Hebrew I and II Competency Exam Study Guide

The Hebrew language competency exams are offered every fall and spring. For exact dates and times please contact the Registration Office at regstr@gcts.edu. Further questions should be directed to the Director of the Hebrew Language Program.

The textbook we work from is The Basics of Biblical Hebrew by Gary Pratico and Miles VanPelt, so the material will come from that as a reference. The exam is divided into two sections: Part I covering chapters 1-22 is equivalent to OL501, and Part II covering chapters 1-35, with more of the focus on chapters 23-35 and translation, is equivalent to OL502. Each exam requires about a two-hour time slot (more or less). Students may take one or both depending on whether the intent is to place out of OL501 or both OL501 and OL502.

The following is a list of items one is responsible for Part 1 (Hebrew I):

- Give names for consonants and vowels
- Syllabify words
- Identifying the *dagesh* (as *lene* or *forte*)
- Identifying the shewa (as silent or vocal)
- Nine paradigms to reproduce in Hebrew
  - Qal perfect strong pg. 141
  - Qal Perfect weak (III h ) pg. 154
  - Qal Perfect Bi-Con <Wq pg. 159
  - Qal Imperfect strong pg. 167
  - Qal Imperfect weak (III h ) pg. 178
  - Qal Imperfect weak <Wq pg. 183
  - Qal Imperative strong verb pg. 209
  - Qal Active Participle strong verb pg. 259
  - Qal Passive Participle strong verb pg. 264
Translation and parsing of strong and weak verbs

Vocabulary (chs. 3-22)

Translation of nouns with pronominal suffixes

Translation of prepositions with suffixes

Giving lexical forms in Hebrew for verbs, adjectives, participles, and absolute forms of construct nouns

For all strong verbs know the diagnostics (all red items in the grammar)

Basic grammar questions such as: What is a construct chain? How are participles used? What is an infinitive construct? Infinite absolute?

In general, translation for Part I consists of separate, unrelated sentences rather than a continuous paragraph of Hebrew.

The following is a list of items one is responsible for on Part II (Hebrew II):

This exam is for students who wish to test out of Hebrew II, who desire to demonstrate competency in the language, in order to qualify for entrance into OT exegesis classes.

The exam is a translation of a narrative/prose text (s) selected by the Director of the Hebrew Program. The student will translate several continuous verses taken from a given chapter of the BHS. A printed text from BHS will be provided. Students will also have to parse ten to twenty verbal forms identifying the verb’s stem, conjugation, person, gender, number, and lexical form. The student may bring a lexicon to the exam but will have only limited use of it. For the entire passage you may not use the lexicon more than three times. Mastery of basic vocabulary is, therefore, necessary to be successful. In order to pass the exam a student
must receive 70% (C-) or higher. If one does not achieve this grade, admittance into an OT exegesis class will be prohibited until such a level is achieved.

This exam assumes mastery towards the following:

✓ All the items from Part I, plus ...
✓ Vocabulary (chapters 3-35)
✓ All strong verb diagnostics (not paradigms) for the derived stems, Niphal through Hithpael (all red items in the grammar)
✓ The ability to parse weak verbs of the derived stems, Niphal through Hithpael

**We do not circulate sample or practice exams.**