Study Guide
For The
Greek Placement Exam

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Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

The purpose of the Greek Placement Exam is to ensure that students have the Greek skills necessary to understand and carry out effective Biblical exegesis both in seminary exegesis classes and in sermon and teaching preparation during their ministries.

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BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE EXAM

- **The Greek Placement Exam is given during Seminary Orientation each August and May.**
  (See below for the differing vocabulary requirements of the Intermediate Greek final exam.)
- Students wishing to take either exam must register with the New Testament Department secretary (269-471-3219) at least one week before the exam is to be given.
- A passing score on the Greek Placement Exam, or a C (65%) in Intermediate Greek, is required of every MDiv student before they can register for the more advanced NT classes and graduate from the seminary.
- The Exam may also be used to fulfill the Greek language requirement for the MA Religion and the PhD/ThD programs.

PREPARING FOR THE EXAM

The Greek Placement Exam will test your knowledge of and ability to use New Testament Greek at the Beginning and Intermediate Levels. Five skill sets are necessary to complete the exam successfully: Vocabulary, Parsing, Syntax, Translation, and Comprehension. These are described in more detail below.

A Greek tutorial, focusing mainly on morphology, is available on the web at: www.andrews.edu/sem/semtech/greek_tutorial. Optional review sessions are offered before the Placement Exam during Seminary Orientation.

1. Vocabulary

- Know the basic meaning of all Greek words used **50 times or more** in the New Testament.
- *(Those taking the Intermediate Greek final exam in July or April must know all words used **30 times or more**.)*

- Don't forget to pay attention to:
  - changes in the meaning of a preposition when followed by a genitive, dative, or accusative.
  - rough breathing marks
- Appropriate word lists may be found in:
  - Metzger, Bruce. *Lexical Aids for Students of New Testament Greek.*
  - Van Voorst, Robert. *Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary.*
  - Trenchard, Warren C. *Complete Vocabulary Guide to the Greek New Testament.*
  - Kubo, Sakae. *A Reader's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Appendix I).

2. Morphology : Parsing Individual Words

- Be able to parse nouns, articles, adjectives, pronouns, and verbs.
  - Nouns (in all three declensions)
    - Case - nominative, genitive, dative, accusative, and vocative
    - Gender - masculine (m), feminine (f), neuter (n)
    - Number - singular, plural
  - Articles
    - Case, Gender, Number
  - Adjectives and Pronouns (in all three declensions)
    - Case, Gender, Number
    - Some pronouns also have 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person forms
  - Verbs (regular and irregular verbs, contract verbs, and -μι verbs)
    - Mood - indicative, subjunctive, imperative
    - Tense - present, aorist, imperfect, perfect, future, pluperfect
    - Voice - active, passive, middle, deponent
    - Person - 1st, 2nd, 3rd
    - Number - singular, plural

- Infinitive - tense, voice
- Participle - tense, voice, case, gender, number
- The test will use the order and abbreviations listed above.
- Not all parsing elements will appear in every parsing question on the exam
- Helpful introductions to parsing may be found in:
  - Richards, W. Larry. *Read Greek in 30 Days (or less).* (available from the Seminary New Testament office or the Andrews University Bookstore)
  - Summers, Ray. *Essentials of New Testament Greek.*
  - Mounce, William D. *Basics of Biblical Greek: Grammar.*

3. Syntax: Relationships Between Words

- Know how to analyze a Greek sentence in order to ascertain how a particular word influences or takes its cue from other words. *For example: 1) Be able to identify the usage and, if necessary, the antecedent of* αὐτός *in a given context.* Or *2) Be able to recognize the types of conditional sentences.*
- Understand the range of possible meanings for:
  - each case of the noun family
  - the article or lack of article
  - each tense, voice, and mood of the verb
  - the infinitive
  - the participle
- Be able to choose the meaning most appropriate to the particular context in which the word is found.
- It is important to understand **each** of the basic syntactical categories of Greek nouns and verbs. Categories dealt with on this exam are based on Daniel B. Wallace's *The Basics of New Testament Syntax* (see list on the back of this booklet).

