
- d) Nehemiah

18. Which of the following is not a designation for the Jewish canon?

- a) Old Testament
- b) Judaism
- c) Hebrew Bible
- d) Jewish Scriptures

19. Second-century Jewish Christians taught that every Jewish law had to be observed *except*:

- a) Circumcision
- b) Kosher food laws
- c) Observing the Sabbath
- d) Animal sacrifice

20. Jewish-Christian adoptionists believed that Jesus was "adopted" by God at his:

- a) Birth
- b) Death
- c) Trial
- d) Baptism

21. Some Gnostics believed that which of the following happened at Jesus' baptism?

- a) He was adopted.
- b) He illustrated that baptism brought salvation.
- c) The divine Christ entered Jesus' body.
- d) Nothing

*22. The New Testament was written in what language?

- a) Greek
- b) Hebrew
- c) Aramaic
- d) Latin

23. The word "gospel" means:

- a) Life
- b) Good news
- c) Divine writing
- d) Salvation

*24. The word “epistle” means:

- a) Biography
- b) Letter
- c) Conversation
- d) Right choice

25. How many books in the New Testament claim to be written by Paul?

- a) Thirteen
- b) Ten
- c) Eight
- d) Five

*26. At the end of what century did Christians begin to call Jesus’ words Scripture?

- a) The first century B.C.E.
- b) The first century C.E.
- c) The second century C.E.
- d) The fifth century C.E.

27. Who established the first canon?

- a) Marcion
- b) Gnostics
- c) Proto-orthodox Christians
- d) Paul

28. Which of the following was not a criterion for canonicity?

- a) Antiquity
- b) Apostolicity
- c) Orthodoxy
- d) Historical accuracy

*29. In what year did Athanasius name the current twenty-seven books of the New Testament as authoritative?

- a) 150 C.E.
- b) 288 C.E.
- c) 367 C.E.
- d) 432 C.E.

30. This second-century figure established a canon consisting of some of Paul’s letters along with an edited version of the Gospel of Luke.

- a) Athanasius
- b) Valentinus

- c) Clement of Alexandria
- d) Marcion

Chapter 2

Essays

1. Some manuscripts of Luke report that when Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple when he was twelve, Mary said, “Your father and I have been searching for you,” while others read, “We have been searching for you.” Which of these do you think represents the more original passage? Why?
2. Many scholars do not believe we can ever be certain that we possess the exact words of the New Testament authors. What arguments might they give to substantiate this claim?
3. Write a letter to a family member and explain to him or her the criteria used to determine the original text of the New Testament. How do these criteria help in this determination? What shortcomings do they have?
4. How are the books of our modern Bibles related to the original manuscripts? Explain how a book of the Bible was transmitted after the original document was written and what scholars and translators of the Bible have to consider when preparing a modern version.
5. Some manuscripts of Mark report that when a leper asked Jesus for healing, “Jesus became angry,” while others read, “Jesus was filled with compassion.” Which of these do you think represents the more original passage? Why?

True/False

1. Verse divisions didn’t exist in the Bible until the 1500s.
T F
- *2. There are more differences between the manuscripts of the New Testament than there are words in the New Testament.
T F
- *3. We do not have the original copy of any New Testament book.
T F
4. Most of the differences between New Testament manuscripts were the result of intentional changes by scribes.
T F
- *5. Earlier scribes who copied the New Testament were more precise than later ones.
T F

Multiple Choice

1. Our earliest manuscripts of Paul's letters and full copies of the Gospels date to around:
 - a) 100 C.E.
 - b) 125 C.E.
 - c) 200 C.E.
 - d) 300 C.E.
2. We currently possess about how many fragments and copies of New Testament texts?
 - a) Sixty thousand
 - b) One hundred
 - c) Six hundred
 - d) Six thousand
- *3. Which of the following represents an intentional scribal error?
 - a) Changing the text to fit doctrine
 - b) Misspelling words
 - c) Repeating words, verses, or pages
 - d) Skipping words, verses, or pages
4. _____ is when a scribe "corrects" one passage to agree with another.
 - a) Correction
 - b) Mistake
 - c) Harmonization
 - d) Autograph
5. Which of the following is *not* a criterion used by scholars to determine the original text of the New Testament?
 - a) Geographical spread
 - b) Age of manuscripts
 - c) Difficulty of reading
 - d) Orthodox reading
6. Which of the following is *least* helpful in establishing the original text of the New Testament?
 - a) Geographical spread
 - b) Number of manuscripts
 - c) Age of manuscripts
 - d) Difficulty of reading
7. The story of Jesus and the woman taken in adultery (John 7:59–8:11) is:
 - a) An original part of the Gospel of John
 - b) An original part of the Gospel of Mark that was later inserted into the Gospel of John by the author of John
 - c) Not an original part of any Gospel
 - d) A pagan parable

8. In the story from Mark of the women who find Jesus' tomb empty and are instructed by a young man (or angel) to go tell Peter and the other disciples (Mark 16), the last twelve verses were:

- a) Added to the Gospel of Mark by a scribe
- b) An original part of the Gospel of Mathew that was later inserted into the Gospel of Mark by the author of Mark
- c) An original part of the Gospel of Mark
- d) A pagan parable

*9. In the story of Jesus in the last minutes before his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43–44), the account of his “sweating blood” while contemplating his imminent suffering is most likely:

- a) An original part of the Gospel of Luke
- b) An original part of the Gospel of Mark that was later inserted into the Gospel of Luke by the author of Luke
- c) Not an original part of any Gospel
- d) An insertion from a letter of Paul.

