

Ministerial Decision 32982/02/22-03-2023 on the “Classification of taught subjects (subject groups) at Ecclesiastical Schools- Exam Topics- Examination Method for ecclesiastical specialization subjects”

Article 1

Subject Groups

1. The subjects taught at Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools are classified into three (3) groups, as follows:

Group A: 1) Modern Greek Language and Literature (Language Instruction and Modern Greek Literature), 2) Ancient Greek Language and Literature (Ancient Greek Language, Ancient Greek Texts in Translation), 3) History, 4) Mathematics, 5) Physics, 6) Biology, 7) English, 8) Topics from the Holy Bible, for the A' Grade of Junior High School, 9) Liturgical Life of the Church, for the B' Grade of Junior High School, and 10) Ecclesiastical History and the Fathers and Theologians of the Church, for the C' Grade of Junior High School, which are tested in writing on the promotion or graduation exams.

Group B: 1) Geology–Geography, 2) Chemistry, 3) Social and Civic Education, 4) Technology–Computer Science, 5) Home Economics, 6) Second Foreign Language.

Group C: 1) Physical Education, 2) Skills Workshops, 3) Byzantine Music, 4) Iconography.

The subjects in Groups B and C are not tested in writing in the promotion or graduation exams.

The weekly timetable of the Ecclesiastical Schools specifies which of the above are taught in each grade of Junior High School.

2. The subjects taught at General Ecclesiastical High Schools are divided into two (2) groups, as follows:

A' Grade of High School

Group A: General Education and Ecclesiastical Specialization subjects tested in writing on the promotion exams: 1) Greek Language (Ancient Greek Language and Literature, and Modern Greek Language and Literature), 2) Mathematics (Algebra and Geometry), 3) History, 4) Natural Sciences (Physics and Chemistry only), 5) English, 6) Elements of Liturgics and Rituals.

Group B: Remaining General Education subjects and the Ecclesiastical Specialization subjects in Byzantine Music and Iconography, which are not tested in writing on the promotion exams.

B' Grade of High School

Group A: General Education and Ecclesiastical Specialization subjects tested in writing on the promotion exams: 1) Greek Language (Modern Greek Language and Literature only), 2) History, 3) Natural Sciences (Biology only), 4) Mathematics (Algebra and Geometry), 5) English, 6) Topics in Dogmatic Theology, 7) Subjects of the Orientation Groups.

Group B: Remaining General Education subjects and remaining Ecclesiastical Specialization subjects in Byzantine Music and Iconography, which are not tested in writing on the promotion exams.

C' Grade of High School

Group A: General Education and Ecclesiastical Specialization subjects tested in writing on the graduation exams: 1) Modern Greek Language and Literature, 2) Mathematics (only for students in the Humanities Orientation Group), 3) History (only for students in the Science and Health Studies Orientation Group and the Economics and Computer Science Orientation Group), 4) Topics in Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology, 5) All subjects of the Orientation Groups.

Group B: Remaining General Education subjects, as well as the Ecclesiastical Specialization subjects in Byzantine Music and Iconography, which are not tested in writing on the graduation exams.

