

Pretest

What do your students know about the Old Testament? How well can they trace God’s activity from Genesis through Malachi? How familiar are they with the key people and places of the Old Testament? Can your students explain the relationship between the Old and New Testaments?

Because high school students vary widely in their Old Testament knowledge, a canned, one-size-fits-all course is not ideal. Teachers need to be aware of their students’ prior knowledge if they are to craft an effective instructional plan for this course.

In order to help teachers measure this prior knowledge, this teacher guide contains a pretest. We recommend that you give your students this pretest on the first day of this course—before handing out the student books or posting a chart or doing anything else. This instrument covers a wide range of Old Testament topics. It even asks students to summarize the Old Testament in an one-page essay. All of the questions on the pretest (along with many others) will appear at the end of the course on the final exam.

Duplicate the blackline masters on pages 15–18 of this teacher manual—one for each student. Also duplicate the sheets of cutout sorting cards on pages 12–14. (These masters can also be found on the CD.) Let students know that they may cut apart the cards to help them answer questions 1–3 of the pretest. (After they’ve put the cards in order, they are to write the results on their pretest.)

When the pretest has been distributed to all students, have them follow along while you read aloud the paragraph at the beginning of the pretest. Emphasize that they will not be graded on the pretest. (You may even choose to allow students to hand in the pretest without their names on the test.) Tell them that you will analyze the results in order to help you plan the details of the course.

After the tests are handed in, score them and analyze the results. Compute the average score for each of the five questions. Your students’ performance should help you decide what to emphasize as you teach the course.

Cutout Sorting Cards—Pretest, Question 1

Photocopy this page so that every student has one copy. Students may cut along the lines and arrange the boxes as an aid to answering question 1.

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

Cutout Sorting Cards—Pretest, Question 2

Photocopy this page so that every student has one copy. Students may cut along the lines and arrange the boxes as an aid to answering question 2.

The people of Israel cross the Red Sea.	David defeats Goliath.
Noah builds an ark.	The southern kingdom (Judah) is taken into captivity.
God calls Samuel.	Solomon builds the temple.
Cain kills his brother, Abel.	Nehemiah supervises the re-building of Jerusalem's walls.
Jericho's walls are brought down.	God creates the universe.
Jacob dreams about a stairway to heaven.	God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.
Gideon defeats the Midianites with 300 soldiers.	The kingdom is divided in two.
Moses receives the Ten Commandments.	Esther and Mordecai save the Jewish people.
Joseph interprets the pharaoh's dreams.	Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed.	The northern kingdom (Israel) is taken into captivity.

Cutout Sorting Cards—Pretest, Question 3

Photocopy this page so that every student has one copy. Students may cut along the lines and arrange the boxes as an aid to answering question 3.

Noah	Saul	Ruth
Moses	Sarah	Bathsheba
Nebuchadnezzar	Ezra	Solomon
Rachel	Joseph	Hezekiah
Rehoboam	Esau	Rebekah
Samuel	Eve	Esther
Cain	Jeremiah	Rahab

Old Testament Pretest

The purpose of this pretest is to find out what you know about the Old Testament. This pretest will not be graded, but the results will help your teacher customize the course to the needs of this class.

1. Write the names of all the Old Testament books in the order they appear in the Bible.

1. _____	14. _____	27. _____
2. _____	15. _____	28. _____
3. _____	16. _____	29. _____
4. _____	17. _____	30. _____
5. _____	18. _____	31. _____
6. _____	19. _____	32. _____
7. _____	20. _____	33. _____
8. _____	21. _____	34. _____
9. _____	22. _____	35. _____
10. _____	23. _____	36. _____
11. _____	24. _____	37. _____
12. _____	25. _____	38. _____
13. _____	26. _____	39. _____

2. Number these twenty Bible events in chronological order—from earliest to latest:

___ The people of Israel cross the Red Sea.	___ Jericho's walls are brought down.
___ David defeats Goliath.	___ God creates the universe.
___ Noah builds an ark.	___ Jacob dreams about a stairway to heaven.
___ The southern kingdom (Judah) is taken into captivity.	___ God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.
___ God calls Samuel.	___ Gideon defeats the Midianites with 300 soldiers.
___ Solomon builds the temple.	___ The kingdom is divided in two.
___ Cain kills his brother, Abel.	___ Moses receives the Ten Commandments.
___ Nehemiah supervises the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls.	

___ Esther and Mordecai save the Jewish people.

___ Joseph interprets the pharaoh's dreams.

___ Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

___ Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed.

___ The northern kingdom (Israel) is taken into captivity.

3. Number these twenty-one Bible people in chronological order—from earliest to latest:

___ Ruth

___ Jeremiah

___ Saul

___ Joseph

___ Rebekah

___ Rachel

___ Bathsheba

___ Noah

___ Sarah

___ Esau

___ Esther

___ Rehoboam

___ Solomon

___ Moses

___ Ezra

___ Eve

___ Rahab

___ Samuel

___ Hezekiah

___ Nebuchadnezzar

___ Cain

4. Here are some familiar verses from the Old Testament. Complete each Bible reference by supplying the correct book name.

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

_____ 20:2–3

The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.

_____ 3:19

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

_____ 1:2

Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.

_____ 4:16

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

_____ 1:1

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

_____ 6:6–7

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

_____ 1:8–9

"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

_____ 31:33

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

_____ 19:25

*Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and having salvation,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

_____ 9:9

Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.

_____ 1:16

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

_____ 23:1

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

_____ 21:25

*The Lord your God is with you,
he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with his love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.*

_____ 3:17

*But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!*

_____ 5:24

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

_____ 1:7

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

_____ 9:6

*I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.*

_____ 12:2

*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

_____ 19:1

*And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.*

_____ 2:28

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

_____ 29:11–13

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

_____ 121:1–2

But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.

_____ 13:14

*Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way
and the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn to the Lord,
and he will have mercy on him,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.*

_____ 55:6–7

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

_____ 3:22–23

*When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.*

_____ 11:1

*He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.*

_____ 6:8

5. How would you explain the Old Testament to someone who has not read it? What would you say to convince someone that the Old Testament is not only interesting to read but also important for Christians to understand? Summarize the story of the Old Testament in an essay of 200–250 words (about one handwritten page).