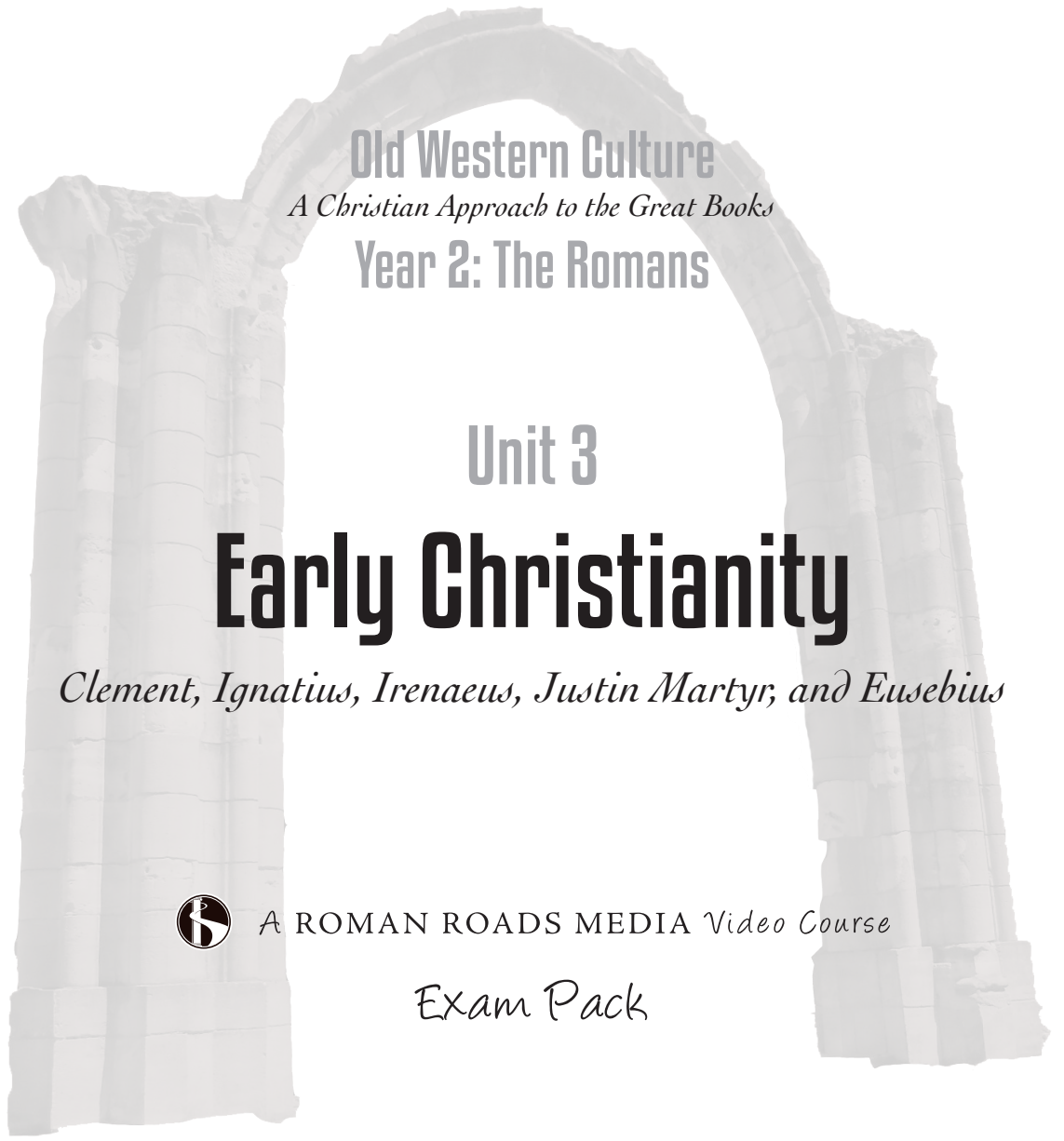




Old Western Culture

A Christian Approach to the Great Books

Year 2: The Romans

Unit 3

Early Christianity

Clement, Ignatius, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, and Eusebius



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA Video Course

Exam Pack

Please Note: This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.
Download the latest revision at www.RomanRoadsPress.com.



Early Christianity

Exam A

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What significant changes occurred in the Roman Empire during the century leading up to Christ? (10 pts.)

