

M.TH. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION & INTERVIEW DETAILS

The Entrance Examination and Interviews Schedule for the Academic Year 2019-2020 are as follow:

17 January 2019 (Thursday)

09:00 - 12:00 : Written test in the subject

02:00 – 05:00 : Written Test in English and General Knowledge

18 January 2019 (Friday)

08:30 - 10:30 : Departmental Interview with the candidates

11:00 – 01:00 : Faculty Interview with the candidates

19 January 2019 (Saturday)

8:00 a.m. Medical Examination for the Selected Candidates

NOTE: All candidates invited for the Entrance Examination should come to Gurukul at their own expense.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVE:

- To examine the knowledge and understanding of the subject in the area of specialization.
- To estimate the aptitude and competency of the candidate for the proposed study.
- To interact with the candidates on matters related to academic and other practical concerns.

SCOPE:

The level of knowledge is taken to be that of studies at BD level. It is, however, expected that the candidates display a strong analytical competency to engage in research work in the intended field of discipline and he/she must also must have be good command in English language, both spoken and written English in general and the theological English in particular.

EXAMINATION & INTERVIEW:

There will be written Examinations in three areas: Branch of Study, English and General Knowledge followed by Departmental and Faculty interviews. Syllabus for the written examinations are as follow:

Paper I – Examination in the Branch of Study

(Time: 3 Hours)

BRANCH – I: OLD TESTAMENT

i. Overall Knowledge and Perspectives on the following areas:

- Critical Introduction, Theology, and Interpretation of Old Testament.
- Recent trends in the Old Testament studies including the Literatures and Theology of the Old Testament Studies;
- Current issues in the Biblical Interpretation;
- Contextual reading in the Biblical studies;
- Proficiency in Hebrew Bible (BHS)
- Exegetical studies on the prescribed Hebrew Texts: Exodus 1-15, Isaiah 40-55 and Psalms 1, 24, 51, 121, 122, 128, 150.

ii. A Book review on Gerhard von Rad, *Old Testament Theology*, Vol. 1, 2.

iii. A Tentative “Thesis Proposal” on the intended area of Research to be presented during the Departmental Interview.

Suggested Books for Reading:

Baltzer, Klaus. *Deutero-Isaiah, A Commentary on Isaiah 40–55*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

Blenkinsopp, Joseph. *The Anchor Bible Isaiah 40-55: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002.

Boice, James Montgomery. *Psalms: An Expository Commentary*. Michigan: Baker Academic, 2005.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2002.

Brueggemann, W. and Bellinger William H. *Psalms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Dube, Musa. *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2000.

Durham, John I. *Word Biblical Commentary: Exodus*. Vol. 3. Texas: Word Books, 1987.

Edayadiyil, G. *Exodus Event: Its Historical Kernel*. Bangalore: ATC, 2007.

Gottwald, Norman K. *The Hebrew Bible: A Socio-literary Introduction*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985.

Jesurathnam, K. “Towards a Dalit Liberative Hermeneutics: Re-reading the Psalms of the Lament,” *BTF*, Vol. 32/1, 2002.

Kizhakkeyil, Sebastian. *Isaiah: An Exegetical Commentary*. Bangalore: ATC, 2006.

Oswalt, John N. *The Book of Isaiah Chapters 40–66*, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1998.

Prabakar, Charles and Paul M. Raj eds. *Rights and Responsibilities of the Minorities*. Bangalore: Theological Book Trust, 1999.

Rad, Gerhard von. *Old Testament Theology*, Vol. I, Introduced by Walter Brueggemann, Kentucky, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Rad, Gerhard von. *Old Testament Theology*, Vol. II, Introduced by Walter Brueggemann, Kentucky, Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Segovia, F. F. *Decolonizing Biblical Studies: A View from the Margins*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2000.

Soares-Prabhu, George. *Theology of Liberation: An Indian Biblical Perspective*. Francis X D'sa (ed.). Pune: Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, 2001.

Soggin, J. Alberto. Introduction to the Old Testament, 3rd Edition, Kentucky, Westminster John Knox Press, 1989.

Sugirtharajah, R. S. *Asian Biblical Hermeneutics and Postcolonialism: Contesting the Interpretations*. Sheffield: SAP, 1998.

Sweeney, Marvin A. "The Book of Isaiah in Recent Research," *Currents in Research: Biblical Studies 1* 1993: 141-162.

