

STUDY RESOURCES FOR ORDINATION EXAMS

1. General Resources

- a) http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/vfp_sfts_resources.asp (This is a web page from San Francisco Theological Seminary on resources for studying for the ordination exams. This is called “SFTS resource” throughout this guide.)
- This is a **VERY** complete list of material to review for all of the tests—over 30 links. General information is included, tips on taking the tests, and **specific old exams from 2007-2011** (theology, worship, polity and exegesis)
- b) <http://archive.pcusa.org/prep4min/prep4minresources/articulate/writing/player.html>
- This is an interactive site on how to take the exams. (NOTE: This is an archive Internet site. It may not be available permanently.)
- c) <http://gamc.pcusa.org/media/uploads/prep4min/articulate/structure/player.html>
- This is another interactive site about the exams. It covers the structure of the 4 senior exams.
- d) <http://www.pcusa.org/get/resources/resource/2758/>
- This is the official handbook from pcusa for candidates taking the exams. (dated Aug. 2012)
- e) <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/prep4min/standard-ordination-exams/>
- This site has some very informative links about taking the exams, especially in the **on-line format**, which is now the way the exam is given and taken. There are some video links that are valuable. Also indicated is a reference to a new chapter in the official handbook (link “d,” above) covering the recent changes in the exam process.

2. Bible Content Exam

- a) <http://www.whitneyhq.com/biblecontent>
- This website has Bible Content exams back to 1989, presented in an interactive format. You can take “practice exams” and get your score. NOTE: The Bible Content Exam makes very frequent use of questions from old exams.
- b) *Bible Basics: Mastering the Content of the Bible* by Douglas Ferguson
- This book has the questions and answers of the Bible Content exam from a number of years in the appendix of the book.
- c) <http://gamc.pcusa.org/media/uploads/prep4min/articulate/bible2/player.html>
- This is an interactive pcusa site about the Bible Content exam.

3. Worship Exam

- a) **REALLY** study the Directory for Worship, with special emphasis on the sacraments.

b) Good worship resource books:

- *Worship, Revised and Expanded Edition: Reformed according to Scripture*, by Hughes Oliphant Old
- *Introduction to Christian Worship*, by James White

c) Read this article:

http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/Worship_and_Sacraments/Whaley_Worship_Guide.pdf

This is an overview of Reformed worship, based on works by James White and Hughes Old, from the SFTS resource page

4. Theology Exam

a) Read the following articles:

- http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/Theological_Competence/Essential_doctrine_Ord_Jan06.pdf on the SFTS resource page
- http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/Theological_Competence/Essential_Tenets_PRF.pdf on the SFTS resource page
- http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/Theological_Competence/Theology_tips.pdf

This is an outline of Migliore's book *Faith Seeking Understanding* on the SFTS resource page

- http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/Theological_Competence/Whaley_Theology_Guide.pdf

This is an overview of Reformed theology, focused on Guthrie, Migliore, and Calvin. On the SFTS resource page

b) Several significant theology books:

- *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, by Donald McKim
This is an **invaluable** resource in reviewing many concepts of Reformed theology.
- *This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterians Affirm* by Stephen Plunkett
This is a short book reviewing major Reformed beliefs.
- *Christian Doctrine* by Shirley Guthrie
This is a major resource. Reading this book carefully is advised.
- *Presbyterian Creeds: A Guide to the Book of Confessions* by Jack Rogers

5. Polity Exam

a) Good polity book to study:

Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers by Joan Gray and Joyce Tucker.

b) Read these articles:

- http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/Church_Polity/Whaley_Polity_Guide.pdf

This is an overview of Presbyterian polity based on the Gray and Tucker book, from the SFTS resource page

- http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/Church_Polity/Historic Prin Con Church Gov.pdf

This is the pcusa paper on historic principles, conscience and church government, from the SFTS resource page.

6. Biblical Exegesis

a) **Important resource:** <http://www.textweek.com/scripture.htm>

This is the section of the textweek.com site where you can search by scripture for a text you are studying. There are **lots** of links here to historical commentary, contemporary commentary, plus specific periodical articles (which you can access online through your seminary library account). This is a big help in identifying articles—time saver! You can search according to your exegetical scripture passage.

b) Well-regarded commentary series:

Anchor Yale Bible Commentary

New Interpreter's Bible

Word Biblical Commentary

Interpretation Commentary

JPS Torah Commentary

Hermeneia

Ancient Christian Commentaries

c) Several bibliography sites:

- i) <http://www.denverseminary.edu/article/annotated-old-testament-bibliography-2012/>

An annotated Old Testament bibliography

- ii) <http://www.denverseminary.edu/article/new-testament-exegesis-bibliography-2012/>

An annotated New Testament bibliography

- iii) http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/Biblical_Exegesis/Bibliography_for_NT_Exegesis.pdf

Another NT bibliography from SFTS resource page

- iv) www.hgst.edu/wp-content/.../Bibliography-for-Old-Testament.pdf

Another OT bibliography

d) Read this article:

http://www.sfts.edu/student/vfp/docs/General_Tips/Six_Areas_of_Work_Exegesis.pdf

This is a chart of six areas of work in doing exegesis, from SFTS resource page.