

Basic Study Questions for Grade 8

These Basic Study Questions have been revised to include questions and/or answers suggested by Bishop Burbidge as important for those preparing for Confirmation. These questions are indicated with an asterisk (*).

The questions in this booklet are in the order of subject matter covered in the chapters of the textbook. Some questions are repeated because the textbook covers some subjects in both First and Second Semester. There are also questions on subject matters not covered in the textbook, but necessary for Confirmation preparation.

Note: CCC refers to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

First Semester (Chapters 1- 13):

1. Who is God?

God is the all-perfect pure spirit. God is eternal (always has been, always will be), all powerful, all wise, all holy.

***2. Define the mystery of the Trinity. [CCC 253-255]**

The Blessed Trinity is the central mystery of our Catholic faith. There are three Divine Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

3. Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, true God and true man. He is the Savior of the world, the Messiah. At the end of the world, He will come to judge the living and the dead.

4. What is the Incarnation?

The Incarnation is the truth that God became man. The Incarnation refers to the conception and birth of Jesus, the Son of God became man through Mary.

5. Why did the Son of God become man? [CCC 457-460]

The Son of God became man:

- a. in order to save us (take away our sins) by reconciling us with God
- b. so that we would know God's love
- c. to be our model of holiness
- d. to make us sharers in his divinity

***6. What is the Paschal Mystery? [CCC 1067, 654]**

The Paschal Mystery is Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by His Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension. The Paschal Mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin and by his Resurrection he opens for us the way to new life.

7. Who founded (started) the Church?

Jesus Christ founded the Church.

***8. When did Jesus’ disciples first experience the gift of the Holy Spirit? How does Sacred Scripture describe the event? [CCC 731-732]**

The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter.

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”(Acts 2: 1-4)

(note: Pentecost is often referred to as the “birthday of the Church.”)

***9. What are the four marks of the Church? Briefly explain. [CCC 813-870]**

The four marks of the Church and what they mean are:

One - The Church is one because of her source, foundation, and bonds of unity in Christ.

Holy - The Church is holy because she is united with Christ, Who through the Church sanctifies all people making possible holiness in life .

Catholic – The Church is catholic in that the Church is universal (for all people in all times and all places).

Apostolic – The Church is apostolic because she can trace her teaching and authority back to the Apostles and thus to Christ.

10. Name the Twelve Apostles chosen by Christ

Bartholomew	Andrew	Philip	Thomas
James the Greater	James the Lesser	John	Judas
Thaddaeus	Simon	Simon Peter	
Matthew			

***11. Where can we find the teachings of the Catholic Church? [CCC 95]**

The teachings of the Catholic Church can be found in Scripture, Tradition (precepts of the faith continuously transmitted from the Apostolic Church to the present day), and the Magisterium.

***12. What is Scripture and how do we as Catholics understand it? [CCC 101-141]**

Scripture is the inspired word of God as found in the Bible in human words.

13. What is infallibility?

Infallibility is the gift of the Holy Spirit that protects the Church from teaching errors in matters of faith and morals. Only the Pope (and all the bishops united with him) can teach infallibly.

14. What is the Magisterium?

The Magisterium is the teaching office of the Church. It is exercised by the Pope and the bishops united with him.

15. Who is the Pope?

The Pope is the successor of St. Peter, the Bishop of Rome, the visible head of the entire Church, the Vicar of Jesus Christ, who is the invisible head of the Church.

16. What is the Holy Eucharist?

The Holy Eucharist is the Sacrament which is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ – under the appearances of bread and wine.

***17. How is Christ present in the Eucharistic species? [CCC 1374-1375]**

Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharistic species in a unique and incomparable way. He is present in a true, real and substantial way in His Body and Blood, together with His soul and divinity.

(note: Eucharistic species refers to what appears to be bread and wine)

18. What is transubstantiation?

Transubstantiation means, “change of substance.” It is the complete change of the bread and wine into Jesus Christ’s Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity which occurs at the Consecration during Mass.

19. What is Confirmation? [CCC Glossary and CCC 1285]

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation into the Church.

Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which “confirm” or strengthen the baptized in union with Christ and equip them for active participation in the life of the Church, and so make them more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith. Confirmation permanently changes the soul, marking it with an indelible spiritual "character," the “seal” of the Holy Spirit.

20. Who is the usual minister of Confirmation?

The Bishop is the usual minister of Confirmation.

