

CHRISTENDOM GRADUATE SCHOOL STUDY GUIDE FOR COMPS EXAM

The following topics, collected from the grad school professors, are treated in the core required courses and in the required courses of the various concentrations. The list is intended to assist students in preparing for the comps exam by reminding them of topics that they may want to review. Not all of these topics are included in the exam, and students will choose questions to answer from a wide choice. Please note that topics listed on the same line and separated by semi-colons are NOT necessarily related: they are grouped thus merely to save space.

SCRIPTURE:

Genesis creation narrative; fall & original sin; the flood; Red Sea crossing; crossing of the Jordan; Babylonian exile; destruction of Jerusalem; Council of Jerusalem; infancy narratives
Terms: sacrifice, Good News, Kingdom of God, Christ, messiah, covenant, titles for Christ
Samaria and the Samaritans; Jewish feasts; religious sects of Judaism; Gnosticism; Exodus themes
Wisdom literature; fulfilled prophecy; prophets; Canon of Scripture
The following "in the Scriptures:" Deity of Christ, Ecclesiology, priesthood, justification, Petrine ministry

CORE THEOLOGY:

INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY (590):

Theology, revelation, tradition, magisterium
Inspiration & inerrancy of Scripture; senses of Scripture, author(s) of Scripture
Faith; development of dogma; hierarchy of truths
Heresy, dissent
Acts of the Magisterium
Church Fathers, St. Thomas Aquinas, Vatican II

GOD THE FATHER:

Doctrines of creation, providence, evil, creaturely freedom
Divine essence, simplicity, transcendence, infinity
Analogy
Development of Trinitarian doctrine: Nicaea, Constantinople, Cappadocian Fathers, Augustine
Trinity; Divine "person;" *ousia, hypostasis, prosopon, perichoresis* (circumincession)
"Economic Trinitarianism"

CHRISTOLOGY:

Nicaea, Ephesus, Chalcedon
Communication of idioms
Human nature of Christ, perfections and defects
Nature and purpose of the union
Sin and salvation

HOLY SPIRIT / ECCLESIOLOGY:

Images of the Church; Mystical Body of Christ; Church & salvation
Heresy, apostasy, schism; bishops & Church unity
Holiness, sanctification, justification
Perfection of charity; states of life; state of perfection
Marian dogmas

MORAL THEOLOGY (604):

End of man; sources of morality; intrinsically evil acts; conscience; natural law; principle of double effect
proportionalism; justification; *Veritatis Splendor*
virtue, various types, esp. theological
sin, grace, and their various types
St. Thomas on law, the types of law, and their relations

PHILOSOPHY (602 & 603):

Soul, sense & intellectual knowledge, organic & non-organic powers, immortality of the human soul,
unity of man, intellect & will, person, freedom & necessity of the will, animal behavior, sense appetites,
proofs of God's existence, ontological proof, existence & essence.
Philosophical errors about man & knowledge, ethics, truth, freedom; influence of philosophical errors on
theology & theological errors; empiricism, rationalism, nominalism, Kantianism, utilitarianism,
positivism, humanism, pragmatism, etc.

SYSTEMATIC CONCENTRATION:

PATRISTICS:

Definition of a 'Church Father', their theological importance
Differences of development, East and West, Greek and Latin
Early Church heresies
Major Fathers on core areas of doctrine: God, Christ, Salvation, Eucharist, Papacy, etc.
Life and main teachings of key Fathers such as Ignatius, Irenaeus, Justin, Athanasius, Tertullian, Cyprian,
Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine, the Cappadocians, Origen, Chrysostom, Cyril of Alexandria, Gregory, Leo,
John Damascene.