Watts, John D.W. *Isaiah 34-66*, (Revised Edition), Word Biblical Commentary, Vol. 25, Nashville, Thomas Nelson, Inc. 2005.

Whybray, R. N. *Introduction to the Pentateuch*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

BRANCH-II: CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

i. Overall Knowledge and Perspective on the following areas:

- Basic themes of Systematic Theology as conceptualized in the major doctrines – Doctrine of God, Christology, Holy Spirit, Doctrine of Sin and Salvation.
- Third World Contextual Theologies/Theologies from the Margins.
- Indian Interpretations of Christian Faith – Models and Paradigm Shifts

ii. A Book Review on any of the recently published books in the area of Christian Theology.

iii. A Tentative “Thesis Proposal” on the intended area of research to be presented in the Departmental Interview.

Suggested Books for Reading:

Abraham, K.C. (Ed.) *Third World Theologies: Commonalities and Divergences*. New York: Orbis, 1990.

Boyd, R.H.S. *An Introduction to Indian Christian Theology*. Delhi: ISPCK, 1998

Dayam, J. Prabhakar and P. Mohan Lalbeer (Eds.) *Margins in Conversation: Methodological Discourses in Theological Disciplines*. Bangalore: BTESSC, 2012

Macquarrie, John. *Principles of Christian Theology*. London: SCM, 1986.

Migliore, Daniel. *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Michigan: W.B. Redman’s Publishing Co., 1991.

Stephen, M. A *Christian Theology in the Indian Context*. Delhi: ISPCK, 2001. Samarth, S.J. *One Christ Many Religions: Towards Revised Christology*. New York: Orbis, 1991. Thomas, M.M. *Risking Christ for Christ's Sake: Towards an Ecumenical Theology of Pluralism*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1987.

BRANCH-IV: HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

1. The candidate is expected to display a strong analytical competency to engage in research work in the field of history
2. Command over English language, both spoken and written, is required
3. An overall knowledge and perspective on the following areas is required:
 - a. History of Christianity from Constantine to 600 CE.
 - Recommended text: Casiday, Augustine and Frederick W. Norris (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Christianity: Constantine to c. 600*, vol. 2, Cambridge, 2007. (available online)
 - b. Issues related to the historiography of Christianity in India
 - Recommended text: Webster, John C.B., *Historiography of Christianity in India*, New Delhi, 2012.
 - c. Relationship between Colonialism and Christian Mission in India

- Recommended text: Jacob S. Dharmaraj, *Colonialism and Christian Mission: Post Colonial Reflections*, New Delhi, 1993.
- d. World Christianity: The contemporary phase in the history Christianity
- Recommended text: Tan, Jonathan Y., and Anh Q. Tran (eds.), *World Christianity: Perspectives and Insights*, New York, 2016.
4. A review of **any one** of the above recommended books **or** the following book needs to be submitted at the time of entrance test:
- Joseph, M.P., *Legitimately Divided: Towards a Counter Narrative of the Ethnographic History of Kerala Christianity*, Tiruvalla, 2004.
5. A ‘tentative thesis proposal’ on the intended area of research should be presented at the time of Departmental Interview.

BRANCH-VIII: MISSIOLOGY

i. Overall Knowledge and Perspective on the following areas:

Mission Studies is a multidisciplinary field that reads the Bible with Missiological eyes and, based on that reading, continually re-examines, re-evaluates and re-directs the church's participation in God’s mission in God’s world. Therefore, the examination will be on

- The applicants’ aptitude for mission studies.
- Important issues in relation to the meaning, nature and scope of ‘Christian Witness, Mission and Evangelism’.

- Mission of God (missio Dei), Jesus' Kingdom Ministry, Solidarity with the Poor and the Marginalized, Dalit, Adivasi and Women Concerns
- Globalisation, Environmental Issues, Religious Fundamentalism and Mission in the context of Religious and Ideological Pluralism.
- Present day Indian context and challenges for Mission.

ii. A Book Review on any of the recently published books in the area of Christian

Theology.

iii. A “Tentative Thesis Proposal” on the intended area of research to be presented in the Departmental Interview.

Suggested Books for Readings:

Abraham, K C., *Liberative Solidarity*. Tiruvalla: Christava Sahitya Samithi, 1996.