21. What is the form of Confirmation?

The form of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the words, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

***22. How does the Bishop confirm? [CCC 1299]**

The Bishop extends his hands over the person to be confirmed and calls upon the Holy Spirit. He then confers the Sacrament by laying hands upon the head of each candidate, anointing the forehead with the sacred chrism, and saying:

Bishop says, "(Name)... be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Candidate responds, "Amen."

Bishop says, "Peace be with you."

Candidate responds, "And with your spirit."

23. What is the significance of the gesture of the Bishop extending his hands over the whole group of candidates for Confirmation?

Since the time of the Apostles, this gesture has signified calling down the *gift of the Holy Spirit*; it begins the sacramental action. The Bishop invokes the outpouring of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

24. What is the matter of Confirmation?

The matter of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the laying on of the hand and the anointing with sacred chrism.

***25. What is sacred chrism and why is it used? [CCC 1293-1296]**

Sacred chrism is oil mixed with balsam and consecrated by the Bishop used for anointing in the Rite of Confirmation.

In treating the rite of Confirmation, it is fitting to consider the sign of *anointing* and what it signifies: a spiritual *seal*.

Anointing, in Biblical and other ancient symbolism, is rich in meaning: oil is a sign of abundance and joy; it cleanses and limbers; oil is a sign of healing, since it is soothing to bruises and wounds. Oil makes radiant with beauty, health, and strength.

***26. Why does the Bishop anoint in the form of the cross? [CCC 1303]**

The Bishop anoints the forehead in the form of a cross to remind us that we belong to Christ and that we must defend our faith with gratitude for Christ's redeeming death on the cross.

27. What is the significance of choosing a saint's name as your Confirmation name?

The candidate takes a saint's name to remind him that he is to place himself under the protection of a patron saint, which he chooses as an advocate before God and that he is to follow the exemplary life of this patron saint.

***28. Name the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Describe briefly. [CCC1831]**

- a. Wisdom: helps us to know God's will for our lives.
- b. Understanding: enables us to appropriate the faith to make it our own.
- c. Knowledge: allows us to come to know God better, that we may have a personal relationship with Him.
- d. Fortitude: helps us to be courageous in the defense of our faith.
- e. Counsel: aids us in making right judgments.
- f. Piety: assists us in being more prayerful, reverent, and holy
- g. Fear of the Lord: is a holy and healthy awe and reverence for God, the creator of heaven and earth.

***29. Name the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. [CCC1832]**

The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are:

charity joy peace patience kindness goodness
generosity gentleness faithfulness modesty self-control chastity

30. List the Holy Days of Obligation in the United States in order of the liturgical year.

1. The Immaculate Conception – December 8
2. Christmas – December 25
3. Mary, Mother of God – January 1
4. Ascension Thursday – 40 days after Easter
5. The Assumption – August 15
6. All Saints' Day – November 1

***31. What is a sacrament? [CCC 1113-1131]**

A Sacrament is an outward (visible) sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

***32. What are the seven sacraments? [CCC 1210-1211]**

The seven Sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

***33. Name the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Sacraments of Service. [CCC 1210-1211]**

- The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
- The Sacraments of Healing are Penance and Anointing of the Sick
- The Sacraments of Service are Holy Orders and Matrimony

***34. How is Christian initiation brought about through the Sacraments? [CCC 1212]**

Christian initiation is accomplished by means of the Sacraments which establish the foundation of the Christian life. The faithful born anew by Baptism are strengthened by Confirmation and nourished by the Holy Eucharist.

35. What is Baptism?

Baptism is the sacrament which takes away Original Sin and fills our soul with sanctifying grace. It makes us Christians (followers of Jesus Christ), sons of God and members of the Church.

36. What is original sin?

The first sin committed (on earth) by Adam and Eve that we all inherit and is washed away by the Sacrament of Baptism.

37. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, the sanctifier of souls. The Holy Spirit is God.

38. Who is Mary?

Mary is the Mother of Jesus, our Savior.

