

# Greek I and II Competency Exam Study Guide

The Greek language competency exams are offered every fall and spring. For exact dates and times please contact the Registration Office at [regstr@gcts.edu](mailto:regstr@gcts.edu). Further questions should be directed either toward the Greek Teaching Assistants at 978-646-4123 or the Director of the Greek Language Program.

The textbook we work from is The Basics of Biblical Greek by William Mounce, 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 GL501, and Part II covering chapters 1-35, with more of the focus on chapters 23-35, is equivalent to GL502. Each exam requires about an hour and a half (more or less). Students may take one or both depending on whether the intent is to place out of GL501 or both GL501 and GL502. Some students prefer to do Part I before deciding whether to attempt Part II as well. You do not necessarily need to take both at the same time, but if you are capable and prepared, taking both together is recommended.

We focus a lot on grammatical functions of words, not just translation. So, as you review, make sure you can explain why words are in the particular case they are in or why they have a particular person and number. This is key throughout, but gets a bit more complex in Part II with the addition of participle, subjunctive, infinitive, and imperative functions.

The following is a list of items one is responsible for on Part I:

- alphabet
- diphthong formation
- vowel contractions
- square of stops and “sigma” transformations
- three sets of declension endings (1st/2nd decl WITH vowels, contra Mounce)
- five cases, their functions and helping words for translation
- prepositions: the cases they take for their objects and their meanings with each case be able to reproduce the paradigm for the article and the adjective  $\pi\acute{\alpha}\varsigma$ ,  $\pi\acute{\alpha}\sigma\alpha$ ,  $\pi\acute{\alpha}\nu$
- position and function of adjectives (2-1-2, 2-2, 3-1-3, 3-3)
- pronouns (personal, demonstrative, relative, interrogative, indefinite, reflexive)
- three uses of  $\alpha\acute{\upsilon}\tau\omicron\varsigma$  (the 3 I’s: Independent pronoun, Intensive or Identical Adjective)
- how to distinguish between all the forms of  $\alpha\acute{\upsilon}\tau\omicron\varsigma$  and  $\omicron\acute{\upsilon}\tau\omicron\varsigma$
- how to determine why a word has a particular GNC, that is, where each comes from
- all forms of  $\epsilon\acute{\iota}\mu\acute{\iota}$  “I am” (present, imperfect, and future tenses)
- all four sets of verb endings (1st set WITH vowels contra Mounce, other sets w/o vowels)
- formation of pres (act and m/p), impf (act and m/p), fut (act and mid), aor2 (act and mid)
- know the time and aspect associated with each tense
- how to recognize/handle regular, contract, SOS, liquid, and deponent verbs in all tenses difference between roots and stems
- the verbs that are formed from more than one root ( $\epsilon\acute{\rho}\chi\omicron\mu\alpha\iota$ ,  $\lambda\acute{\epsilon}\gamma\omega$ ,  $\omicron\acute{\rho}\acute{\alpha}\omega$ )
- vocabulary from chapters 1-22

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

- all the items from Part I, plus...
- formation of aor1 (act and mid), aor1/2 passives, and perfect (act, mid, pass)
- the time and aspect associated with each tense
- formation and function of present, aorist, and perfect participles
- translation of participles with attention to relative time and the main verb
- formation and function of subjunctives, infinitives, and imperatives
- the 19 principal parts for the three paradigm –mi verbs ( $\epsilon\acute{\rho}\chi\omicron\mu\alpha\iota$ ,  $\lambda\acute{\epsilon}\gamma\omega$ ,  $\omicron\acute{\rho}\acute{\alpha}\omega$ )

Each exam will have a vocab section (about 20 words), a section on Grammar questions, and then translation, parsing, and grammatical analysis. Translation for Part I consists of separate, unrelated sentences, but for Part II translation involves a continuous paragraph. Some candidates have requested sample exams. However, we do not circulate samples or practice exams.