2. How did the Roman Empire prepare the world for the coming of Christ and the rapid spread of Christianity? (12 pts.)

3. What main themes does the *Didache* talk about? (10 pts.)

4. How did the third century differ from the second century in the Roman Empire? What was one of the significant contributors to this difference? (10 pts.)

5. What did the Docetists teach? To what other heresy is Docetism related? (10 pts.)



6. According to Justin Martyr, what was the pattern of typical Sunday worship? (8 pts.)

7. According to the Gnostics, what is the purpose of salvation and how does one achieve that goal? (10 pts.)

8. Throughout *Exhortation to the Greeks*, how does Clement contrast the pagans gods' character and approach to men with God's character and approach to men? (10 pts.)

9. How was Eusebius different from all previous Greek and Roman historians? (10 pts.)

10. What changed radically for Christians when Constantine gained control of the Roman Empire? (10 pts.)

EXTRA CREDIT

11. What does the first letter of Clement show us about the early church? (5 pts.)

12. What is Ignatius's main concern about himself in all his letters? (5 pts.)



Early Christianity

Exam B

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. On what grounds can we reasonably suppose Christianity to have reached even the farthest corners of the Roman Empire by the end of the first century? (10 pts.)

2. Why should Christians study Roman history and culture? (10 pts.)

3. What were the distinctives of the main three Jewish religious parties at the time of Christ? (10 pts.)

4. What main themes does the *Didache* talk about? (10 pts.)

5. How did the third century differ from the second century in the Roman Empire? What was one of the significant contributors to this difference? (10 pts.)

6. What is the Greek concept of *logos*? How does Justin Martyr develop this idea in relation to both Christianity and the Greek philosophers? (12 pts.)



7. According to the Gnostics, what is the purpose of salvation and how does one achieve that goal? (10 pts.)

8. Which apostle did Christians in India claim first evangelized them? Why is this a plausible tradition? (8 pts.)

9. How was Eusebius different from all previous Greek and Roman historians? (10 pts.)

10. What changed radically for Christians when Constantine gained control of the Roman Empire? (10 pts.)

EXTRA CREDIT

11. According to tradition, Polycarp was a disciple of which apostle? Why is that plausible? (5 pts.)

12. How did Clement's use of the Orpheus myth differ from other early Christians' use of it? (5 pts.)

NOTES FOR PARENT OR TEACHER

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the student answer all questions in full sentences.
- Exam should take 45 to 90 minutes. Do not allow more than 2 hours.
- Feel free to allow the student more paper, or to type the answers on a computer.
- This is a closed-book exam. If typing the answers, no Internet access allowed.

POINT SYSTEM

This exam consists of ten questions, valued at 8–12 points each, for a total of 100 points.

Two extra credit questions are worth 5 points each. If a student answers correctly to all questions, as well as the bonus questions then he or she will have scored 110%. Partial credit (e.g., 5/10 points) may be given if the student correctly answers part of the question, but misses some important elements. Points lost on the main exam can be recouped by answering the bonus questions correctly.

HOW TO GRADE

Because the exam consists of essay questions, it will be both harder to answer and harder to grade compared to multiple choice exams. However, it allows the student to think through what he has learned in a deeper and more meaningful way and aids in long-term retention and more useful application. For example, you will find that a student who is required to answer essay questions will more easily integrate what he has learned into his general knowledge and able to use it in informal conversation.

Since these are not multiple choice, *answers will vary*. This answer key provides sample correct responses for each question, but it is very possible that a varying answer may still be correct. If you have followed along with the video and interacted with your student throughout the term, you should be able to determine if a certain variation on the answer is a correct one. If you are truly not sure, sit down with your student and figure out the correct answer together. You can also submit questions via “Ask Mr. C” by sending an email to AskMrC@romanroadsmedia.com. We may respond by email or by a public video response if we feel this is a question many students would benefit in hearing more about.

Also, we purposefully created short and concise answers in this answer key. We expect most student answers to be longer, though this is not a requirement. Many of these questions could be an entire paper topic, and we would encourage students display as much of their knowledge as they can on the paper. This is also why we encourage parents or teacher to allow the student to type out the answers.



HOW TO STUDY FOR THE TEST

Have your student read through his or her notes from throughout the term as general preparation, as well as study the answers from the daily worksheets. These questions will be familiar to the student who has worked through all questions in their workbook.

THE A AND B EXAMS

This course includes two exams, designated A and B. Although there is some overlap, most of the questions will be different, but equivalent. These tests may be used in a couple of ways. One way is to use exam A as a practice exam, open or closed book, and exam B as the graded, closed-book exam. Exam B could also be used as a “second chance” exam if exam A didn’t go as well as the student had hoped.

