

Junior High - Sample Questions Book of Saints - Samir Kirolos

(updated 07.08.2016) (please check www.spiritualfestivity.org for updates)

Please note: Sample questions are to be used as a study guide.

1. What does the name Mary mean and why did they name her Mary? (pg 8)
2. Where was Mary born? Near the pool of Bethesda, there is a gate, what is the name of the gate? (pg8)
3. When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anne took her to the temple. How many years did she spend there? (pg 8)
4. Zachariah the priest wanted to find a suitable man who would take care of Mary. How did he do this? (pg8)
5. After the burial the disciples went to Jerusalem, who did they meet? What did this disciple insist they do? What did they find? What did this disciple see on the way to Jerusalem?
6. Our church celebrates the Assumption of St. Mary's soul and body to heaven on two different dates. What are they?
7. In Zeitoun, thousands of people used to gather around the church every night praying, and singing praises to Mary. Approximately how long did these apparitions occur for? (pg14)
8. Thousands came from abroad to witness this miracle. One witness gave specific details of what was seen around 11:00 pm and again around 2:45 am. Explain in detail the experience, paraphrasing is acceptable. (pg14-15)
9. The Virgin Mary appeared to a church in Shobra, Cairo. When and where? (pg 15)
10. What was the purpose given behind creating angels? Provide biblical reference to support your answer. (pg 17)
11. What does the word Michael in Hebrew mean? (pg17)
12. In Revelation 12:7-8, a war broke out in heaven. What are the two sides? (pg 17)
13. The Scriptures show that good angels will continue in the service of God in the future age. Where will the evil angels be? (pg 17)
14. Samir Kirolos states that all angels were created holy. What could disturb this holiness and how. (pg17)
15. The Archangel Michael contended with the devil and was given a responsibility from God. What was the Archangel's responsibility and how was his work completed. Where did Archangel Michael have to be present to complete his work?(pg17)
16. What description does Samir Kirolos give regarding the work of angels. (pg 18) Give 3 examples and 2 biblical references.
17. Samir Kirolos speaks regarding the importance of St. Mark's mother in the early days of the church. How was she important? (pg 27)
18. Saint Mark was always associated with the Lord. Give evidence as well as 2 biblical references when available. (pg 27) How does the church prevent falsifications in these accounts?
19. Why is St. Mark usually being portrayed with a lion. (pg 28)
20. The author states that St. Mark's real work began in Africa. How did his broken sandals lead to a convert. (pg 28)
21. How does the author explain Peter's eminence among the apostles? Was he seen as a leader? (pg 32)
22. What was the transforming crisis in Saul's life? (pg37)
23. St. Paul's lifetime in preaching and spreading the word brought on physical afflictions and tortures that are documented by the author. Describe three physical afflictions mentioned in the book. (pg38-40)
24. When speaking of St. George, Samir Kirolos defines a martyr. What is his definition and what verse is used to define a martyr? (pg 41)
25. What were the physical tortures and abuses that St. George had to endure? Where did he look to for patience? (pg 43)