***39. What are the three central teachings of our Church concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary? [CCC 490-493, 966]**

The three central teachings of our Church concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary are:

- The Immaculate Conception: Mary was conceived without original sin
- Perpetual Virginity: Mary was and remained a virgin – before, during and after the birth of Jesus
- The Assumption: at the end of her earthly life, Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven

***40. Name the Mysteries of the Rosary (and be able to briefly explain them).**

Joyful Mysteries: The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Nativity, The Presentation in the Temple, The Finding of the Child Jesus after Three Days in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries: The Agony in the Garden, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning with Thorns, The Carrying of the Cross, The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord

Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, The Assumption of Mary, The Crowning of the Blessed Mother as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Luminous Mysteries: The Baptism at the Jordan, The Miracle at Cana, The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God (and call to conversion), The Transfiguration, The Institution of the Eucharist (at the Last Supper)

41. What is the Communion of Saints? [CCC 962]

The Communion of Saints means that all the faithful, living and dead, share in all the good that exists and is done in the universal Church. It consists of “those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified and the blessed in heaven”.

(note: The Communion of Saints is sometimes referred to as the Church Militant, Church Suffering and Church Triumphant.)

42. What is Purgatory?

Purgatory is a place of temporary separation from God; it is the state after death which purifies souls and helps them to make up for sins committed while they were alive.

43. What is a martyr?

A martyr is someone who dies witnessing to the Faith.

(First Semester continued on next page)

44. Name the books of the Old Testament. What are the first five books called?

*Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers
Deuteronomy*			
Joshua	Judges	Ruth	
1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings
1 Chronicles	2 Chronicles	Ezra	Nehemiah
Tobit	Judith	Esther	1 Maccabees
2 Maccabees	Job	Psalms	Proverbs
Ecclesiastes	Song of Songs	Wisdom	Sirach
Isaiah	Jeremiah	Lamentations	Baruch
Ezekiel	Daniel	Hosea	Joel
Amos	Obadiah	Jonah	Micah
Nahum	Habakkuk	Zephaniah	Haggai
Zechariah	Malachi		

***The first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) are called the Pentateuch.; also called the “Torah”**

Please note: Go to the Parish website (<http://straymonds.org/>) and under the Religious Education drop down menu look for *The Catholic Books of the Bible Song* video – there you will find a catchy tune by which the children can learn these names.

Second Semester (Chapters 14-26):

1. What is original sin?

The first sin committed (on earth) by Adam and Eve that we all inherit and is washed away by the Sacrament of Baptism.

2. List the Seven Deadly Sins and what they mean.

1. Pride - an exaggerated opinion of oneself
2. Avarice/Greed - uncontrolled desire for earthly things, such as money, clothes, etc.
3. Envy - unhappiness or discontent over the good fortune or success of others
4. Wrath/Anger - an uncontrolled feeling of displeasure and antagonism
5. Lust - an uncontrolled desire for sexual pleasure
6. Gluttony - an uncontrolled use of food and drink
7. Sloth - excessive laziness or carelessness

***3. Define the meaning of virtue. [CCC 1803]**

Virtue is the power from God to accomplish some kind of moral good.

***4. List the three theological virtues and describe each. [1812-1829]**

Faith: the power to believe in God and all He has revealed through Christ and the Church

Hope: to trust in God for the graces necessary to obey Him and to merit eternal life

Charity (love): to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves

***5. List the four cardinal virtues and describe each. [CCC 1804-1809]**

Prudence: helps us to judge what is truly good and to choose the right means of attaining/accomplishing it

Justice: helps us to live honestly by respecting the rights of others – giving to everyone what is due to him

Fortitude: helps us to face every difficulty or danger with inner peace and courage, even if it involves great sacrifice and suffering

Temperance: is the power to control ourselves

***6. What are the seven corporal works of mercy? [CCC 2447]**

The corporal works of mercy are acts of love that help us to care for the physical and material needs of others. They are:

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Shelter the homeless
5. Visit the imprisoned
6. Visit the sick
7. Bury the dead

***7. What are the seven spiritual works of mercy? [CCC 2447]**

The spiritual works of mercy are acts of love that help us to care for the needs of people's hearts, minds and souls. They are:

1. Admonish the sinner
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Counsel the doubtful
4. Comfort the sorrowful
5. Bear wrongs patiently
6. Forgive all injuries
7. Pray for the living and the dead

***8. List the Ten Commandments in order. [CCC 2083-2557]**

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have other gods before Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

9. List the precepts of the Church

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. Confess your sins at least once a year.
3. Receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. Help provide for the needs of the Church.
6. Obey the laws of the Church concerning Matrimony.*
7. Participate in the Church's mission of evangelization of souls.*

* Not found in student textbook

***10. What is conscience? How do we develop a well-informed conscience?**

[CCC 1776-1780, 1783-1788, 1795-1797, 1799-1800]

Conscience is our God-given capacity to understand the law of God written on the heart of every human being. In building our relationship with God, we form our conscience in harmony with the teachings of Christ through the Church and through fervent prayer.

