

Cults of America - Online

Final Exam Study Guide • Kevin Lewis

A. GENERAL EXAM GUIDELINES

1. Students are responsible for all syllabus materials, handouts and lecture material covered in class unless excluded by this study guide. There will be no questions from any of the textbooks.
2. Note: I do not require the student memorize specific Bible verses or references, but the student should be familiar with the basic ideas of the verses *if* they are explained, summarized, or quoted in the syllabus or were explained in the lectures.
3. The test is open book, open Bible, and open note

B. INTRODUCTORY ISSUES

1. Know the various ways cult studies are classified (e.g., Polemical Theology)
2. Know the biblical verses discussed in class that give the biblical foundation for Counter-Cult apologetics.
3. Know the basic biblical strategy for dealing with false teachers in the church and the biblical justification for publicly rebuking false teachers.
4. Know the basic difficulties inherent in Cult Apologetics.
5. Know the issues related to the topics of Heresy and Orthodoxy.
6. Know the materials related to our discussion of Fundamental Articles of faith, Essentials of the Faith and related issues. Pay particular attention to the meaning and application of Salvific and Systemic Minimalism. Also know how the Fundamentals (i.e., essentials) relate to Non-fundamental (secondary) and Adiaphora (tertiary) issues.
7. Know the definitions of and how to distinguish a church, denomination, sect and cult, both sociologically and theologically (Chart in Syllabus).
8. Know the issues related to our in-class discussion of the Theological Definition of a Cult.
9. Know the theological characteristics of cults and the examples given of those groups exemplifying those characteristics. (Note: only those that were discussed in the lectures will be tested)
10. In the discussion of the Theological Characteristics of Cults we discussed a number of issues (i.e., Faith, which were relevant for certain characteristics of cults (e.g., denial of the Trinity). You should be familiar with the doctrines discussed *in the lectures* that relate to explaining and refuting the cultic characteristic (e.g., the basics on justification and the value of the work of Christ, etc.)

C. MORMONISM

1. Be familiar with the Witnessing Tips related to Mormon evangelism.
2. Know the various LDS groups and, particularly, how the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (now the “Community of Christ”) issue may be used as a witnessing tactic to evangelize those in the Utah based Mormon Church.
3. Be familiar with the Current Trends in Mormonism (e.g., FARMS, Ecumenism, etc.)
4. Be familiar with the issues related to LDS Epistemology
5. Know the issues related to “Praying about the Book of Mormon.”
6. Know the arguments related to the use and authority of the Bible to judge truth claims (Acts 17:11; Is. 8:19-20; Deut 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19)
7. Know how to respond to “Anti-Mormon” claims.
8. Know the issues related to Apostasy & Restoration
9. Know the 3 Nephites Argument against total apostasy (3 Nephi 28, et al.)
10. Know the arguments related to the use and authority of the Bible to judge truth claims (Acts 17:11; Is. 8:19-20; Deut 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19)

11. Know how the *Joseph Smith Translation* relates to a discussion of “. . . insofar as it is correctly translated.”
 - a. This will include the references to the *Doctrine & Covenants* & the *Comprehensive History of the Church*, by B.H. Roberts
12. Know how the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints may be used as a witnessing tactic for those in the Utah LDS Church.
13. Know the argument that there is a contradiction with the Bible on the first page of the Book of Mormon (I Nephi 1:4ff; 2:1-3 cf. Jer. 27:1ff) and how it relates to the alleged calling of “Lehi” in the Book of Mormon.
14. Know how to refute the LDS claim that Ezekiel 37 is a prophecy of the Book of Mormon.

D. CULT EVANGELISM

1. Know the issues and methods discussed in the syllabus related to Cult Evangelism.

E. THE OCCULT

1. Know the issues and methods discussed in the syllabi related to the Occult.

Note that no other areas will be tested, such as the Word of Faith Movement or Jehovah’s Witnesses.