CAPITAL Bible Seminary

MABS COMPREHENSIVE EXAM STUDY GUIDE

All students in MABS programs must pass comprehensive examinations as part of graduation requirements. Those who do not pass exams on the first try are given additional opportunity for re-testing. The MABS comprehensive examinations consist of one examination in NT Greek, one in English Bible, and one in systematic theology. The examinations are given in the fall and spring according to the dates on the academic calendar. A minimum score of 70 is expected on each section of the exam. However, a score of 65-69 on one section of the exam will be considered if the average of all sections is 70 or above.

Permitted Helps

Examinations in the NT Greek will require the student to bring an unmarked Greek text and an unmarked non-analytical lexicon.

General Preparation

Preparation may be divided into two different categories; language (practitioner, method oriented, cumulative skills) and the other courses (memorization, detailed content). Do not stay up all night immediately before the examination unless you are so deficient that you can benefit more from almost any mention or suggestion regarding the respective subject than you can from being able to think clearly. Otherwise, get a good night's sleep, eat a nutritionally balanced meal, and in any case pray for yourself and the others taking the examinations.

Greek Section

The examination in NT Greek is to test your basic knowledge and ability to translate and use the minimal exegetical tools necessary for exegesis of the biblical text. The exam generally is similar to the exams in the regular exegetical courses. They require translation, parsing, and have some questions on syntax. Since students use the same exegetical tools in all the exegetical courses, repeatedly translate from the text, and are confronted with the same grammatical constructions throughout the program, little preparation is necessary for those who have done reasonably well in their courses because a lexicon is permitted during the exam.

For those students who have not done well in Greek for whatever the reason, it is possible to help yourself with some specific preparation. Since the lexicon will provide vocabulary, do not spend time on this area. Refresh your parsing skills since this will be necessary both for questions on parsing as well as translation. Practice translation, parsing, and syntax on familiar passages covered in class rather than on new material. This will enable you to avoid spending time in the lexicon, which you should already know how to use and enable you to spend time observing syntax and parsing in a context you can understand. The syntactical constructions upon which the questions are based will in most instances be those that were emphasized in your courses. It will help to practice translating, parsing, and recognizing syntax on these passages. From your observations here you can look up parsing methodology and syntax on those constructions with which you are having difficulty at the time.

It is not only impossible to review the language completely, but it is a waste of valuable preparation time to review the entire language including those aspects you already know. Scan the indexes and the table of contents in a grammar with which you are familiar, preferably the one you used in class. This is not the time to learn new approaches and terminology. From this scanning determine those items that you know were covered, especially those emphasized in class, and which you know are areas of weakness in your case. Spend time refreshing yourself on these.

English Bible Section

For the English Bible Section on the comprehensive exams, thoroughly review your class notes. Focus on major themes, people, and events that were emphasized in class. Review your quizzes and exams from each Bible course.

Theology Section

1. Review all your class notes from theology courses. If you tested out of any theology courses, get a set of notes from someone who took the course.

2. Where you feel that the class notes are not detailed enough, supplement by looking in one- volume theologies (e.g., Ryrie's **Basic Theology**; Berkhof's **Systematic Theology** (revised ed.)).

3. Know all key terms and definitions of those terms as given in class notes.

4. Know the distinctive positions of Capital Bible Seminary (e.g., premillennialism, pretribulationism, Dispensationalism, eternal security, cessationism) and the opposing positions. Be able to state biblical supports for the CBS positions and biblical refutation of opposing positions.

5. Know major passages of Scripture in each area of Systematic Theology and what these passages support.

Study with a friend and ask each other questions. Imagine answering the following kinds of questions: true-false, multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, definitions, listing of arguments and reasons, explanation, discussion. Remember that you need only to pass the exam. But study hard to make sure that you will not be re-taking the exam.