

Biblical Hebrew and Greek Language Examination Instructions for Students

All Biblical Studies students must certify proficiency in their primary biblical language by examination (Hebrew for OT students and Greek for NT students). Students may also use the examination process to certify proficiency in their secondary biblical language (see more information about secondary language proficiency later in this document). All entering Biblical Studies students must take both the Hebrew exam and Greek exam at the time of entrance to the doctoral program, typically offered in August. The August biblical language examinations for entering students help your advisors and the Area, more broadly, determine areas of interest and competency and identify areas where further study is advisable. As a result, the primary purpose of these exams for entering students is diagnostic. It is the case that an entering student with sufficient proficiency can pass a biblical language exam and meet the requirement for that language, though this occurs infrequently. Returning students are expected to pass the exam successfully in their primary language offered in August or January to fulfill the requirement in that language.

Biblical Languages Examinations Procedures

Biblical language examination procedures are the same for entering and returning Biblical Studies students, students in the MABL, or any other GTU students who wish to certify proficiency in a biblical language.

Examination questions from previous years are posted on the GTU website (links are available from the Admissions webpage/Areas of Study/Biblical Studies and from the Students webpage/Protocols/Biblical Studies), and on the Biblical Studies Moodle site. Students are invited to consult previous exams to prepare for this year's exams.

In May, the Admissions office sends emails to new students informing you about the biblical language requirement and August exams, and includes instructions and registration forms.

All students who wish to take the biblical language exam(s) are required to submit the completed registration form and, for Hebrew, Hebrew passages to the Academic Secretary by August 1 (the last day of the fall semester for the January exam). Students are reminded to write legibly on the application if completed by hand.

The **Hebrew Exam** consists of three texts selected by the Hebrew Language Examination Committee from *Biblia Hebraica* that the student translates and comments upon (syntax, parsing, textual notes), two with the aid of a (non-analytical) lexicon. The student works on the third selection without lexical aids. The third text is selected from a list of fifteen chapters (including both prose and poetry) from the *BH* chosen by the student and submitted by August 1. In the event that no list is forwarded, the examination committee will select the third text.

The **Greek Exam** is based on three texts selected by the Greek Language Examination Committee: one from the Septuagint; one from the New Testament as given in *Novum Testamentum Graece* (27th edition); and one from the non-biblical Greek texts. The texts for which the student is responsible are at the end of this document. Note that there are separate lists for Greek as primary and Greek as secondary language. In addition to translation, students are expected to parse some verbs and to comment analytically on approximately six grammatical constructions. Questions on the texts outside the New Testament will not presume or require previous acquaintance of the given texts. Students may make use of a standard (non-analytical) lexicon throughout the examination.

The biblical language exams are on the Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week of general registration each August and January. Students should report to the Academic Secretary on the day of the exam, approximately 15 minutes before the examination start time. The Academic Secretary will meet briefly with all the students to give day-of-examination instructions.

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Students must handwrite the biblical language exams. Students are reminded to write legibly. Each language exam is 3 hours long, typically from 9 a.m. to noon on exam day. Students for whom English is not their first or primary language may have an extra 50% time to complete each language exam (that is, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.).

The Academic Secretary will email a PDF of the students' completed examinations to examiners by the end of day, Friday, of the examination week (i.e. the first week of general registration); she will send a result sheet for each student to the chair of each language to use to report results.

Examiners will complete their reviews and the chair of each language will use each student's result sheet to send examination results to the Academic Secretary by noon, Friday, of the week after the exams, i.e. the second week of general registration. The Academic Secretary will forward result sheets to each student's advisor by 5 pm on that Friday for use during your diagnostic interview.

Biblical Languages – Additional Information

Matriculated doctoral students requiring **secondary proficiency** who do not pass the qualifying examination satisfactorily will enroll in Advanced Hebrew/Greek (or the courses so designated by the Area in a given year). At the end of the semester, students will take an examination as part of the course, graded by the instructor and by the Biblical Languages Committee. Students must earn a grade of B+ or better to satisfy secondary proficiency (certified by the course instructor and by a member of the Biblical Languages Committee). Students must submit a completed "Biblical Language Examination Results Form" to the Academic Secretary for her to use to reflect this accomplishment in your academic file and records.

Matriculated doctoral students requiring **primary proficiency** who do not pass the qualifying examination satisfactorily will enroll in Advanced Hebrew/Greek (fall and spring, or the courses so designated by the Area in a given year). Upon successful completion of these courses (with a grade of A- or better), students should follow the procedures described above to register for and take the biblical language exam. Should students not pass the exam at primary proficiency, after consulting with both examiners, they may petition to retake the exam. Failure to pass the exam a second time, or by the recommendation of the examiners, will necessitate the student taking an additional semester of Advanced Hebrew/Greek and sitting for the exam again.

In each case, the student must submit a completed "Biblical Language Examination Results Form" to the Academic Secretary for her to use to reflect the result in your academic file and records.

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Texts that for which the students are responsible for the Greek Language Examination.

Primary Language

SEPTUAGINT

Genesis 2-6
Exodus 34
1 Samuel (=1 Basileiōn) 2
2 Samuel (=2 Basileiōn) 1; 2
2 Maccabees 9
Proverbs 8-9
Song of Songs (=Asma) 5; 8
Wisdom of Solomon 1-3; 9; 11; 14
Isaiah 40
Amos 5
Habakkuk (=Ambakoum) 3
Isaiah 34-35

NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 5-7
Luke 1-2, 22-24
Acts 17-18
Romans 6; 8
1 Corinthians 12; 15
Galatians
Colossians
Titus
Hebrews 5-7
James
Jude

NON BIBLICAL

Plato: *Apologia Socratis*
Plato: *Respublica* 9. 588 b1–589 b 7
Aristotle: *Rhetorica* 1. 1-3;
Aristotle: *Politeia* 1. 1-2
Aristotle: *De generatione animalium* IV 1.766 a 18 – b
Euripides: *Medea* 1074-1080
Euripides: *Hippolytus* 375-385
Callimachus: *Aetia* 1. 1-2
Epicurus: *Epistula ad Herodotum* 63–64
Diogenes Laërtius: *Vitae Philosophorum* VII
135.1–8
3 Maccabees 5
Aristeas
Didache 9; 10; 14
Joseph and Aseneth 8; 15
Philo: *De Gigantibus* 45-67*
Philo: *Legum Allegoriarum*: 1. 31-42
Philo: *De specialibus legibus* 1. 1–12

Secondary Language

SEPTUAGINT

Genesis 1-2
Deuteronomy 30; 32
Ruth
1 Chronicles (=1 Paraleipomenōn) 16
1 Maccabees 1
Judith 16
Wisdom of Solomon 14
Sirach 24
Ezekiel 36
Susanna [Theodotion]

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5-7
Luke 22-24
John 1-5
Acts 17-18
1 Thessalonians
1 Corinthians 15
Revelation 18-22

NON BIBLICAL

3 Maccabees 5
Shepherd of Hermas, Visions 1-2
Philo: *De vita Mosis* 2. 288*
Philo: *Legum allegoriarum* 1. 31, 39-40
Philo: *De opificio mundi* 139-140
Josephus: *Antiquitates* 14. 205-207*

*Note: references to Philo and Josephus are by book (where relevant) and section, not by book and chapter. Some editions contain both forms of reference.