



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Applied Theology/Missiology (Int'l Missiology Track) Entrance Exam Study Guide

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Applied Theology will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

Part 1 (the morning session) will assess readiness for work in Applied Theology generally. You will have some choice concerning which questions to answer, but it is understood that you will answer all questions in your anticipated area of specialization: Missions, Evangelism, or Preaching.

Part 2 (the afternoon session) will assess readiness for advanced work in your area of concentration. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Relevance and Argumentation

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Students should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

Writing Mechanics

- Student's responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Awareness of Relevant Scholarship

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

Part 1 (Area): Applied Theology

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Zondervan, 2001.

Carson, Donald and John Woodbridge, eds. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1988.

Hesselgrave, David and Edward Rommen. *Contextualization: Meaning, Methods, and Models*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1989.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology*, 4th edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper, 1975 paper.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1991.

Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2006.

Part 2 (Concentration): Missiology: International Missiology Track

Farhadian, Charles. *Introducing World Religions: A Christian Engagement* (2015).

Hammett, John. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches*. 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2019.

Jenkins, Philip. *The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South*. Oxford Press, 2006.

Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. 2d. ed. Vol. 6 of *The Penguin History of the Church*. New York: Penguin, 1986.

Ott, Craig & Gene Wilson. *Global Church Planting: Biblical Principles and Best Practices for Multiplication*. Baker Academic, 2011.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2006.

Questions:

1. In theological, philosophical and historical terms, evaluate the impact that contrasting views of the authority of Scripture might have on faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, on moral conviction and practice, and on missionary enterprise and evangelism.
2. Discuss the relation between theology and culture. Show awareness of different models and provide a critical analysis of the alternatives you identify. Then assess the importance of personal experience and cultural pluralism for theological scholarship.
3. Explain and give a defense of the guiding principles for biblical interpretation.
4. Trace and explain the path from biblical text to sermon.
5. Compare and contrast two views of the church, Roman Catholic and Baptist. Show how these two understandings of the church not only conflict with one another, but also lead to divergent understandings of evangelism and missions.
6. Describe the unique challenges inherent in cross-cultural communication giving implications for evangelism, disciple making and preaching.
7. Define the term missional and discuss the principles of missional church planting in a diverse multi-cultural context.
8. Is there a basis for global mission activity found throughout the Bible? Justify your answer by developing texts, motifs, and patterns from both the Old and New Testaments.
9. Define the concept of contextualization, showing an awareness of different models or approaches for contextualization, and providing your own critical analysis of various models.
10. How would you equip Christ-followers from the Global South to plant reproducing churches among the unreached? Outline what steps or stages you think should be involved. Demonstrate awareness of the research, strategic decision-making, and communication skills one would need to complete such a task. Feel free to illustrate where applicable, drawing from your own experience or from the experience of others you know.
11. Select one of the following world religions/worldviews: Animism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Naturalism/Atheism. Summarize the main tenets of this religion/worldview, compare it to Christianity, and demonstrate that it is a false system of salvation.
12. Describe the rise of the modern missions movement, beginning with William Carey. Along the way, highlight and provide a critical analysis of major themes, trends, and personalities.

13. Describe how the concept of *imago Dei* relates to spiritual formation and disciple making application in the life of the minister and in their context.