

Ordination Exam Changes for 2010 and Beyond

August 2010

- The Biblical Exegesis exam begins a new format.
 - The exam has fewer required questions but will be about the same length overall. The questions still require knowledge of the biblical languages, but this will generally be more practical application.
 - From the beginning of the exam, the questions will be built around a “prescribed ministry context.” You are no longer asked to state the context you are using but instead must build your responses around this context.
 - A new requirement has been added that asks for “an essay supporting the candidate’s faithful interpretation of the selected biblical passage.” *Be sure that this grows out of your focus statement and work in earlier parts of the exam!*
 - Old exams may not be particularly helpful in preparing for the new exam. Use the sample new exams offered on the PC(USA) website to guide your thinking and preparation for the exams.
- Exams will be graded on a pass/fail basis **only**. Readers will no longer report a score from 0-5 but will instead report whether the response was satisfactory or unsatisfactory.
- The cost for each exam has increased to \$100, with a \$20 discount for PC(USA) inquirers and candidates registering by an early deadline.

Andy’s comment: On the whole, I think these changes will be helpful to those taking the exams. The new Exegesis exam format gives it greater clarity and a more focused direction, removing some of the potential differences among readers and helping to focus on the candidate’s application of the language and the text. The change to pass/fail grading should improve readers’ written feedback without affecting the actual pass/fail rate. And the increased cost is unavoidable.

January 2011

- **No handwritten exams will be accepted.** All exams must be typed, and all responses from readers will also be typed.

August 2011

- The early registration discount for PC(USA) inquirers and candidates will be discontinued. All exams for all inquirers and candidates will cost \$100 per exam.

General

- The Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Examinations has made several preparation tutorials available on its website (<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/prep4min/presbyteries-cooperative-committee-examinations/>). These look to be very helpful.
- Previous Bible Content Examinations are no longer being released. The WhitneyHQ website for these exams is still available with old questions and some new ones.