

GENERAL ORDINATION EXAMINATION 1992

Please review the **Instructions** before you begin work on this question and again when you put your answers in final form.

SET I (OPEN BOOK) Friday, January 3, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

(This question focuses on the Canonical areas of Theory & Practice of Ministry. It also deals with Holy Scripture, Christian Theology and Church History.)

A friend of yours has just become rector of a medium-sized parish. Before your friend's first vestry meeting as rector, the Senior Warden says that the previous rector did not want to chair vestry meetings, because he did not "feel it right for one in the role of servant to a community to be in charge." The warden goes on to say that the former priest was fond of quoting Jesus' words: "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

Answer both Part A and Part B.

- A. Your friend asks you how to persuade the vestry that the rector should chair its meetings. In **not more than 1000 words**, identify the issues involved and make your friend's case, using theological, scriptural and historical arguments that support the position being taken by your friend. What other personal or pastoral advice would you offer?

- B. Your friend also asks you to preach at the Celebration of a New Ministry, using as your text Mark 9: 30-35. Write the introduction and conclusion of the sermon and summarize the middle.

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SET II (OPEN BOOK) Friday, January 3, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(This question focuses on the Canonical areas of Liturgics and Church History. It also deals with Christian Theology and Contemporary Society.)

For each period listed below, respond to all three questions:

A. Briefly describe significant developments or changes in the rites of Christian Initiation during each of the periods listed below.

Include in your discussion of Period 4 indications of the liturgical changes or developments in the other three periods that are reflected - or not reflected - in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer's rite of Christian Initiation.

B. Then indicate both cultural and theological reasons why these changes and developments occurred.

Write not more than 1250 words for your whole answer.

Period 1. The Emergence of the Holy Roman Empire and Western Papal Church (9th - 14th centuries);

Period 2. The Renaissance and Reformation (14th - 17th centuries);

Period 3. The Age of Revolution, Imperialism, and Missionary Expansion (18th - 20th centuries);

Period 4. The Contemporary Age of Cultural Pluralism.

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SET III (OPEN BOOK) Saturday, January 4, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(This question focuses on the Canonical areas of Scripture, Christian Theology, and Theory and Practice of Ministry. It also deals with Ethics and Moral Theology and Contemporary Society.)

Answer both A. and B.

A. **Answer all three parts of this question in not more than 1500 words.**

As rector of a parish of 150 communicants, you teach a one hour per week adult class with 15 to 20 members. You propose a three or four week series on sin.

1. Summarize the biblical and theological understandings of individual and corporate sin you will cover. What are their sources?
2. Relate these biblical and theological concepts to some of the insights of the social sciences (such as psychology, sociology, and anthropology).
3. Briefly outline a three or four week class that will help your parishioners to grasp the above material and to connect it to human experience.

B. **Answer all parts of this question in not more than 1000 words.**

The day after your final class session, a member of your vestry who sits on the Finance Committee is arrested for embezzling a large sum of money from his employer. He makes a full confession, and pleads guilty to the charges against him. In light of your work in Part A, respond to the following:

1. The man appears in your office. Distraught and remorseful, he tells you, "I've destroyed myself and my family. My career is over. I'll never get another job. I don't know what to do."
 - a. Write verbatim your opening words to him.
 - b. Then indicate how you would proceed to counsel him.
2. At the urging of the Senior Warden and other vestry members, you call a vestry meeting to consider the situation. What views and feelings would you expect to encounter, and how would you deal with them? What is your goal for the meeting? What strategy will you use to help your vestry cope with this event?

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Please review the **Instructions** before you begin work on this question and again when you put your answers in final form.

SET IV (OPEN BOOK) Monday, January 6, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(This question focuses on the Canonical areas of Holy Scripture, Christian Theology, Church History, and Theory and Practice of Ministry. It also deals with Liturgics.)

A group of local Christians, including some members of your parish, has been meeting and praying together and speaking in tongues. Several members of your parish have asked about the glossolalia group. Some are attracted to it; others are disturbed by it.

Answer both Part A and Part B.

A. Write two essays expressing your personal understanding, as an Anglican, of the Holy Spirit. (These two essays should total not more than 2000 words, but need not be equal in length.)

1. In the first essay focus on holy scripture, church history, and the Prayer Book. Include the following:
 - a. an account of the developing understanding of the Holy Spirit in the Hebrew scriptures;
 - b. a summary of New Testament understandings of the Holy Spirit, citing those authors who are especially concerned with the Spirit and indicating their particular emphases;
 - c. identification of credal contributions and major insights from the Medieval and Reformation periods;
 - d. a brief survey of the current Prayer Book teachings about the Holy Spirit, with special attention to liturgical materials.
2. In the second essay discuss, **in the light of contemporary theological thinking**, the following topics:
 - a. the ways in which the Holy Spirit works within and upon human personality and human community;
 - b. the ways in which the Holy Spirit can be discerned in human experience.

B. Write a parish letter of not more than 500 words in which you discuss the place of glossolalia as one of the works of the Holy Spirit.

Note: Set VI, Tuesday 2:00 - 5:00 is Closed Book, "Coffee Hour" questions. You will need a pen with black ink and at least 15 sheets of plain white 8 1/2 x 11 paper. Notebook paper with holes and lined paper are acceptable; they do not photocopy easily.

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Please review the **Instructions** before you begin work on this question and again when you put your answers in final form.

SET V. (OPEN BOOK) Tuesday, January 7, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

(This question focuses on the Canonical areas of Ethics and Moral Theology, Contemporary Society, and Theory and Practice of Ministry.

