

Quizzers,

We are moving ever closer to our National Quizzing Competition in July at FUEL. I know this year, with us quizzing in James, is going to be awesome. I know your studying will only heat up as the summer months come in!

As you continue studying, I wanted to give you some thoughts about questions, the format, and also to get some information from you.

First, let me get your info! If you have a team, please let Quizmaster Jake Ballard know by emailing him at jake.a.ballard@gmail.com or by letting a director know. We want to have a general knowledge of how many teams and quizzers we should be expecting to compete before the first day of quizzing, which is Monday at FUEL.

Also, if you are a solo quizzer or coach, or have a team that is unfinished (without coach or 3rd or 4th quizzer) please let us know! We want to be able to put quizzers together with teams and coaches so that everyone who put in the time and effort to study the material will be able to compete at FUEL!

With that out of the way, let's get into the nitty-gritty.

About the large question list: I will not be giving out an exhaustive list of questions before the finals. One of the best ways to get to know the material is to formulate questions yourself! However, because questions can sometimes be weird, I have reproduced below a few questions that are very likely be asked at FUEL, in order to help you write questions. Also, I will give an couple examples of bad questions and why they are bad.

Good

Questions number 1, question: Who was a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer: James

This question is grammatically correct, and asks a question based out of the facts of the text.

BAD

Question number 2, question: Who was James a bond-servant of?

This question contains multiple errors.

- This question is grammatically incorrect. Grammar demands no dangling participles. It should be worded "Of whom was James a bond-servant?"
- However, the question also expects two answers : God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The correct question would be

Question number 3, question: "Of which two was James a bond-servant?"

Good

Question number 4, question: what may someone well say?

Answer: "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

Though people "say" phrases like "you sit here...", there is only one place where "someone may well say." Also, because this is asking for the content of a quotation, the answer must be verbatim.

Bad

Question number 5, question: what is faith without works?

- This question has two different answers based on two verses.
 - In 2:20, "Faith without works is useless"
 - In 2:26, "Faith without works is dead"
- Therefore, this question needs an "according to"...

Question number 6, question: "According to James 2:20, what is faith without works?"
Answer: Useless

Good

Question number 7, question: To whom should you submit?
Answer: God

Also Good

Question number 8, question: What seven is the wisdom from above?
Answer: pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruit, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

I put these two questions back to back to show how questions are not simply one level of difficulty.

Bad

Question number 9, question: Can a fig tree produce olives?
- While James himself uses this question as a teaching tool, it is a rhetorical device, and no answer is given in the text. Though we should all say "no" in our heads, this is actually asking for interpretation or implication from Scripture, rather than the facts of the text.

Good

Question number 10, question: what can accomplish much?
Answer: the effective prayer of a righteous man

QUIZZERS: I want to note at this break that much of what makes an amazing quizzier is the ability to anticipate a question. You are allowed to jump at any point when I say the second "question". If you hear "what can accom..." and you jump, then you can and must finish the question and give the answer. Practice jumping before the question is done, not waiting until the end! This is make competition fast and exciting, and will help you become a top quizzier.

We aren't done yet! There are other question types as well:

Both "Quote" and "Finish this verse" questions will be included in every match, **at least once** but up to **four** times! Memorizing these verses will not only guarantee that you will know at least one question each match, but any question based on those verses you will also know better.

The questions will look like this:

Question number 11, question: Quote James 1:4.

Answer: And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Question number 12, question: Finish this verse and give the reference. "And let endurance have it's perfect result..."

Answer: so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Less frequent, but still available question types are "Put in Order" and "Formulate" questions. Put in order will be asked like this "Put the following three things in the order they are mentioned within James. The three things are _____, _____, and _____." Formulate question will sound like this "Formulate a question and give a supporting reference for the following answer: The answer is _____."

If you are like me, the silence of those blanks is deafening, so below are the lists (which I believe are exhaustive) of words that can fill those blanks. The lists are simply in ABC order, which means if you want to know where the items are from, you will need to read James.

Put in Order

1. Abraham
2. Adultresses
3. Blessing and cursing
4. Bond-servant
5. Crown of Life
6. (the) demons
7. (the) devil
8. Elijah
9. Father of Lights
10. Forest
11. Hell
12. Horses
13. Isaac
14. James
15. Job
16. Lord of Sabaoth
17. One Lawgiver and Judge
18. Our Glorious Lord Jesus Christ
19. Pure and undefiled religion
20. Rahab
21. Ships
22. teachers
23. "This or that"
24. twelve tribes
25. Vapor
26. Wisdom from Above

Formulate

1. Faith
2. Fruit
3. God
4. Judge(s/d)
5. Law
6. (The) Lord
7. Man
8. My brethren
9. Righteousness
10. Sin(s)
11. (The) tongue
12. Wisdom
13. Word
14. Works

Note, the lists are rather different: the list for "Put in Order" are names, phrases, or words that appear almost exclusively one time, and for certain only in one section. The rule book clarifies

that is the *first* mention of a name, so if “Abraham” and “Isaac” were two of your names, it would not matter than Abraham is mentioned again AFTER Isaac the answer would be “Abraham”, “Isaac” and the third item in it’s proper place.

The “Formulate” list, on the other hand, are words that are used multiple times throughout the text. It might be a good study tip to choose the verse and question to each of these words beforehand. Also, number 4 looks confusing. The question would be asked this way:

Question number 13, question: “Formulate a question and give a corresponding reference for the following answer. The answer is judge.”

Even though the question says judge, your answer could be judge, Judge, judges, or judged depending on the way you ask your question. All those permutations of judge is acceptable. Also, in testing these questions, certain descriptive or possessive words are allowed to be attached to answers. For example:

Question number 14, question: “Formulate a question and give a corresponding reference for the following answer. The answer is man.”

Answer: “According to James 1:7, who ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord?” Answer, “That man”.

This *answer* formulates a grammatically correct question (which is helpful, but not strictly necessary), uses an according to (thus giving the reference) and answers with a permutation of man. Certain permutations could go too far. “Wisdom from above” is not acceptable as an answer... but it could be a part of the question! “Put in order” and “Formulate” questions will be sporadically placed in matches.

Finally, I am a big fan of clear rules and clear guidelines. In speaking to some coaches and quizzers and understanding their perspective, I believe we will shelve the “Give the gist” questions this year. First, these questions could lead to the judges having too much sway in the correctness of an answer. While James is clearly broken down into sections, what is necessary for a “gist” of the passage seems vague. Second, this question type is still a fantastic study tool! If you have a generalized working knowledge of the sections of James, then when you hear about “faith” and “works” your mind will immediately run to the correct section!

Quizzers, coaches, those who are reading this far that aren’t one of those groups, Quizzing is a challenge, quizzing is competition, quizzing is *fun*. But quizzing is important. I quizzed on James, out of the NIV, and I had a lot of it rumbling in my head as I have tried to memorize more out of the NASB 1995. But it was still there, years later. A member of my church who is turning 70 soon, can quote Romans 12 from the KJV, because she quizzed on the material at Berean Youth Conference (a precursor to FUEL)

May you not only be blessed by the fun, the competition, and the challenge of quizzing, but may you be blessed by the changes it makes in your life!

May you be blessed by memorizing God’s word and drawing closer to him!

May you hide God’s word in your heart and come to know the God who gives to all generously and without reproach, the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow, and to know him through “our glorious lord Jesus Christ.”

Question number the most important one, question: Who is excited for FUEL?

Answer:

Jake Ballard

Quizmaster