

**PH.D. IN OLD TESTAMENT**  
**Field Essay Study Guide**  
School of Theology

The field essay in Old Testament will consist of two questions, each designed to take an hour of the applicant's 2-hour time allotment. Questions will be as follows:

1. **Hebrew Translation.** The applicant will be asked to translate a passage of approximately five to ten verses of Hebrew prose from the text of *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. The applicant will not need to bring a text but will be provided with a photocopy of the passage to be translated. The applicant will be asked to parse forms and explain syntax constructions from the selected passage. Moreover, applicants will be asked basic questions from Hebrew phonology and morphology. Dictionaries or other reference aids may not be used. The purpose of this translation exercise is to determine the extent of the applicant's expertise in Hebrew language.
2. **General Question.** For the second hour of the field essay, the applicant will be asked to write an essay on a Old Testament topic. Two subjects will be listed, and the student will be asked to choose one of the two. For this portion of the exam, the applicant should follow the suggested bibliography attached to this sheet.

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**Field Essay Reading List**  
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**Instructions:**

In preparing for the general question in Old Testament, students are advised to study at least two of the three works listed in each of the two categories listed below. The exam will consist of two questions from which one is to be selected. Questions are generally fairly broad, involving some major period or method of Old Testament research or asking for a discussion of scholarship in a particular book of the Old Testament. Usually the two questions will involve two distinct areas of Old Testament study, such as one from the Pentateuch and one from the Prophets.

**I. Introduction to the Old Testament**

Childs, B. S. *Introduction to the Old Testament as Scripture*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979.

Harrison, R. K. *Introduction to the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.

Rendtorff, Rolf *The Old Testament. An Introduction*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1991.

**II. Interpretation of the Old Testament**

Barton, John, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Biblical Interpretation*. Cambridge: University Press, 1998.

Knight, Douglas A., and Gene M. Tucker, eds. *The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters*. The Bible and Its Modern Interpreters Series. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1985.

VanGemeren, Willem A, ed. *A Guide to the Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.