Respond **EITHER** to situation A. (this page) - OR - to situation B. (on the back of this page).

A. As rector of St. Thomas' Church in a metropolitan area, you are visited by a young woman who has recently begun attending your parish.

She reports to you that all of her life she has been a member of All Saints' Church, a nearby parish, where her parents are also members. She has experienced some emotional difficulties in recent years and has been in therapy. She had sought out the rector of All Saints' as a spiritual director. She shared with him many of her most intimate experiences in a trusting way.

Now her trust is broken, she says. He has been dealing with her in what she describes as a seductive fashion. He has not actually made physical contact with her. But he has asked progressively more intimate questions that make the woman uncomfortable, and he has been disclosing details of his personal life.

She has discussed this with some of her woman friends in All Saints. They also feel that the priest deals with them seductively, although none has reported anything physical. The young woman feels she can no longer trust the priest at All Saints. Indeed, she is fearful that if he should become angry with her he might use against her the information she has shared with him about her sexual life. Yet she feels the priest needs to be confronted in some way about his behavior. Indeed, her therapist has encouraged her to confront him.

Answer in not more than 1250 words the following questions related to this situation:

1. What issues are raised by this situation?
2. What are the ethical and moral foundations of your response to this situation?
3. What kind of guidance and spiritual direction would you offer this woman?
4. What other responsibilities, if any, do you have in this situation? Why?

SET V. SITUATION B. IS ON THE BACK

Note: Set VI, this afternoon 2:00 - 5:00 is Closed Book, "Coffee Hour" questions. You will need a pen with black ink and at least 15 sheets of plain white 8 1/2 x 11 paper. Notebook paper with holes and lined paper are not acceptable; they do not photocopy easily.

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SET V. (OPEN BOOK) Tuesday, January 7, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

(This question focuses on the Canonical areas of Ethics and Moral Theology, Contemporary Society, and Theory and Practice of Ministry.

Respond EITHER to situation B. (this page) - OR - to situation A. (on the back of this page.)

You receive the following letter from a former parishioner now living in another city:

"I am turning to you, my most helpful counselor in times past, to guide me once again. This time it is a matter of life and death. Or perhaps I should say it is a matter of choosing, when life - in any respectable sense of the term - is over, what kind of death to endure.

"For some time now, I have been alone in the world and in poor physical health. Now, at age 88 and with few remaining economic resources, I am getting to the point that I cannot continue to care for myself.

"I know, of course, that society has ways of caring, after a fashion, for indigent old people. But must I be subjected to that? Don't you think that the good Lord will understand if I call it a day? I not only want to do so, I even think I should. But then I don't entirely trust my own thinking any more.

"I really need someone to tell me it is all right, under circumstances like mine, to end my days on earth and move on to whatever the Father has in store for me. Can you do that?

"Always your friend in Christ, I am,

"Faithfully and gratefully yours,"

Answer in not more than 1250 words the following questions related to this situation:

1. What issues are raised by this letter?
2. What are the ethical and moral foundations of your response to this situation?
3. What kind of guidance and spiritual direction would you offer this person?
4. What other responsibilities, if any, do you have in this situation? Why?

SET V. SITUATION A. IS ON THE REVERSE

Note: Set VI, Tuesday 2:00 - 5:00 is Closed Book, "Coffee Hour" questions. You will need a pen with blue ink and at least 15 sheets of plain white 8 1/2 x 11 paper. Notebook paper with holes and lined paper are not acceptable; they do not photocopy easily.

GENERAL ORDINATION EXAMINATION 1992

SET VI. (CLOSED BOOK) Tuesday, January 7, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Answer from memory only. Write not more than 100 words on each question. Please write as legibly as possible, using black ink on plain white paper. Write on only one side of the paper.

Conserve paper - do NOT begin each question on a new page.

Write as if you were speaking to the questioner.

1. "Whatever happened to 'Onward, Christian Soldiers?' It's a strong hymn, and we never hear it anymore. Do you choose the hymns or does the organist?"
2. "I went to a friend's church last Sunday. They sang lively music with guitars and a tambourine. Why don't we do that?"
3. "I can't believe Jesus really cares how I spend my money. After all, I earned it!"
4. "We have close and dear friends who are Mormons. May they be godparents to our children?"
5. "This is the first time I've been to an 'Easter Vigil.' If it's Easter, why do we read all that Jewish stuff at the beginning?"
6. "Someone told me that the Anglican church was the biggest church in the American colonies. Why are we so small now?"
7. "One of my Roman Catholic friends was teasing me that Henry VIII founded the Episcopal Church so he could marry Anne Boleyn. Is that true?"
8. "You mentioned the Caroline Divines in your sermon this morning. Who were they and why are they so important?"
9. "A friend of mine argues that the church shouldn't be doing charitable works but should be trying to change the whole system. What do you think?"
10. "A friend of mine shops only out of the 'Christian Yellow Pages.' What is it, and should I be doing it too?"
11. "I heard that the National Council of Churches has said that we shouldn't celebrate Columbus Day. Why is that?"
12. "Does the Episcopal Church approve of cremation? If so, how does the body get resurrected?"
13. "A vestry member says, 'The Episcopal Peace Fellowship wants to put their material in the tract rack. They opposed Desert Storm and the President. We shouldn't allow it.'"
14. "Some churches have been getting into the business of refugee resettlement. Why should we be bringing more people to this country when we already have unemployment problems?"
15. "If we are supposed to 'bring all people to Christ' as you said, should we try to get Jews we know to become Christians?"