An upright and true moral conscience is formed by education and by assimilating the Word of God and the teaching of the Church. It is supported by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and helped by the advice of wise people.

***11. What is mortal sin? [CCC 1855, 1857]**

Mortal sin is a grave infraction of the law of God that destroys charity in the heart and constitutes a turning away from God. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be present: grave matter, full knowledge, and full consent of the will.

(note: if not redeemed by repentance and God's forgiveness, it causes exclusion from God's Kingdom.)

***12. What is venial sin? [CCC 1862]**

Venial sin offends and wounds, but does not destroy. It weakens charity; it manifests a disordered affection for created good; it impedes the soul's progress in the exercise of the virtues and the practice of the moral good; it merits temporal punishment.

***13. What are the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching?**

The seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching are:

1. Right to life and the dignity of the human person
2. Call to family, community and participation
3. Rights and responsibilities
4. Option for the poor and vulnerable
5. The dignity of work and the right of workers
6. Solidarity – we are one human family
7. Care of God’s Creation

***14. What is prayer? [CCC 2558-2565]**

Prayer is turning the heart toward God. When a person prays, he enters into a living relationship with God.

***15. What are the various ways to pray? [CCC 2699-2721]**

The various ways to pray are vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplative prayer. All three ways of prayer presuppose recollecting one’s mind and heart.

16. What are the two main parts of the Holy Mass?

Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist are the two main parts of the Mass.

17. Is the Sacrifice of the Mass the same sacrifice as the sacrifice of the Cross?

The Sacrifice of the Mass is the same sacrifice as the sacrifice of the Cross; the only difference is in the manner in which it is offered.

***18. What is a sacrament? [CCC 1113-1131]**

A Sacrament is an outward (visible) sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

***19. What are the seven sacraments? [CCC 1210-1211]**

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- The Sacraments of Service are Holy Orders and Matrimony

21. What three sacraments leave an indelible mark on the soul?

Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders leave an indelible mark on the soul.

22. What is sanctifying grace?

Sanctifying grace is a supernatural gift from God, which abides in our soul and makes us holy, children of God and heirs of heaven. We receive this grace through the Sacraments.

23. What is the Holy Eucharist?

The Holy Eucharist is the Sacrament which is the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ – under the appearances of bread and wine.

24. What is transubstantiation?

Transubstantiation means, “change of substance.” It is the complete change of the bread and wine into Jesus Christ’s Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity which occurs at the Consecration during Mass.

25. What are three conditions necessary for the worthy reception of the Holy Eucharist?

The three conditions necessary for the worthy reception of the Holy Eucharist are: First, to be in the state of grace; second, to recognize and to consider whom we are about to receive (faith in Jesus’ Real Presence); third, to observe the Eucharistic fast.

26. Who forgives our sins in the Sacrament of Penance?

Christ forgives our sins in the sacrament of Penance through the priest.

27. What is the particular judgment?

The particular judgment is the individual judgment by Christ of each human being at the moment after death.

28. What is the general judgment?

The general judgment is the universal judgment of the entire human race at the end of the world.

29. What is hell?

Hell is eternal separation from God.

30. What is Heaven?

Heaven is eternal happiness in God's presence.

31. What does "resurrection of the body" mean?

The "resurrection of the body" means that our bodies will be transformed by the power of God and reunited with our souls, so that we will share in the eternal reward or punishment we have merited.

***32. What is the Sermon on the Mount and where is it found in Scripture?**

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, Chapters 5-7) is the first public sermon given by Jesus Christ. It begins with the Beatitudes but contains many other exhortations on the life lived according to the will of God. The teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount are the way to true happiness. By describing Jesus' own charity, they also show us how God expects us to live.

***33. What are the Beatitudes? [CCC 1716-1719]**

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
9. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Heaven.

34. Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

35. The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

36. Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

37. Name the Books of the New Testament

<u>Gospels:</u>	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Acts	Romans	1 Corinthians		2 Corinthians
Galatians	Ephesians	Philippians		Colossians
1 Thessalonians		2 Thessalonians		1 Timothy
2 Timothy	Titus	Philemon		Hebrews
James	1 Peter	2 Peter		1 John
2 John	3 John	Jude		Revelation

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