Article 2

Exam Topics - Examination Method for Ecclesiastical Specialization Subjects

A. ECCLESIASTICAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1. The written examination for the promotion and graduation exams in Ecclesiastical Specialization subjects of Ecclesiastical Junior High Schools: Topics from the Holy Bible (A' Grade), Liturgical Life of the Church (B' Grade), and Ecclesiastical History and the Fathers and Theologians of the Church (C' Grade), consists of two (2) groups of questions. Group A consists of five (5) questions, from which students choose three (3). Group B consists of four (4) questions, from which students choose two (2). Each question in Groups A and B can be broken down into two (2) equally weighted sub-questions. Each question in Groups A and B is awarded four (4) points ($5 \times 4 = 20$). The assigned points are determined at the time the questions are prepared and are communicated in writing to the students. The questions must cover different areas and, as far as possible, a broad range of the topics taught.
2. Group A consists of five (5) questions of various types, designed to assess basic knowledge of the course and its understanding. These questions are objective/closed-ended and may be multiple-choice or multi-choice, sequencing/ranking of items, matching, gap-filling, alternative answer or true-or-false and short-answer questions. Short-answer questions are a combination of objective and open-ended questions.
3. Group B consists four (4) open-ended questions requiring developed responses. These questions assess students' higher-order cognitive skills, such as the ability to interpret, justify, substantiate, correlate, apply and evaluate data relating to the course's fundamental Knowledge. The questions must correspond to the course's expected learning outcomes and have such a range as to be addressed within the time allotted for the written exam. Therefore, each question should require an answer not exceeding fifteen (15) to twenty (20) lines. Exceeding this indicative limit shall not result in a negative mark. For selected questions in Group B, particularly in the subjects "Topics from the Holy Bible" and "Liturgical Life of the Church", brief theological material may be provided in printed form (such as an excerpt from a historical or theological text, a hymns, an icon, etc.), which students take into account or use in their answers as a source of information. When assessing the answers to the questions in Group B, the completeness of structure and content, as well as the clarity and accuracy of wording are taken into account.

B. GENERAL ECCLESIASTICAL HIGH SCHOOLS

1. The written exam for the promotion and graduation exams in the Ecclesiastical Specialization subjects at the General Ecclesiastical High Schools: "Elements of Liturgics and Rituals" (A' Grade), "Topics in Dogmatic Theology" (B' Grade), and "Topics in Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology" (C' Grade), consist of a combination of topics organized into two (2) groups. Each group includes two (2) topics with individual questions. The points for each question in both groups varies depending on its level of difficulty. The points are determined when the exam questions are prepared and are communicated in writing to the students. The questions must cover different areas and, as far as possible, a broad range of the topics taught.
2. Group A consists of two (2) topics, which include various types of questions designed to assess basic knowledge of the course and its understanding. Each topic contains questions of graduated difficulty.

- a. The first topic consists of a variety of objective questions and is worth twenty-five (25) points. These questions may include multiple-choice or multi-choice, sequencing/ranking of items, matching, gap-filling, alternative answer, or true-false questions. Although the questions shall vary in difficulty, the first topic could be considered easy, as it requires skills at a low cognitive level.
 - b. The second topic consists of two (2) short-answer questions and is worth twenty-five (25) marks. The first question is worth ten (10) points and the second fifteen (15) points. These questions assess understanding and, to a certain extent, the ability to relate concepts and information and to provide reasoned explanations. The wording of each question must be extremely clear so that the required answer is concise. The questions in the second topic could be considered of medium difficulty, as they are a combination of objective and open-ended questions.
3. Group B consists of two (2) topics with corresponding open-ended questions requiring constructed-response answers, which assess students' ability to engage in critical analysis and synthetic thinking, as well as their ability to connect and evaluate knowledge, facts and processes.
 - a. The first topic consists of one (1) question and is worth twenty-five (25) points.
 - b. The second topic also consists of one (1) question and is worth twenty-five (25) points.
 - c. The questions in Group B, which concern knowledge and higher-order cognitive skills, assess students' ability to understand, analyze, interpret and correlate theological knowledge and, consequently, to critically process it and expand their knowledge.

For the questions in Group B, brief theological may be provided in printed form material (such as an excerpt from a historical or theological text, a hymn, an icon, etc.), which students take into account or use in their answers as a source of information. The required answers must align with the course's expected learning outcomes and have such a range as to be completed within the time allotted for the written exam. Therefore, each question must require an answer not exceeding twenty (20) to thirty (30) lines. Exceeding this indicative limit shall not result in a negative grade. The open-ended and extended-response answers could be regarded of medium difficulty, as they engage students' higher-order cognitive skills. When assessing the answers to the questions in Group B, the completeness of structure and content, as well as the clarity and accuracy of the wording, are taken into account.

In all other respects, the provisions of Presidential Decree 126/2016 (A' 211) and Ministerial Decision 102474/Δ2/2021 (B' 4134) shall apply.

This Decision shall enter into force as of the 2022–2023 school year.

This Decision shall be published in the Government Gazette.