

Subject: North Texas Presbytery Licensure and Ordination Process

This is intended to provide some direction and guidance on your upcoming exams.

Here you will find the basic info about this process. <https://ntpresby.org/committees/theological-examining/> **Note the [deadlines] for written exams and the date for oral exams with the committee.** In the bottom right corner of that page you will find other helpful information about prepping for the exams.

Based on FAQ:

The Chapell and Meek is a good and helpful start but it does ***not*** cover everything on the exams. It will help prepare you for the exams *if you take the time to do the work and write out all the answers.* <https://www.pcabookstore.com/p-1765-preparing-for-licensure-and-or.aspx>

You will be examined in the following areas:

Christian experience and character -- a questionnaire will be provided.

For Licensure

English Bible -- you will need to know things like outlines of the books of the Bible, major themes in the OT and NT, stories of key personalities, chapter and verse locations for various texts and topics, and places you might go in the Scriptures to teach or counsel people in real life.

Theology -- you will need to know Qs 1-39 of the WSC and how to talk about them in both a pastoral and scholarly way. There's much more to the exams than the WSC (e.g., what is theology and why is it important?), but this is a good place to begin for fundamental knowledge and categories.

BCO -- you will need to know an outline and an overview of the BCO. Hint: The table of contents is your friend.

History -- you will need to know key events, dates, personalities, and controversies -- and the same regarding presbyterian history including the story of the PCA.

For Ordination

(May only be taken after passing the licensure exams and receiving an approved call for ministry.)

Sacraments -- you will need to know things like different views on the sacraments, proper candidates for them, how they ought to be administered and why. Note: WCF and WLC and BCO sections on the sacraments are good places to begin. Don't overlook the relevant biblical texts on the sacraments from OT and NT!

Views -- a set of questions on such areas as creation, church officers, spiritual gifts. You may download it here and email it back to me. <https://ntpresby.org/uploads/2021/06/15/views-tec-ntp-2021.pdf>

****IMPORTANT****

The written exams vary in size and length. The following times are *rough estimates* based on recent exams. Some candidates take longer than others. BCO usually takes the least time (c. 1.5 hours). English Bible and History usually take the most time (c. 3.5 - 4.5 hours each). Theology and Sacraments (c. 2.5 - 3.5 hours each).

All exams must be proctored. The clerk of TEC will make the exams available to your proctor (a TE or RE of your choice) along with specific instructions about how to take them -- and how your proctor must submit them back to the clerk or chairman.

You may take the exams as you are ready to take them -- *in the order you prefer.*

Note: You must take English Bible, Theology, and BCO before taking History or Sacraments. To take these final two exams the clerk of TEC must have a copy of the following: your approved call, your completed internship, your diplomas (undergrad and grad), your filled out questionnaire on experience and character, transcript showing GREEK and HEBREW, exegetical papers showing proficiency in original languages, and your views document.

To prep for and pass the exams you will need to rely on the ordinary means of grace, remember the promises of God to you, reach out for the power of God in your weakness, and rest in the finished work of Christ for you. *Just as you will need to do every day in your pastoral ministry.*