There is flexibility here, and the parent or teacher is free to choose how to use the extra exam.

“MY STUDENT IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING 100%!”

This can prove a frustration with essay exams. One thing to watch out for is that there *is* variation in correct answers. Read the “How to Grade” note in the previous page for more information on this.

Another issue is that we have culturally grown accustomed to 100% being the norm for a “good student” and believe that less than 100% indicates a crucial deficiency. But 100% in the classical Latin system is “SCL” (*Summa Cum Laude*), which means “with highest praise.” In the Latin system of grading, SCL is reserved for the student who goes beyond the call of duty, and often even teaches the teacher something. In a system where “good” is 100%, going beyond the call of duty is not incentivized, and good students do not progress. So do not worry if your student gets an 85% —in the Latin system that’s a CH, or *Cum Honore*, with honor —and should be received as such.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at questions@romanroadsmedia.com. We love to hear from our parents and teachers, and look forward to serving you in any way possible!



Early Christianity Exam A Answer Key

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What significant changes occurred in the Roman Empire during the century leading up to Christ? (10 pts.)

During the first century BC, the Roman world was torn apart by civil wars between generals fighting for complete control of the empire. The civil wars finally concluded when Caesar Augustus restored peace, but at the cost of the republican form of government, as he established himself as emperor.

2. How did the Roman Empire prepare the world for the coming of Christ and the rapid spread of Christianity? (12 pts.)

The Roman Empire facilitated the establishment of Christianity both practically and idealistically. A common language made it easy for the apostles to preach the gospel across the empire, while safe and easy travel on well built roads and a common currency made it easier for the apostles to travel from city to city. The idea of Rome as the bringer of world peace, the city that would be the salvation of the world, sowed the seeds of hope for a true Messiah and His kingdom of eternal peace.

3. What main themes does the *Didache* talk about? (10 pts.)

The *Didache* expounds on two main themes. First, it talks about how to live a godly life on a personal level, giving particular instructions to the believer on what it means to pursue Christ and live righteously. Second, it provides guidelines for church practices such as baptism, fasting, the Eucharist, and choice of leaders.

4. How did the third century differ from the second century in the Roman Empire? What was one of the significant contributors to this difference? (10 pts.)

While the second century is marked by peace and stability, the third century is characterized by instability. Emperors are regularly assassinated or commit suicide, leading to rapid changes in power. The Praetorian Guard, an organized army unit within the city limits of Rome and expressly loyal to one man, contributed to this instability, as they were regularly used to overthrow emperors.

5. What did the Docetists teach? To what other heresy is Docetism related? (10 pts.)

The Docetists taught that Christ only appeared to come in the flesh and only appeared to die, but was not actually incarnate or crucified. They taught this because they believed that matter is evil, which is a Gnostic idea.



6. According to Justin Martyr, what was the pattern of typical Sunday worship? (8 pts.)

On Sunday, Christians gather together to listen to God's Word, either from the Old Testament or the New Testament, read aloud. The leader then exhorts the congregation to faithfully follow the principles in the Scripture reading. Everybody then stands and prays together before partaking of the Eucharist. Finally, the congregation contributes offerings to care for the needy.

7. According to the Gnostics, what is the purpose of salvation and how does one achieve that goal? (10 pts.)

Because the Gnostics denied the goodness of created matter, the goal of salvation was to separate the spirit from the flesh, to escape the material world, rather than to redeem creation. This separation could only be attained through a secret, hidden knowledge obtained from the Gnostic teachers.

8. Throughout *Exhortation to the Greeks*, how does Clement contrast the pagans gods' character and approach to men with God's character and approach to men? (10 pts.)

The stories and worship of the pagan gods are full of cruelty, death, and immoral behavior, while God seeks to bring men to salvation, yearning over them as a gentle Father. Even His harsh words of judgment are intended to bring men to repentance and life.

9. How was Eusebius different from all previous Greek and Roman historians? (10 pts.)

Eusebius was the first writer to interpret history through a Christian lens. While this is something we take for granted after 1,700 years of practice, he was breaking new ground.

10. What changed radically for Christians when Constantine gained control of the Roman Empire? (10 pts.)

From the birth of the church until Constantine, Christians had lived constantly under the threat of persecution. The Edict of Milan marked the first time that Christianity was tolerated, allowing Christians to live and worship freely without fear. They were understandably overjoyed.

