



CHRISTENDOM GRADUATE SCHOOL STUDY GUIDE FOR COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

The following topics, collected from the Graduate School professors, are treated in the core curriculum and in the required courses for the various concentrations. This list is intended to assist students in preparing for the comprehensive exams by reminding them of topics that they may want to review. Not all of these topics will be included in the exam, and students will have a wide selection of questions to choose from. 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.

CORE THEOLOGY:

SACRED DOCTRINE: PRINCIPLES & MISSION (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 (601):

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 (602):

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 (603):

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

CORE SCRIPTURE (606 & 607):

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 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

CORE PHILOSOPHY (602 & 603):

Nature of Wisdom and of Science; Basic Properties of Concepts and Propositions; First Principles of Human Thought (Identity, Contradiction, Excluded Middle, Sufficient Reason); Concepts of Nature, Form, and Finality; Predicaments (especially Substance vs. Accident, and Primary vs. Secondary Substance); Being, Essence, Existence; The Four Causes; Determinism, Chance, and Freedom; Nature of Change (Potency and Act); Grades of Being in Nature and Man’s Place within the Hierarchy of Being; Concept of Participation; Hylemorphism (Unity of Body and Soul); Existence and Immortality of the Human Soul; Powers of the Soul; Operations of the Mind, Nature of Knowledge, Abstraction, and; Ideogenesis; Human Agency, Freedom, Will; Happiness; Virtue; Natural Law; Proofs for God’s Existence; Nature and; Attributes of God; Existence & Essence; Divine Governance of Creation; Transcendental Properties of Being; Analogy and the Problem of Religious Language; Problem of Universals; Relations; Concept of Personhood; Nominalism and Metaphysical Realism; Crises of Rationalism, Subjectivism, Empiricism, Idealism, Skepticism, Kantianism, Utilitarianism, Positivism; Philosophical errors about man & knowledge, ethics, truth, freedom; influence of philosophical errors on theology & theological errors

SYSTEMATIC CONCENTRATION:

PATRISTICS (712):

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 (610 & 611):

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 (605):

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 (720):

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 (721):

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 (724):

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 (802):

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:

CATECHETICAL TRADITION (602):

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

METHODS OF CATECHESIS & EVANGELIZATION (604):

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 (605):

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 (606):

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