26. How rampant was martyrdom in the first few centuries of Christianity? Which country gave more martyrs than any other? (pg 51)
27. How was John, Prince Theodore's father, degraded by his wife Osawaia, and what changed this? (pg52)
28. Theodore, upon learning about the departure of his father, compared the Lord Jesus Christ to his mother's idols. What comparison did he use and how did he demonstrate it? (pg 52-53)
29. When Demiana was old enough, her father intended her to marry one of his noble friends. What was Demiana's request? (pg 57)
30. When soldiers approached Demiana's palace to attack, what was Demiana's warning that she voiced to those with her? What was their response? (pg 58)
31. How many were martyred with St. Demiana? What was to become of her body years later? (pg 60)
32. On 3 different occasions, Abanoub was tortured severely and his faith and strength caused many to believe and to be martyred. What are these three different times? (pg62-63)
33. Who was a big influence in St Marina's upbringing and how was she influenced? (pg 66)
34. How does the author connect martyrdom and the resurrection? What is the one true message we should get when reading about martyrs? (pg71)
35. While St. Barbara was learning about Christianity, her father was building her a new bathhouse. What changes did she make to the construction of it and what did she want to use it for? (pg73)
36. When the governor stripped St. Barbara's clothes off and forced her to walk in the streets of the city, was she seen? Why? (pg 74)
37. The Edict of persecution was drawn up to 201 AD. It had made its way to Alexandria. How was Alexandria central to Christians at the time? (pg 77)
38. After Perpetua was brought before Hialrian the procurator, and she refused his orders to offer a sacrifice, she was sentenced to meet the wild beasts along with other Christians. That same night, Saturus had a vision. What was this account? (pg 78)
39. Felicitas was still awaiting the birth of her child. Why was she concerned? (pg 79)
40. Why did Felicitas want to have the baby before the games?(pg 79)
41. How many days before the games did the community gather to pray for Felicitas' childbirth? (pg 79)
42. How much longer after the community's prayers did Felicitas give birth?(pg 79)
43. How long did Felicitas remain pregnant and what gender was her baby? (pg 79)
44. After Saturus was bitten by the leopard, he raised his head and spoke to the soldier. What did he tell him? (pg 80)
45. Philip, the Roman Eparch of Alexandria, and the ruler of Egypt, allowed the Christians to worship, preach, and teach as they liked. What was the only penalty enforced against them?(pg 81)
46. Eugenia, Philip's daughter was very well educated and admired by all. What had she been doing in secret? Whose writings inspired her? (pg 82)
47. Why did Eugenia call her servants to disguise her as a man? How did they do it? (pg 82)
48. Philip was frightened when he discovered that his only daughter was missing. In despair and frustration he called the pagan priests to see if they could tell him what happened. What was their reaction? What explanation did he give them? (pg 83)
49. How did Philip react to the pagan priests' explanation about Eugenia's disappearance? What did he have done about it?(pg 83)
50. When Eugenia met the Bishop with the two men, how did she introduce herself to him? What did she tell the Bishop about where they were from and what they wanted? (pg 83)
51. After being baptized, which monastery did the "three brothers in Christ" journey to? (pg 83)
52. When Abbot Theodore died, after three years, who was chosen to replace him as the new abbot? (pg 84)
53. Many people from Alexandria came to the monastery for what 3 reasons? (pg 84)

54. After Melanthis was cured by Eugenius' prayers, and she became a patroness of the monastery, she travelled to the monastery more often. Her spiritual love for Eugenia was changing into what? (pg 84)
55. What did Melanthis propose to the abbot and what was Eugenia's response? (pg 84)
56. Melanthis became very bitter about Eugenia's response. What did she decide to do and how did she do it? (pg 84)
57. At Eugenia's trial, when the verdict was guilty, and those present began to suspect all the monks of such terrible behavior, what did Eugenia decide to do and why?(pg 84)
58. The emperor Decius, known for the Decian Persecution, heard that because of Eugenia, Philip was converted to Christianity. When she was brought in front of him, what were the three different tortures he ordered for her before she was beheaded? How did she get out of them? (pg 85)
59. What year was it and what was the name of the emperor at the time, when the longest and fiercest persecution Christians ever experienced occurred? (pg86)
60. Why does the Coptic calendar commence with the year 284? (pg 86)
61. The Copts follow the same calendar system of the ancient Egyptians. When does it start and what is its makeup? (pg 86).
62. How old was Peter, son of Sophia, when his parents offered him to the patriarch Abba Thenoas? (pg 87)
63. The years in which Abba Petros guided the church were years of excessive stress. What were the two storms that raged against the church? (pg 87)
64. The persecutions that were unleashed against Christians when Abba Petros became patriarch were those ordered by Emperor Diocletian. How long did they last? Who was the last one to lose his life for the faith under Diocletian and what name is he given in church history? (pg 87-88)
65. When the emperor's soldiers took Abba Petros to prison, and after he told them he was ready, they took him on his way to be executed. He was asked if he had any special request to make. What was his request and what did he do when he got there? (pg 89-90)
66. When the soldiers led Abba Petros to be executed, for a while no one dared raise a hand against him, for they beheld his face like that of an angel. What did one of the officers do to encourage the soldiers to kill him? Did it work? (pg 90)
67. Where did the faithful bury the remains of their blessed Patriarch? (pg 90)
68. When it became time for Moses the Black to be baptized, he confessed all his passed evil deeds publicly in the church. What did Saint Macarius see during the confession? (pg 93)
69. When one of the Fathers of Scetis were holding a council to reprimand a monk who had committed a fault, Abba Moses took a bag with a hole in it, filled it with sand and carried it on his shoulder. How did he explain this to the monks when they asked? How did they respond? (pg94)
70. Today, where is St Moses' body kept? Whose body is buried next to his? (pg95)
71. Despite the intense persecution by Septimus Severus, the number of Christians had been constantly growing. Who made a decision at the time to look after the welfare of the people and how? (pg 96)
72. What happened during 199 AD that turned the course of Coptic history? (pg 97)
73. Demetrius was a man of little knowledge. What was his first objective after he had been elected? (pg 98)
74. One of his many significant achievements had to do with calculating the date of Easter. How did he calculate it? Is it still followed today? (pg 98)
75. How old was Origen when Pope Demetrius appointed him as the Dean of the School of Alexandria? (pg 99)
76. When Origen was returning home from his mission that Abba Demetrius had sent him on, Alexander, the Bishop of Jerusalem detained him and ordained him priest without asking permission from Abba Demetrius. This angered the Patriarch, who convoked a council and, despite Origen's towering personality, he excommunicated him. He based this decision on two