Athyal, Abraham P and Nyce, Dorothy Yoder (ed). *Mission Today: Challenges and Concerns*. Chennai: Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, 1998.

Bosch, David J., *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. New York: Maryknoll, Orbis Books. 1992.

Chandran, J.R. *The Church in Mission*. Madras: CLS, 1991.

Hrangkhuma F & Kim Sabastian CH (Eds). *Church in India: Its Mission Tomorrow*. New Delhi: I S P C K, 1996.

Jeganathan, W S Milton (Ed). *Mission Paradigm in the New Millennium: A Study on Missiology - an Indian Perspective*. New Delhi: I S P C K, 2000.

Mattam, Joseph and Kim, Sebastian (Eds). *Dimensions of Mission in India*. Bombay: St Paul Publications, 1995.

Mattam, Joseph and Kim Sebastian (Eds), *Mission Trends Today: Historical and Theological Perspectives*. Bombay: St Pauls, 1997.

Sunand Sumithra and F Hranghkhuma, (Ed). *Doing Mission in Context*. Bangalore: Theological Book Trust, 1995.

Branch X - COMMUNICATION

i. Comprehensive Knowledge and Perspective on the following areas:

Communication in Theological Education helps students to become competent communicators of faith in our present cyber world. It claims efficiency to involve communication technology, to reshape the fundamental perception and transmission of effective and practical theological values. Therefore, the candidates will be tested their knowledge on

- Basic knowledge in various concepts, theories of communication and competent to articulate goals and levels of communication to theologise in the digital culture.

ii. A Book Review on any of the recently published books in the area of Christian Theology.

iii. A “Tentative Thesis Proposal” on the intended area of research to be presented in the Departmental Interview.

Suggested Books for Readings

Lee, Philip. *Communication for All: New World Information and Communication Order*, Orbis Books, 1986.

McQuail, Denis. *McQuail's Mass Communication Theory*, (6th Edition). London: SAGE, 2010.

Kumar, Keval J. *Mass Communication in India*, (4th Edition), Mumbai: Jaico Publishing House, 2000.

Ta, Anh Vu and Josef, Eilers Franz. *Social Communication in Theological Perspective: Communicatio Theology*, Manila: Logos, 2015.

BRANCH-XI: WOMEN STUDIES

i. Overall Knowledge and Perspective on the following areas:

The candidates must come prepared with comprehensive Knowledge and Perspective on the following areas:

- Context, origin and development of Feminist/Womanist Theology
- Sources, norms and methodological issues in Feminist/Womanist Theologies
- Feminist/Womanist Hermeneutics and Language: Re-reading of the Bible with “new eyes”
- Feminist/Womanist Christology

ii. A Book Review on any of the recently published books in the area of Christian Theology.

iii. A “Tentative Thesis Proposal” on the intended area of research to be presented in the Departmental Interview.

Suggested Books for Reading:

Dietrich, Gabriele. *A New Thing on Earth*. Delhi: ISPCK, 2001.

Kumari, Prasanna, ed. *Feminist Theology: Perspectives and Praxis*. Chennai:

Gurukul, 1999.

_____, ed. *A Reader in Feminist Theology*. Madras: Gurukul, 1993.

Ralte, Rini and E.A. Rajkumar, eds. *Feminist Hermeneutics*. New Delhi: ISPCK, 2002.

Ralte, Lalrinawmi. *Women Re-Shaping Theology*. Bangalore: UTC, 1998.

Ruether, Rosemary R. *Sexism and God-Talk*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1983.

Young, Pamela Dickey. *Feminist Theology/Christian Theology: In Search of Method*.

Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1990

Paper II & III - English and General Knowledge
(Time: 3 Hours)

ENGLISH:

The candidates are expected to have a basic knowledge of English Grammar and composition. Questions will be based on “High School English Grammar and Composition” by Wren and Martin. Chand and Co.

- Grammar based on Part-I Grammar (in Wren and Martin)
- Composition based on Part-IV (in Wren and Martin)
- Written Composition, Paragraph-writing, Letter-Writing, Comprehension, Precise Writing Paraphrasing and Essay writing (based on themes related to theology using Theological English)

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

The candidates will be expected to have general knowledge of a high standard. The objective type test based on General Knowledge in Malayala Manorama 2018, with reference to People, Events, Places, Books, Arts, Science in India and around the World will be examined.