- While all of the syntactical categories are testable, listed below are a few which differ most from English usage.
  - Nouns
    - Nominative: Predicate, Vocative
    - Genitive: Absolute, Comparison, Subjective, Objective, Dir. Obj.
    - Dative: Possession, Instrumental, Locative, Direct Object
    - Accusative: General Reference, Respect (Reference)
  - Verbs
    - Present Tense: Futuristic, Historical, Tendential (Conative)
    - Future Tense: Imperatival
    - Aorist Tense: Ingressive (Inceptive), Gnomic, Dramatic
    - Imperfect Tense: Tendential/Conative
    - Perfect Tense: Intensive, Dramatic (Aoristic/Historical)
    - Middle Voice: Intensive (Indirect)
    - Subjunctive Mood: Hortatory, Prohibition, Emphatic Negation
    - Infinitives: Time, Result
    - Participles: Imperatival, Attendant Circumstance, Telic (Purpose)
- Because the titles for syntactical categories vary from grammar to grammar, answer options will give a basic description of the category as well as its title. Therefore, understanding the different categories of usage for a particular case, tense, etc. is more important than memorizing terminology.
- Helpful intermediate grammars which address the issues of syntax include:
  - Black, David Alan. *It's Still Greek To Me*.
  - Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*.
  - Greenlee, J. Harold. *A Concise Exegetical Grammar of New Testament Greek*.
  - Brooks, James A. and Carlton L. Winbery. *Syntax of New Testament Greek*.

4. Translation of Greek Phrases, Clauses and Sentences

- Use your knowledge of vocabulary, morphology and syntax to:
  - Translate NT Greek sentences, clauses, or phrases.
  - Choose the best translation for words as required by a particular context. *For example:* ἔρχομαι *may mean "I come" or "I go" depending on the context.*
  - Fill in an implied subject, noun, or verb, as directed by the context. *For example: In some sentences* ειμι *is implied rather than actually provided.*
- Memorization of the most common irregular verbs will greatly enhance ease and accuracy of translation.

- The best way to prepare for the translation portion of the test is to translate. Work at reading as much as possible from the Greek New Testament itself, consulting a lexicon etc. only when you have made your best effort to translate the text on your own. As you go, note what elements you need to review for the future.

5. Comprehension: Integration of Greek Grammar Skills

- Be able to:
  - recognize the implications of one's syntactical analysis;
  - infer conclusions from the Greek passage as a whole.
- Since comprehension questions test your understanding of the theological meaning of one particular phrase or passage currently under examination. Be careful not to answer questions from general theological ideas but only from what the passage itself indicates.

TAKING THE EXAM

Two hours will be allowed to complete the exam, which will consist of 40 multiple choice questions. Your answers are to be recorded on a computer-graded score card, so **bring a couple of HB pencils with good erasers** for filling in the circles. No other materials are necessary (or allowed) in the exam. Blank scrap paper will be provided for those who desire it. All test materials are to be turned in at the end of the exam.

The exam will consist of a series of unidentified New Testament passages followed by questions regarding the vocabulary, parsing, syntax, translation, and comprehension of

elements found with the passage. (Definitions for lexical forms used less than 50 times will be provided.) The passages will be taken only from the New Testament, excluding Hebrews, 1 & 2 Peter, and Jude.

The Greek Placement Exam may be taken **only once during a student's first year at Seminary**, plus as the final exam when taking NTST552 Intermediate Greek. If a student has taken the examination these two times and has not passed at the intermediate level or has not obtained a grade of C or higher in NTST552, then NSTS552 must be repeated.

UNDERSTANDING THE EXAM RESULTS

Exam scores will be reported in the form of percentages.
- A score of 60% or better demonstrates that a student has the Greek skills necessary to proceed directly to the appropriate New Testament exegesis and theology classes.
- Students scoring between 45% and 59% will need to take Intermediate Greek to enhance their skills before they will be able to complete their New Testament exegesis and theology requirements.
- Students scoring below 45% need to take both Beginning and Intermediate Greek in order to be prepared for their New Testament exegesis and theology requirements.
- PhD students must score at least a 67% for entrance into the program and an 85% for entrance into the New Testament program. If they do not score the appropriate percentage, they must take Beginning and/or Intermediate Greek and pass with at least a B+.

This study guide applies only to the Greek Placement Exam. The Intermediate Greek Final Exam has slightly different requirements.

SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

The following sample questions are simplified for illustration purposes. On the actual Placement Exam, the various types of questions will be intermingled and will be based on longer passages from a variety of New Testament books.

