

**Guidelines for Administering and Scoring  
Graduating Class (Grade 11) Exam**

1. This exam is a **requirement** for graduation along with your own school's attendance, participation, and service requirements.
2. In Part I, *Armenian Christian Literacy*, there are 100 questions for which there is only one right answer. Each correct answer is worth one point. (Answers are on pages 3-5.)
3. Part II, the *Essay Questions* section, consists of ten (10) questions from which students must select five (5) to answer. Guidelines for answers are included here. This is a pass/fail section. If a student answers poorly, it would be a good idea to review the questions together. If the answers are outstanding, you might want to give extra credit to Part I.
4. Part III, *Prayer Recitation* and *Bible Memorization*, is pass/fail, with pass indicated by a recitation with few mistakes.
5. Two-three days should be set aside for this final exam; one day for Part I, the short answer; one day for Part II, the Essay section; if Prayer Recitation and Bible Memorization cannot be managed on one of these days, a third day might be necessary.
6. A score of 70 is passing. A score of 90 and above is "passing with distinction." Both students and parents should be given exam results.

# Sunday School Graduation Exam

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF EXAM \_\_\_\_\_

## PART I – Armenian Christian Literacy

Record below the number of correct responses in each section:

- A. The Bible \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Prayer \_\_\_\_\_
- C. The Feasts \_\_\_\_\_
- D. The Sacraments \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Special People of the Church/History \_\_\_\_\_
- F. The Divine Liturgy \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Our Lord Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of correct responses in Part I:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PART II – Essay Questions**      \_\_\_\_\_ Pass                      \_\_\_\_\_ Fail

## PART III – Prayer Recitation/Bible Memorization

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Pass                      \_\_\_\_\_ Fail
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Pass                      \_\_\_\_\_ Fail
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Pass                      \_\_\_\_\_ Fail
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Pass                      \_\_\_\_\_ Fail
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Pass                      \_\_\_\_\_ Fail
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ Pass                      \_\_\_\_\_ Fail

**Sunday School Graduation Exam  
ANSWER SHEET: PART I**

**THE BIBLE**

- 1-8. O, N, O, N, O, N, N, O
- 9. Hebrew
- 10. Greek
- 11. Acts
- 12-13 Jeremiah, Isaiah
- 14. Wisdom literature
- 15. d.
- 16-21. T, T, T, F, T, F

**PRAYER**

- 1-4. F, T, F, F
- 5-8 wisdom, think, speak, do
- 9. St. Gregory of Narek
- 10. Psalms
- 11. Our Father

**THE FEASTS**

- 1. Pentecost
- 2. Easter
- 3. Transfiguration
- 4. Christmas
- 5. Assumption
- 6-9. Poon Paregentan, The Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Fasting, Closed curtain during Badarak
- 10. Easter

## **THE SACRAMENTS**

1. Marriage
2. Baptism
3. Prayers for the Sick
4. Holy Communion
5. Penance
- 6-10. T, F, T, T, F
11. Baptism
12. Communion, Baptism, Matrimony
13. Matrimony
14. Baptism
15. Baptism
16. Baptism (Matrimony is also correct)

## **SPECIAL PEOPLE OF THE CHURCH/HISTORY**

- 1-5. 3, 1, 4, 2, 5
6. 2015
7. c
8. b
9. f
10. e
11. d
12. a

## **THE DIVINE LITURGY**

1. E
2. S
3. E
4. S
5. E
6. S
7. E
8. S
9. And with your spirit.
10. Before you, O Lord
11. Christ is revealed

## **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

- 1-7. 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-F, 5-T, 6-T, 7-F
- 8. Jesus grew up here.
- 9. Jesus was born here.
- 10. Jesus was crucified here.
- 11. Jesus prayed to the Father in this garden before he was arrested.
- 12. Jesus was baptized in this river by his cousin John.
- 13-16. 13-c, 14-d, 15-a, 16-b
- 17-19. b, e, f

### **Guidelines for Scoring Part II – Essay Questions**

1. Answer will be subjective, but look for specificity and clarity.
2. Answer will be subjective, but look for specificity and clarity.
3. Accept all reasonable answers. Look for: Prayer is a conversation with God, ongoing relationship, a dialogue. It is about sharing feelings and hopes, fears and worries, good times and bad, just as we would with a best friend. It is about speaking, but also silence. It is about listening to God answer us, not necessarily in words but in other people, events, situations, instincts. Prayer is not a wish-list we present to God but, rather, it is getting to know God and what he wants for us. As a means of getting to know God, prayer is a life-long exercise. It is an exercise we can carry out alone or with others in the great prayer of the Church-the Divine Liturgy. Prayer involves thanking, praising, confession, hoping, asking, complaining, and even whining. God responds to all prayer. We just have to be listening.
4. Accept all reasonable answers. Look for: people who truly live their faith, devoting their lives or even sacrificing their lives for their belief in Jesus. A saint is someone who thinks, speaks and does that which pleases God and witnesses to God's mercy in service to the world. Often saints are acknowledged by the Church and officially canonized. In Scripture, all Christians were referred to as saints. Sainly qualities should indicate a clear understanding of what the saints did. This could be different things to different people but they should be on target. For example: St. Santookht refused worldly success in favor of a life and ultimately martyrdom for God even standing up to the disapproval of her powerful father. St. Vartan's military leadership witnessed to his courage and determination in championing Christ; St. Nersess devoted his life to God through his ordination; as

Catholicos he led and served his people, writing prayers, hymns, and many other works, permanently impacting the character of the Armenian Church.

