

American Presbyterian Church
Ordination Examination Questions
2024

The purpose of the ordination examination is to gain an understanding of the candidate's knowledge and beliefs about God, the Bible, ministry, and the Christian life. The examination is also intended to give clear understanding as to the candidate's view of Scripture and source of authority for ministry. The ordination examination should be between 30-60 minutes in length.

A good theological examination should be stimulating and edifying to the whole court. It isn't really to put the person on the spot, but to give opportunity to demonstrate the fullness of his/her heart for the things of God. – Dr. Joseph A. Warner, APC Stated Clerk

The APC Ordination Examination consists of questions regarding the following areas:

- Bible Knowledge
- Doctrine & Theology
- Church History & Church Government
- The Sacraments

Questions for Ordination

Questions that MUST be asked:

1. What do you believe about the Bible?
2. What do you believe about gender and God's creation? How does this impact the cultural issues we face today?
3. What is your understanding of the Cross? What was accomplished on the Cross?
4. What is the great commission? What does it mean to you? How does it impact your life and ministry?

For additional questions choose at least three from each section below.

Bible Knowledge

1. Who does the Bible state Jesus is? What specifically did He come to do?
2. What do you believe about the inerrancy of Scripture?
3. What do you believe about "original sin?"
4. What is "the wages of sin?"
5. When sin came into the world, did it affect all or parts of the will, emotion, and intellect?
6. What does the phrase "Born again" mean?
7. Who enables you to be "Born again?"
8. What is our authority for sharing the gospel with all people?

Doctrine & Theology

1. Is Christianity a monotheistic or polytheistic religion
2. How does Christianity differ from other world religions?
3. What is meant by the "God-Head"? Who does the God-head include?
4. What is the origin of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and Holy Spirit?

5. Was "the Church" in existence in the Old Testament, as well as, in the New Testament?
6. What is "the Church?" How would you define it?
7. Does God have two different peoples (i.e. Israel and The Church) or one people throughout all of history?
8. What does "covenant" represent?
9. What is your understanding of works vs. grace?

Church History & Church Government

1. How was the Biblical Canon developed?
2. Is Christ's sacrifice on the cross sufficient?
3. What does it mean to be a King or Priest according to the New Testament? What does that mean for the believer today?
4. What are the three forms of church government?
5. What is the difference between orthodoxy and neo-orthodoxy?
6. If you were to be listening to a minister preach and he said, "Listen FOR the word of God," what would you interpret his words to mean?
7. How did the Protestant church come into existence?

The Sacraments

1. What is a Sacrament?
2. What are the two sacraments of the Christian Church?
3. Were there any Old Testament sacraments? If so, do we keep them today?
4. Why isn't circumcision a sign & seal today?
5. Do sacraments save us?
6. How would you define the term, "Means of Grace?"
7. What constitutes a candidate for baptism?
8. What are the forms (i.e. modes) of baptism?
9. What is your baptism preference?
10. Should a person ever be re-baptized?
11. In the Presbyterian Church, which forms (i.e. modes) of baptism are acceptable?

BONUS: Practical Ministry Questions

Choose at least two of the situations below and have the candidate walk you through his/her answer to each one.

1. Supposing a family in your congregation experienced a horrible tragedy in their lives (i.e. hurricane, death of a child, etc) and they came to you for counsel, and asked, "Where was God in this?" How would you respond?
2. Let's say you are counseling a husband who has come to you because he is not happy in his marriage and he wants a divorce. You have determined that he does not have biblical grounds for divorce. What are the Biblical grounds for divorce, and how would you counsel him?
3. You find yourself engaged in a friendly conversation with a neighbor about religion, and he comments that "I'm a good Christian person and believe in Jesus, but I think all religions point to God and as long as you believe in God and try to do the right thing, that's all that matters." How

would you respond?

4. Can a person lose their salvation? Why or why not?
5. Let's imagine that you have a scenario of two persons, who (at some point in their lives) have professed their faith in Christ, are in good standing as members of a local church and would say that they are Christians. One of these persons seems to be living a spiritually fruitful life and the other a seemingly unfruitful life. What might be the reasons for the difference? Can both persons have full assurance of salvation?
6. Is the command to honor the Sabbath still relevant today? Why or why not?