Sample Morphology Questions
ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· αὕτη ἡ ἀσθένεια οὐκ ἔστιν πρὸς θάνατον ἀλλ' ὑπὲρ τῆς δόξης τοῦ θεοῦ, ἵνα δοξασθῇ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ θεοῦ δι' αὐτῆς. ἠγάπα δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν Μάρθαν καὶ τὴν ἀδελφὴν αὐτῆς καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον. ⁶ ὡς οὖν ἤκουσεν ὅτι ἀσθενεῖ, τότε μὲν ἔμεινεν ἐν ᾧ ἦν τόπῳ δύο ἡμέρας
Words used less than 50 times in the NT:
ἀσθενέω be sick or ill; be weak
ἀσθένεια, ας f weakness (of any sort); illness

1. What is the correct parsing for ἀκούσας?
   a. Future active indicative, 2nd person singular
   b. Aorist active imperative, 2nd person singular
   c. Nominative feminine noun
   d. Aorist active participle, nominative masculine

2. The mood of δοξασθη is:
   a. Indicative
   b. Imperative
   c. Subjunctive
   d. Optative

3. The case and number for ἡμέρας is:
   a. Accusative plural
   b. Nominative plural
   c. Genitive singular
   d. Accusative singular

Sample Syntax Questions

Ἀπεκρίνατο οὖν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, οὐ δύναται ὁ υἱὸς <u>ποιεῖν</u> ἀφ᾽ ἑαυτοῦ οὐδὲν ἐὰν μή τι βλέπῃ τὸν πατέρα ποιοῦντα· ἃ γὰρ ἂν ἐκεῖνος ποιῇ, ταῦτα καὶ ὁ υἱὸς ὁμοίως ποιεῖ. ὁ γὰρ πατὴρ φιλεῖ τὸν υἱὸν καὶ πάντα δείκνυσιν αὐτῷ <u>ἃ αὐτὸς ποιεῖ</u>, καὶ <u>μείζονα τούτων</u> δείξει αὐτῷ ἔργα, ἵνα ὑμεῖς θαυμάζητε.

Words used less than 50 times in the NT:
φιλέω love, have deep feeling for
δείκνυμι (fut. δείξω; aor. ἔδειξα, impv. δεῖξον; aor. pass. ptc.
    δειχθείς) show, point out; reveal, explain; prove
θαυμάζω marvel, wonder, be amazed

4. The function of <u>ποιεῖν</u> in the sentence is to:
   a. Give more information about υἱὸς
   b. Indicate the purpose of the main verb
   c. Indicate the result of the main verb
   d. Complete the idea of the verb

5. In <u>ἃ αὐτὸς ποιει</u>, αὐτὸς refers to:
   a. the Father
   b. the Son
   c. both the Father and the Son
   d. an impersonal subject

6. In <u>μείζονα τούτων</u>, τούτων is best translated:
   a. of these
   b. from these
   c. than these
   d. on these

Sample Translation Questions

Καὶ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ τρίτῃ γάμος ἐγένετο ἐν Κανὰ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, <u>καὶ ἦν ἡ μήτηρ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐκεῖ</u>· <u>ἐκλήθη δὲ καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν γάμον</u>. καὶ <u>ὑστερήσαντος οἴνου λέγει ἡ μήτηρ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ</u> πρὸς αὐτόν· οἶνον οὐκ ἔχουσιν.

Words used less than 50 times in the NT:
γάμος, ου m wedding, wedding feast or celebration
ὑστερέω lack, have need of, fall short of

7. The best translation of <u>καὶ ἦν ἡ μήτηρ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐκει</u> is:
   a. and the mother of Jesus is there
   b. and the mother of Jesus was there
   c. and the mother of Jesus had arrived
   d. and behold, the mother of Jesus came

8. How would <u>ἐκλήθη δὲ καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν γάμον</u> best be translated?
   a. But Jesus left his disciples and went into the wedding
   b. But even Jesus and his disciples went to the wedding
   c. And Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding
   d. Jesus and the disciple whom he loved went to the wedding

9. The best translation of <u>ὑστερήσαντος οἴνου λέγει ἡ μήτηρ τοῦ Ἰησου</u> is:
   a. The mother of Jesus said concerning wine that ran out
   b. The mother said to Jesus concerning the wine that ran out
   c. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said,
   d. The mother of Jesus said, "The wine has run out."

E. Application

᾿Απεκρίνατο οὖν ὁ ᾿Ιησοῦς καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, οὐ δύναται ὁ υἱὸς ποιεῖν ἀφ' ἑαυτοῦ οὐδὲν <u>ἐὰν μή τι βλέπῃ</u> τὸν πατέρα ποιοῦντα· ἃ γὰρ ἂν ἐκεῖνος ποιῇ, ταῦτα καὶ ὁ υἱὸς ὁμοίως ποιεῖ. ὁ γὰρ πατὴρ φιλεῖ τὸν υἱὸν καὶ πάντα δείκνυσιν αὐτῷ ἃ αὐτὸς ποιεῖ, καὶ μείζονα τούτων δείξει αὐτῷ ἔργα, ἵνα ὑμεῖς θαυμάζητε.

