

Expertise Examination in Biblical Hebrew

Administration:

The examination is set individually for each student. The TST Associate Director, Graduate Studies is responsible for securing an examiner from the OT faculty of TST, based on a request by the student. The Examiner sets the chapters to be studied (see below), the examination itself, and subsequently grades the examination. The examination is administered by GCTS, which sets a date at the request of the student; the examiner provides the examination to GCTS normally one month in advance of the examination date.

Preparation:

The examiner, in consultation with the student, and the student's supervisor (if necessary), sets a list of chapters to be prepared by the student. The list shall consist of a minimum of forty (40) chapters: twenty (20) prose and twenty (20) poetry.

Prose chapters: a minimum of five (5) from what is commonly designated Standard Biblical Hebrew (SBH), and a minimum of five (5) from what is commonly designated Late Biblical Hebrew (LBH).

Poetry chapters: a minimum of five (5) from SBH, and a minimum of five (5) from LBH; as well as both Judges 5 and Exodus 15, commonly designated Early/Archaic Biblical Hebrew.

Examination format:

The examination shall consist of translation, parsing, analysis of poetic features, and analysis of grammar and syntax. It will be a three (3) hour examination, to be completed without a lexicon or any other aid, other than a list of 50 words with basic definitions. A grade of 80% (A-) or higher is required to meet the expertise standard.

Translation: Four (4) passages: two (2) prose and two (2) poetry passages, each of 6-10 verses in length, drawn from the agreed-upon list.

Parsing: From one prose and one poetry passage: parse five (5) designated words from each.

Poetic Features: From the other poetry passage there will be a question about its poetic features (e.g., parallelism, chiasm, mirror pattern, etc.).

Grammar and Syntax: From the other prose passage there will be a question about narrative sequences, which, depending on the passage, may or may not include consecution, disjunction, purpose/result, etc.