- reasons. What were they? (pg 99-100)
77. How old did Abba Demetrius live to be? (pg 100)
 78. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Abba Pishoi's mother in a vision to choose a son to serve the Lord, what was her objection regarding Pishoi and how did the angel answer? (pg 101)
 79. How old was Pishoi when he joined the monastery of Scetis? (pg 101)
 80. It was said of Pishoi that he liked to read which book the most? What would happen when there were parts that were hard to understand? (pg 101)
 81. What was one of Saint Pishoi's disguised merits that is specifically mentioned? (pg 104)
 82. When did Abba Pishoi die? Who died three months later? (pg 105)
 83. It happened that Demophilus the Patriarch of Constantinople passed away, who did many fathers nominate to succeed him? The king was very happy with the nominations and sent some assistants to inform the brothers what orders? What did the saints do when they heard the orders? (pg 108).
 84. After a long and hard journey, they arrived in Scetis and went to meet Abba Macarius, who knew by the Spirit that they were disciples of Father Agabius. What did they ask of Abba Macarius and what was his response? What did he provide them with? (pg109)
 85. The two saints Maximus and Dometius dug a cell in the rock to live. How long did they live there? Does the rock exist today and what is it known as? (pg 109)
 86. While Maximus and Dometius lived in this rock, who was the only person they saw? (pg 109)
 87. When was the only time Maximus and Dometius would leave their cell and why? (pg 109)
 88. After a while when Abba Macarius decided to visit the two brothers, and they prepared a place for him to sleep, they thought their guest was asleep, so they got up to pray. What did Father Macarius see? (pg 109)
 89. Where are the two bodies of Maximus and Dometius kept together till this day? (pg 110)
 90. One day, Arsenius was praying to the Lord saying, "O God teach me how to be saved." What was the response that Arsenius heard. (pg 111) Provide a biblical reference to support your answer.
 91. Saint Arsenius took a boat and sailed from Constantinople to Alexandria. From there, he went to the monastery in Scetis and met Abba Macarius the Great. Who did he assign Arsenius to prepare him for the monastic life? (pg 111)
 92. Saint Arsenius used to spend most of the night in prayers. How long would he pray for and how was this known? He was also very quiet and often silent. What did he say about silence? (pg 112) What did his brothers ask him in his last hours while Saint Arsenius weeped and what was his answer?
 93. At what age did Saint Mary of Egypt reject her parents love? Where did she go off to? (pg 113)
 94. As Saint Mary of Egypt recounted her story to Father Zosima during their first time meeting, she mentions a crowd that was going to Jerusalem for the feast of the Holy Cross and she desired to go with them to seduce more men. In Jerusalem she noticed a crowd getting into the church of the Holy Sepulchre. What happened when she tried to enter the church? What did she think was the cause? (pg 115) She then saw an icon of St Mary and begged her for another chance. What did she vow to do if she could enter the church?
 95. How many years have passed since Saint Mary began this life? What was her request to Abba Zosima about telling anybody of what she has told him? (pg 116)
 96. One day, Augustine rushed into the garden while groaning in spirit and reproaching himself. He threw himself down on the grass under a fig tree. What did he ask the Lord there? What was the answer given to him? Did he listen? What did he find? Provide a biblical reference. (pg 120-121)
 97. Augustine took a lead part in defending the true faith against whom? What was his work that consisted of fifteen-volumes and how long did it take him to complete? When was his autobiography written and what is it called? (pg 122)
 98. Sigaz Ab and Sarah had a son and baptized him after forty days. What did they name him? What age did they ordain him as a deacon?