Words used less than 50 times in the NT:

φιλέω love, have deep feeling for

δείκνυμι (fut. δείξω; aor. ἔδειξα, impv. δεῖξον; aor. pass. ptc. δειχθείς) show, point out; reveal, explain; prove

θαυμάζω marvel, wonder, be amazed

10. In the clause <u>ἐὰν μή τι βλέπῃ</u>..., τι refers to:
    e. The work of the Holy Spirit
    f. The work of the Father
    g. The work of the Son
    h.   τι in this case is a particle that cannot be translated

Exam Key: 1-d; 2-c; 3-a; 4-d; 5-a; 6-c; 7-b;8-c; 9-c; 10-b

Essential Syntax Categories
(based on Wallace's *Basics of New Testament Syntax*)

Nominative Nouns
- ☐ *Subject*
- ☐ *Predicate Nominative*
- ☐ *Nominative Absolute*
- ☐ *Nominative for Vocative*

Genitive Nouns
- ☐ *Possessive Genitive*
- ☐ *Descriptive Genitive*
- ☐ *Genitive of Relationship*
- ☐ *Partitive Genitive*
- ☐ *Subjective Genitive*
- ☐ *Objective Genitive*
- ☐ *Genitive Absolute*
- ☐ *Genitive after Certain Verbs (as a Direct Object)*
- ☐ *Genitive of Apposition*
- ☐ *Genitive of Comparison*
- ☐ *Genitive of Time*
- ☐ *Genitive after Certain Prepositions*

Dative Nouns
- ☐ *Dative of Indirect Object*
- ☐ *Dative of Means/Instrument*
- ☐ *Dative of Sphere*
- ☐ *Dative of Time*
- ☐ *Dative of Possession*
- ☐ *Dative Direct Object*
- ☐ *Dative of Reference/Respect*
- ☐ *Dative of Interest (Advantage/ Disadvantage)*
- ☐ *Dative after Certain Prepositions*

Accusative Nouns
- ☐ *Accusative Direct Object*
- ☐ *Double Accusative*
- ☐ *Accusative of Measure (Time, etc.)*
- ☐ *Accusative Subject of Infinitive*
- ☐ *Accusative after Certain Prepositions*

Articles
- ☐ *Granville Sharp Rule*
- ☐ *Colwell's Rule*

Imperatives
- ☐ *Imperative of Command*
- ☐ *Imperative of Prohibition*
- ☐ *Imperative of Request*

Subjunctive Mood
- ☐ *Hortatory Subjunctive*
- ☐ *Prohibitive Subjunctive*
- ☐ *Deliberative Subjunctive*
- ☐ *Subjunctive of Emphatic Negation*
- ☐ *ἵνα + Subjunctive*
- ☐ *Subjunctive in Conditional Sentences*

Aorist Indicative
- ☐ *Constative Aorist*
- ☐ *Ingressive Aorist*
- ☐ *Culminative Aorist*
- ☐ *Gnomic Aorist*
- ☐ *Epistolary Aorist*
- ☐ *Immediate Past/Dramatic Aorist*

Present Indicative
- ☐ *Progressive Present*
- ☐ *Extending-From-Past Present*
- ☐ *Iterative Present*
- ☐ *Conative Present*
- ☐ *Historical Present*
- ☐ *Futuristic Present*

Imperfect Indicative
- ☐ *Progressive Imperfect*
- ☐ *Iterative Imperfect*
- ☐ *Conative Imperfect*
- ☐ *Ingressive/Inceptive Imperfect*

Perfect Indicative
- ☐ *Intensive/Resultative Perfect*
- ☐ *Extensive/Consummative Perfect*

Future Indicative
- ☐ *Predictive Future*
- ☐ *Imperatival Future*
- ☐ *Deliberative Future*

Infinitives
- ☐ *Complementary Infinitive*
- ☐ *Infinitive of Time*
- ☐ *Infinitive of Purpose*
- ☐ *Infinitive of Result*
- ☐ *Causal Infinitive*
- ☐ *Epexegetical Infinitive*
- ☐ *Inf. of Indirect Discourse*
- ☐ *Subject Infinitive*

Participles
- ☐ *Adjectival Participle (Attributive, Predicate, Substansival)*
- ☐ *Adverbial Participle (Temporal, Cause, Purpose, Condition, Concession, Means)*
- ☐ *Imperatival Participle*
- ☐ *Periphrastic Participle*
- ☐ *Participle of Attendant Circumstances*

Conditional Sentences
- ☐ *First Class: Assumed True*
- ☐ *Second Class: Contrary to Fact*
- ☐ *Third Class: Probable or Future*