EXTRA CREDIT

11. What does the first letter of Clement show us about the early church? (5 pts.)

Clement's letter shows us how the early church treated Christians who were failing to live faithfully. It also demonstrates how educated Roman Christians turned their classical Roman learning to benefit the church and glorify God.

12. What is Ignatius's main concern about himself in all his letters? (5 pts.)

Ignatius is on his way to martyrdom, so his main desire is that he would be faithful to the end, that he would be counted worthy to die for Christ and so to enter fully into His presence.



Early Christianity Exam B Answer Key

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. On what grounds can we reasonably suppose Christianity to have reached even the farthest corners of the Roman Empire by the end of the first century? (10 pts.)

Christianity spread quite rapidly among the military, since they were highly aware of their own mortality as they faced death daily. Thus, everywhere legions were stationed, even in the remotest parts of the empire, Christianity spread.

2. Why should Christians study Roman history and culture? (10 pts.)

Christianity was born into the Greco-Roman culture of the first century. Therefore, to understand the Christian faith and the Scriptures, Christians must have some knowledge and understanding of the Roman political and cultural scene.

3. What were the distinctives of the main three Jewish religious parties at the time of Christ? (10 pts.)

The Pharisees began as a reform movement, so they were the conservative party. They interpreted Scripture literally, believed in the resurrection, and valued oral traditions. The Sadducees were more aristocratic and liberal, rejecting the resurrection and oral traditions, and approaching Scripture interpretation with greater liberties. The Essenes were more ascetic and withdrawn, somewhat Platonic in their beliefs, and very committed to maintaining purity.

4. What main themes does the *Didache* talk about? (10 pts.)

The *Didache* expounds on two main themes. First, it talks about how to live a godly life on a personal level, giving particular instructions to the believer on what it means to pursue Christ and live righteously. Second, it provides guidelines for church practices such as baptism, fasting, the Eucharist, and choice of leaders.

5. How did the third century differ from the second century in the Roman Empire? What was one of the significant contributors to this difference? (10 pts.)

While the second century is marked by peace and stability, the third century is characterized by instability. Emperors are regularly assassinated or commit suicide, leading to rapid changes in power. The Praetorian Guard, an organized army unit within the city limits of Rome and expressly loyal to one man, contributed to this instability, as they were regularly used to overthrow emperors.

6. What is the Greek concept of *logos*? How does Justin Martyr develop this idea in relation to both Christianity and the Greek philosophers? (12 pts.)

To the Greeks, "logos" meant, not a single word, but rather reason, discourse, structure, or worldview. Justin explains that this principle of reason permeating the cosmos is embodied in Jesus Christ. Therefore, wherever we find truth, reason, beauty, or goodness, we should see Christ at its root, whether we are reading Christian or pagan writers.



7. According to the Gnostics, what is the purpose of salvation and how does one achieve that goal? (10 pts.)

Because the Gnostics denied the goodness of created matter, the goal of salvation was to separate the spirit from the flesh, to escape the material world, rather than to redeem creation. This separation could only be attained through a secret, hidden knowledge obtained from the Gnostic teachers.

8. Which apostle did Christians in India claim first evangelized them? Why is this a plausible tradition? (8 pts.)

The early Christians in southern India claimed that the Apostle Thomas had come and preached the gospel there. This tradition starts very early, dating back to the second century when Pantinus traveled to India. The claim is quite plausible, given that there were already established trade routes to India, even in the first century.

9. How was Eusebius different from all previous Greek and Roman historians? (10 pts.)

Eusebius was the first writer to interpret history through a Christian lens. While this is something we take for granted after 1,700 years of practice, he was breaking new ground.

10. What changed radically for Christians when Constantine gained control of the Roman Empire? (10 pts.)

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EXTRA CREDIT

11. According to tradition, Polycarp was a disciple of which apostle? Why is that plausible? (5 pts.)

Tradition is that Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle John. Since Polycarp lived in Smyrna, and John spent his last years in nearby Ephesus, this is well within the realms of possibility.

12. How did Clement's use of the Orpheus myth differ from other early Christians' use of it? (5 pts.)

Clement frequently pointed to the Orpheus myth as an example of the immorality of the gods and the emptiness of pagan myths. Other early Christians found in Orpheus a picture of Christ coming to lead faithful believers of the Old Testament out of Hades and into heaven.