*10. What is the style of writing called that leaves out punctuation, capitalization, paragraph divisions, sentence divisions, and spaces between words?

- a) *Scriptio ad absurdum*
- b) *Scriptio continua*
- c) *Grammatica elimination*
- d) *Grammatica ad absurdum*

11. Give a Biblical example of parablepsis occasioned by homoeoteleuton.

- a) “I do not ask that you keep them from the,” an omission of the next line that ended in the same six words, then a continuation of the text with “evil one”
- b) “lastnightatthedinnertableisawabundanceonthetable”
- c) “Let this cup before me,” with an insertion (“pass”) between “cup” and “me”
- d) The addition of the last twelve verses of Mark

12. When did scribes begin to make chapter-like divisions in books of the New Testament?

- a) The first century
- b) The nineteenth century
- c) The seventeenth century
- d) The fourth century

13. Who was the University of Paris lecturer who introduced the major divisions into the Latin Bible in the thirteenth century?

- a) Robert Stephanus
- b) Thucydides
- c) Steven Langton
- d) Valentinus

*14. Who created the verse divisions that we have today?

- a) Robert Stephanus
- b) Thucydides
- c) Steven Langton
- d) Valentinus

*15. What is the earliest surviving manuscript of the New Testament to date?

- a) The entirety of Revelation
- b) A fragment of the Gospel of Mark
- c) The last five chapters of 1 Peter
- d) A fragment of the Gospel of John

16. Criteria for establishing the original text of a writing do *not* include:

- a) The quality of the manuscripts
- b) The handwriting of the manuscripts
- c) The age of the manuscripts
- d) The quality of the manuscripts

17. Criteria for establishing the original text of a writing do *not* include:

- a) Conformity with the norms of the culture in which it was written
- b) The distribution of the manuscripts
- c) The difficulty of the reading
- d) Conformity with the author's own language, style, and theology

*18. New Testament manuscripts do *not*:

- a) Contain many mistakes
- b) Have many centuries separating the events written about and the events themselves
- c) Have any inaccuracies
- d) Show a lack of passion for their topics

*19. By what means have early Christian truth claims been handed down from one generation to the next?

- a) Orally
- b) Written texts
- c) Lifestyles
- d) All of the above

*20. How many original copies of books of the New Testament do we have?

- a) Three fragments
- b) One entire book and one fragment of another
- c) None
- d) All of them

*21. Most copies of New Testament manuscripts come from what time period?

- a) The Middle Ages
- b) The Age of Enlightenment
- c) The Golden Age

- d) The Bronze Age
22. Which event is found in some copies of the Gospel of Luke but not in others?
- a) Mary's song
 - b) Jesus' ascension
 - c) Peter's denial of Jesus
 - d) Judas' kiss
23. Which saying of Jesus is found in some copies of the Gospel of Luke but not in others?
- a) "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."
 - b) "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
 - c) "You will be called Peter."
 - d) "I had to be in my Father's house."
24. Which doctrine is not explicitly found in the earliest manuscripts of the Bible but was inserted into it by some later scribes?
- a) Salvation by works
 - b) Jesus' divinity
 - c) The virgin birth
 - d) The Trinity
- *25. What is the name of the academic discipline devoted to the study of ancient manuscripts to determine the most likely earliest readings?
- a) Historical criticism
 - b) Redaction criticism
 - c) Literary criticism
 - d) Textual criticism
26. What is the approximate date of our earliest complete copy of the Gospel of Luke?
- a) 125 C.E.
 - b) 175 C.E.
 - c) 250 C.E.
 - d) 350 C.E.
27. Which of the following represents the most common difference among Biblical manuscripts?
- a) Doctrinal changes
 - b) Harmonizations
 - c) Differences in spelling
 - d) Parablepsis occasioned by homoeoteleuton
28. Which of the following might account for an accidental omission in a manuscript?
- a) *Scriptio continua*
 - b) Parablepsis occasioned by homoeoteleuton
 - c) Amanuensis
 - d) *Lectio difficilior*

29. Which of the following indicates a reading is most likely earlier than other options?

- a) It is a more difficult reading.
- b) It occurs in the most manuscripts.
- c) It is found in more recent manuscripts.
- d) It is doctrinally orthodox.

30. The earliest copyists of the New Testament were:

- a) Trained scribes
- b) Monks
- c) Priests
- d) Untrained but literate

