

Unit 1 Test Bank Answer Key

Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. d | 6. d |
| 2. b | 7. c |
| 3. b | 8. b |
| 4. c | 9. d |
| 5. a | 10. c |

Matching

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. b | 5. f |
| 2. a | 6. c |
| 3. d | 7. e |
| 4. g | |

Essay

Answers will vary but should include the following points:

- A. Explain the difference between scientific truth and religious truth.

Science deals strictly with objectively measurable phenomena. A phenomenon is a fact, event, or situation that can be observed. It is measurable in that one can calculate its observable qualities in a certain way. It is objective in that it describes something based on facts as they truly are, rather than being influenced by one's personal biases. For example, height, length, weight, and speed are all phenomena that can be measured. They are also objective facts. They are objective because, if calculated correctly, they will be the same no matter who is measuring them. Scientific truth is determined when numerous scientists find the same results in their measurements; at that point, they will declare something to be "true."

Religion and science address different kinds of truth and use different methods to discover what is true. For example, some spiritual truths are logical and can be known through human reasoning, rather than scientific proof. And some truths are beyond the abilities of humans to know, except when those truths are revealed by God.

The Bible is the record of how God has revealed himself and his plan to us. The most important truths revealed in the Bible are not scientific truths but religious truths. For example, in the first Creation account, we learn that God is good. This truth is not something that can be measured objectively. God's goodness has no height, weight, speed, and so on. The truth of God's goodness is outside the realm of science, but it is nonetheless true.

You do not have to choose between religion and science, because both are true, even though we come to know their truths through different methods. And if both are true, then one cannot invalidate the other.



B. Explain what it means to say that God inspired the writing of Sacred Scripture.

The word *inspire* means “to blow or breathe into.” The ideas of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Divine Inspiration is the assistance the Holy Spirit gave the human authors of the books of the Bible so these authors could communicate through human words God’s message of salvation he wanted to reveal.

This does not mean that the Holy Spirit dictated the Bible word for word. Instead, the human authors used their skills and creativity to express God’s truth. The Bible is a collaboration of God’s message combined with human expression. Because it is God’s Word being conveyed, God is the true author of Sacred Scripture.

The saving truths expressed in Sacred Scripture are truly divine, but the means of expression are truly human. Because God loves us, he communicates with us in ways we can understand. Through the Bible, God speaks incomprehensible truths in ways we can comprehend.

However, we sometimes have to work to understand the words of the Bible’s human authors. Because the human authors were writing two thousand or more years ago, we have to take into account the situations those authors were in. They had an understanding of the world that was unique to their time and place. To properly grasp what the human authors were trying to communicate, we must take into consideration their time and culture and the ways they wrote. Accurately understanding what the human authors were trying to say allows us to better recognize God’s message to us.