CHURCH HISTORY:

Ancient cultures & Christianity; persecution & legalization of Christianity
Formation of the OT and NT canons
Figures: St. Augustine, Constantine, Charlemagne, Galileo, Pius XII
Christendom; 14th century; the Renaissance & Christianity
Protestant Reformation – history, theology, significant figures, Church's response
Enlightenment & French Revolution; "modernity" & the Church's response
Missionaries; monasticism; heresies & councils; Lay investiture; Crusades; Great Schism

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS:

Baptism & salvation; Eucharistic presence; sacraments of healing; parts of Penance;
Three-fold ministry of Christ; hierarchy & laity; ordination of women
Sacramentals; Church as sacrament; Donatism;
The Mass; "active participation;" *Sacrosanctum Concilium*; *Mediator Dei*;
Sacraments in Scripture

MORAL THEOLOGY CONCENTRATION:

THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Personalistic norm; "person" & the Trinity
Deism, Darwin, Descartes, and Kant on man
Genesis; image of God; Christ & humanity
Complementarity of men & women; feminism
Heaven & hell

VIRTUES:

Nature, causes & types of virtue, intellectual vs. moral, acquired vs. infused, infused & theological;
Cardinal virtues, their connection & equality, their relation to other virtues, and their “parts;”
Particular virtues & their vices

SEXUAL & BIOMEDICAL ETHICS:

Ends of marriage; conjugal act & procreation; contraception; periodic continence;
Prophylactic condom use; homosexual “marriage;” *in vitro* fertilization; artificial insemination;
Gamete Intra-fallopian Tube Transfer (“GIFT”)
Sterilization; mutilation; organ removal; organ transplants;
Debates about uterine isolation and embryo rescue/adoption;
Abortion as removal and abortion as killing; craniotomy
Ectopic pregnancy; human embryonic stem cell research;
Ordinary & extraordinary means of preserving life; permanent vegetative state; brain death

SOCIAL TEACHINGS

Subsidiarity & solidarity; the common good, end & authority of the state; private property; just wage;
Rerum Novarum, Quadregesimo anno, Laborem Exercens, Gaudium et Spes;
War & peace; arms race; “same-sex marriage” movement;
Civil law & morality; religious freedom; social justice; capital punishment; immigration

EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS CONCENTRATION:

Classical catechesis; structure of catechisms; Divine pedagogy; RCIA; ancient catechumenate;
senses of Scripture & catechetical methods; hierarchy of truths; *kerygma, didache;*
General Directory for Catechesis, Catechesis Tradendae, Catechism of the Catholic Church, Redemptoris
Missio;

St. Augustine, Clement, the author of the Didache, Ignatius of Antioch, Cyril of Jerusalem;

Evangelization & catechesis as Christocentric & Trinitarian;

Fathers’ images for catechumenal process;

Managing volunteers; policy manual; preparation for interviews;

Stages of evangelization, its relation to catechesis;

Incarnation & catechesis; inculturation in evangelization & catechesis;

Catechetical methods: ecclesial, historical, developmental, apostolic;

History of evangelization & catechesis;

Baptism & the early Church kerygma; modern catechetical crisis;

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS:

Baptism & salvation; Eucharistic presence; sacraments of healing; parts of Penance;

Three-fold ministry of Christ; hierarchy & laity; ordination of women

Sacramentals; Church as sacrament; Donatism;

The Mass; “active participation;” *Sacrosanctum Concilium; Mediator Dei;*

Sacraments in Scripture

APOLOGETICS:

Existence of God; evil; miracles; biblical historicity;

Catholic/Protestant differences on grace, justification & merit

Catholic/Protestant differences on authority (Scripture, tradition, infallibility, doctrinal development)

Marian teachings; Divinity of Christ; Pelagianism; Canon of Scripture; *sola scriptura*
Eucharistic controversies

CONCECRATED LIFE CONCENTRATION:

St. Benedict; St. Thomas; Mendicants; Jesuits

Western monasticism; consecrated life in East & West

Mediator Dei, Lumen Gentium, Perfectae Caritatis, Code of Canon Law

Paschal Mystery; liturgy; religious vows; consecrated virginity; evangelical counsels; perfection of charity; consecration; renewal of religious life; role of religious in the Church, consecrated life in the Scriptures