

Guidelines for those who prepare for Orthodox Seminary Admission

The process of the selection of Candidates for Seminary admission will have two parts

1. Written Test

The written test will be held in two sessions from 9am to 1pm. The first session will consist of two parts: **A. Bible & B. Church History**. The second session will also have two parts: **A. English Language & B. General Knowledge**. Maximum Marks for each paper is 100. For Paper I 70% of Marks is set apart for Bible (35% for Old Testament and 35 % for New Testament) and 30 % for Church History. For paper II 60% of marks will be for English Language and 40% for General Knowledge.

General Features of Different Papers

Paper I

A. Bible.

The candidates are expected to have an over all understanding of the Bible: Questions can be asked in the following patterns:

- I.
 - i. General Introduction to each book of the Bible including the Main Outline of the book and its Central Message.
 - ii. Annotations on important passages from the Old Testament and the New Testament
 - iii. Brief notes on important personalities (like Moses, Paul, etc.), main events (like Exodus, Pentacost. *etc*), important places (like Mount Sinai, Bethlehem. *etc*)
 - iv. Meaning of the names of important persons and places (like Samuel, Bethany *etc*)
 - v. Read Biblical Passages in English and Malayalam

OR

- II. Objective multiple choice pattern

B. Church History

Candidates are expected to be acquainted with main events and personalities in the history of St. Thomas Christians with special focus on the Malankara Orthodox Church.

Questions can be asked from the following:

- i. Year and happenings of important events.
- ii. Descriptions about famous Church leaders
- iii. Essays about landmarks, eg: Coonen Cross Oath

Paper II

A. English Language

- i. The students' knowledge about Basic English Grammar & Usages will be tested. Minimum standard expected is that of the English Language of the Higher Secondary Course.
- ii. Questions will be asked to check the capacity of the student in vocabulary, comprehension and in writing skills.

B. General Knowledge

- i. The Candidates are expected to have relevant information on current events, issues and personalities at the World, Indian and State levels.
- ii. A general idea about the renowned books of English and Malayalam literature.
- iii. Important Movements of the World History.
- iv. The candidate is expected to answer fifty questions, which will have multiple choices.

Books Suggested for Reading

A. Bible

1. All Sunday School Books up to Std. XII
2. Divyabodhanam Series: a. *Prakasathilekku* (In the Fullness of Time),
b. *Prathyasakiranangal* (The Rays of Hope),
3. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
4. *Thiruvachanabhashyam*

B. Church History

- i. All relevant Sunday School Books
- ii. Divyabodhanam Series: a. *Sabha Valarunnu* (Growing Church),
b. *Adhunika Bharatha Sabha*
- iii. Any book on the recent history of the Malankara Orthodox Church

C. Faith of the Church

- i. Divyabodhanam Series: a. *Janathakalude Prakasham* (Light to the Nations), b. *Abba Pithave*.
- ii. Any good book on the Faith of the Church

D. English Language

- i. A book on Functional Grammar with Usage and Composition: eg: A Practical Course by M.L.Tickoo & A.E. Subramanian published by: University of Kerala or any other equivalent Text Book.
- ii. Any book on Letter writing and Composition of Essays.

E. General Knowledge

- i. News Paper records since the last three months in English and Malayalam
- ii. Current Periodicals in English and Malayalam (eg: Mathrubhoomi, The Week)
- iii. Discussions and Debates on Political, Economic and Social Issues appeared in popular TV channels (eg: Asianet, NDTV)

2. Interview

The following factors will be assessed during the interview

1. Candidate's response to the questions regarding the Bible, Church History, Faith of the Church, Worship and Sacraments
2. Candidates capability in reciting Prayers/Prayer Songs from the orders of the Family Worship and the Holy Qurbana.
3. It will be checked whether the candidate has speech impediments and whether he is able to read English and Malayalam audibly and with right accents.
4. The Personality of the Candidate will be checked.
5. Credits will be given to the successful participation of the candidate in the following:
 - a. Sunday School Education (Class X/XII),
 - b. Divyabodhanam Courses like POCE, DOCE & GOCE
 - c. Three year Diploma Course in MTC, Mavelikkara
 - d. Being a member of an Ashram for more than three years
 - e. The service to the Church by continuously residing in an institution/centre of the church for more than three years.
6. The talents of the candidates in Elocution, Music, Essay Writing, Painting, Sports and games or any other extra-curricular activities will be given due weightage.
7. The candidate is expected to explain his involvements in the spiritual activities of the Church such as Altar Assistant, Youth League Secretary, MGOCSM Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, OVBS Teacher etc.
8. The Academic Excellence of the candidate will get special consideration.