99. What was his hobby and who appeared to him one day and what did he tell the boy about his future? What did he say to him about his name, what does it mean? (pg 125)
100. What kind of word is Ireny and what does it mean? What was Saint Ireny's birth name? (pg 128-129)
101. Zeno, the Roman emperor, had two daughters. What were their names and what happened to the eldest one at the prime of her youth? What did the emperor order and what was the truth of the matter? (pg 133-134)
102. Saint Anthony was the first Christian to do what? Who wrote the his story and what was their relationship? (pg 138-139) Saint Anthony is generally considered the father of what?
103. As Saint Anthony lived in solitude, he was tempted by boredom and discouragement. His soul fell into weariness and confusion. What did he say to the Lord and what did the Lord send to help Saint Anthony. What did he begin seeing? (pg 140)
104. Did Saint Anthony start a monastery? What did his rule consist of? What did he tell his disciples? What was their assigned uniform like? (pg 141)
105. After Saint Anthony reached the cave of St Paul with a robe of St Athanasius, what was he wondering and how was the problem solved? (pg 144)
106. Just like Saint Anthony started in the Eastern Desert, east of the Nile where did Abba Macarius the great start monasticism? What was he called, what did it mean, and why? (pg 145).
107. Where were the first monasteries of the cenobitic system founded? How many were built around that area? What was the number of monks there? Why did St Pachomius tour there? (pg 153)
108. In 325, because of the Arianism heresy, what did the Emperor Constantine form? Who accompanied the Pope and how did he join in the discussion? (pg 155)
109. How does the author summarize Athanasius' theology? How does he summarize his Christology? (pg 155)
110. Nestorius Armonk of Antioch was elected patriarch of Constantinople. What term did he disagree with St. Cyril about?
111. During the third ecumenical council at Ephesus it was opened without waiting for the arrival of the Syrian Bishops headed by John of Antioch who formed the party most likely to take sympathetic use of Nestorius. the council first had the create of Nicea read then St. Cyril's letter to Notorious and the latter's reply. What did the group condemned and what was the result? (pg 162)
112. What were the three different eras that Pope Benjamin lived through? Which era was he forced to escape? Which era did he return in? (pg 170-172).
113. How does the author define a confessor in Abba Samuel the Confessor's story? (pg 174)
114. Abba Roweiss was very hard on himself and he abstained from every comfort of life. How often would he eat? How did he lead a peculiar lifestyle? What did his living place look like? What did he call himself and what did it mean and lead to? (pg 181)
115. Abba Roweiss loved his disciples so much that they felt his love even after his departure to heaven. What occurred with Soliman after the saint's departure? (pg 183)
116. Following the miraculous event of the moving of the mountain, Abba Abraam looked for Simon, who had kept himself hidden behind the Pope throughout the prayers, but he was nowhere to be found. He was never seen again. What are the two versions of what befell him? (pg 187)
117. Why was Abba Serapamon called the Veiled Bishop? (pg 194)
118. What was Sydhom Bishay's business? Where did he go to purchase supplies? Where would he visit while he was there? (pg 199).
119. The fact that Father Mina became the new Pope did not change him. What did he do regularly? What did Pope Shenouda say about him? (pg 206-207)
120. Father Mikhael was a blessed man. One of his deacons experienced this blessing firsthand. What was the deacon's experience during one Easter midnight mass? (pg 210)
121. The teaching as well as the books Father Pishoy Kamel wrote were deep and simple. They moved everyone, young and old, to the life of repentance. What was he specially attached to and

what did he write while meditating about it? (pg 213)

122. What did Father Pishoy Kamel build in Alexandria? Where was he the first to serve? (pg 213-214)

123. What was Saint Andrew's explanation for why he refused to leave the monastery when everyone else did? (pg 217)