5. **Christmas:** The Armenian Church celebrates both the birth and baptism of Jesus, events separated by approximately 30 years, on January 6 (Armenian Christmas). **Easter:** The resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross** – This is observed on the Sunday nearest September 14. On the day of the feast there is a procession and blessing of the fields (antasdan), popularly referred to as the blessing of the four corners of the world. Derives from two events: At the Church of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, built over the place where Jesus was crucified, a relic of the cross would be venerated in an annual ceremony. Also, in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, the Emperor Heraclius liberated the cross from Persian control in Jerusalem and exalted it, including in Armenia, as the army traveled home. **Transfiguration.** This is a variable feast that can fall anytime between June 28 and August 1. Jesus was changed and made radiant when he went up Mt. Tabor with his disciples Peter, James and John (Mark 9:2-10; Matthew 17:1-9 and Luke 9:28-36). Some customs of an ancient Armenian pagan festival for the goddess Asdghig are still associated with this feast, such as decorating the church with roses or flowers and spraying one another with water. **Assumption of Mary.** The Armenian Church celebrates this feast on the Sunday nearest August 15. It commemorates the taking up into heaven (assumption) of Mary at her death. Tradition relates that she lived another fifteen years after our Lord's crucifixion. St. Bartholomew, the only apostle absent from Jerusalem when Mary died, asked to visit her tomb upon his return a short while after she was buried. When the tomb was unsealed, her body was gone and the angels were heard singing for three days and three nights. The blessing of grapes is associated with this feast day. Grapes are the first fruit of the harvest, just as St. Mary was the first true apostle and witness of the new covenant as the "mother/bearer of God" or Asdvadzadzin. Grapes are also made into the wine of Holy Communion.

6. The two great commandments are: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." Loving God completely and valuing others as highly as you value yourself would mean that you would engage in all the good and none of the harms outlined in the commandments.

7. Answer will be subjective but look for clear knowledge of what these dates mean.

8. a. The widow of Nain. Being a widow, this woman had no male protector at a time when that was important; she was also alone in grieving the loss of her child. This was her only son; in Biblical times he would have become his mother's protector and support. Jesus felt deeply sorry for her (v.13) and brought her son back to life. How overjoyed she must have been! How grateful!

b. The Disciples. The disciples were terrified when a storm blew up on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was sleeping. They woke him in fear for their lives and asked for his help. Jesus scolded them for

their lack of faith and immediately calmed the storm. They saw their Lord now commanding nature. They were amazed at a power and strength that even the winds and waves obeyed. This must certainly have impressed them, adding to their growing understanding of “what kind of man this was” (v.27).

c. Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector. As such he was an enemy of the Jewish people since tax collectors illegally profited by demanding more than the Romans required. And yet he sought Jesus out, going to the trouble of climbing a tree to see him as he passed through the town. When Jesus saw this effort and faith, he commended him, even wishing to visit his home. *Zacchaeus tells* us how Jesus’ loving welcome affected him – he declared he would give his half his possessions to the poor and pay back anything he wrongly took four times over!

9. a. The Parable of the Prodigal Son.

- A father grants his younger son’s wish for his share of the inheritance. The son goes off and spends it all on idle pleasures, ending up a poor man tending pigs. He returns to his father, genuinely contrite, and asks for and receives forgiveness. His older brother is not happy that his brother has been so readily received back. But his father reassures him of his enduring love for the older son.
- What is God’s love and forgiveness like? What do we need to do to be forgiven?
- God is eager to accept us and awaits our “return” whenever we stray. We should never hesitate to turn to God. It is natural to feel like the older brother and be self-righteous about doing the right thing. But God’s forgiveness and love knows no limits and we should all rejoice in that.

b. Parable of the Good Samaritan.

- A man traveling from Jerusalem on a dangerous road is attacked by robbers and left to die. A priest and Levite (both religious officials) pass him without helping. But a Samaritan, considered inferior by the Jews, stopped to help with great effort and generosity.
- Who is my neighbor? How should I treat my neighbor?
- Everyone is our neighbor. We should treat that person as we would want to be treated, for in this person is Christ himself. We should reach out in love to all in need as Christ did in his time.

c. The Parable of the Persistent Widow

- Jesus told this parable as an example to the disciples to always pray and not give up (v.1). A defenseless widow kept badgering an arrogant judge to grant her justice. He kept refusing

until, exhausted by her persistence, he granted her justice. Jesus declares that in even a greater way, God will champion those who seek him relentlessly.

- How should I pray? Will God answer me?
- We should always pray, being persistent and constant, because God *will* respond. We need to be listening and understand his way; that understanding comes through prayer as well.

10. This answer is personal. Feel free to discuss further with the student when you review the exam.



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