Discovering Origins: Unit 4 Exam Answer Key (63 points possible)

Note: It is highly recommended that students have access to their Bibles for this exam.

Vocabulary (2 points each):

Write the definition from the material.

1. Strata are layers of sedimentary rock.
2. Sedimentary rocks are rocks formed from deposited sediments (e.g., dirt).
3. A megasequence is a large sequence of sedimentary layers.
4. Cross strata are sedimentary layers deposited at an angle.
5. Erosional remnants are pillars of rock left after erosion.

True / False (2 points each):

Circle **T** or **F**.
If it is true, give a one sentence response explaining why it is true.
If it is false, correct the statement to make it true.

1. T / (F) The Bible says Noah took two of every species onto the ark.
   The Bible says Noah took two of every kind onto the ark.
2. T / (F) The post-flood lifespans in Genesis are likely made up.
   The post-flood lifespans in Genesis follow an exponential decay curve. This supports Genesis' reliability, because the ages would not be statistically predictable if they were fabricated.
3. (T) / F As centuries pass, flood myths drift further from the historical account.
   Over time, stories get passed down and changed much like a game of telephone, especially in oral cultures (cultures that pass history down orally), and history becomes more mythical as time goes on.
4. (T) / F Younger animals would probably be better suited to be on the ark than older animals.
   Younger animals would eat less, produce less waste, and live longer after the flood to reproduce than older animals.
5. T / (F) Because Christian scientists develop Flood models specifically to align with Scripture, those models should be given equal weight to the biblical text.
   Flood models are simply human interpretations and are not equal in authority to Scripture. Scientists are still human, fallible, and do not know everything, and will make many mistakes in their science and models. The Bible, however, is the word of God and is perfect and infallible.

Multiple Choice (1 point each):

Choose the response that best answers the question.

1. Which factor may have contributed to larger animals and insects before the Flood?
   A. Lower oxygen levels
   (B.) Higher oxygen levels
   C. Colder global temperatures
   D. Reduced atmospheric pressure

2. According to estimates, how many animal kinds were likely on the ark?
   (A.) About 1,400
   B. About 5,000
   C. Over 10,000
   D. About 34,000

3. Which animals were Noah instructed to bring onto the ark?
   A. All animals on Earth
   B. Only sea creatures
   (C.) Land-dwelling, air-breathing vertebrates
   D. Only clean animals

4. What is one reason the ark was stable according to engineering analysis?
   A. It was cube-shaped
   (B.) It had a proven size ratio used in shipbuilding
   C. It was made of metal
   D. It was powered by sails

5. Why is a global flood theologically important?
   A. It explains local legends
   B. It explains dinosaur extinction
   C. It explains ocean tides
   (D.) It fulfills God's judgment on all flesh

6. Which best describes a *baraminic distance correlation* analysis?
   A. A dating method
   B. A fossil excavation method
   (C.) A statistical comparison of physical traits
   D. A DNA sequencing technique

7. What best explains flat sedimentary layers with little erosion between them?
   (A.) Repeated tsunami deposits
   B. Wind erosion
   C. Slow deposition over millions of years
   D. Glacial melting

Matching (1 point each):

Match the term with the correct definition. Write the letter on the line.

_**B**_ 1. *Mabbul*
_**D**_ 2. Catastrophic Plate Tectonics
_**C**_ 3. Genetic bottleneck
_**A**_ 4. Exponential decay
_**E**_ 5. Pitch

A. A mathematical curve in which a value decreases by a constant proportion over time
B. A Hebrew word used only for the Flood of Noah's day
C. A sharp reduction in population size that significantly narrows genetic variety
D. A theory that tectonic plates moved dramatically faster during the Flood
E. A sticky, tar-like substance used to waterproof the Ark

Fill in the Blanks (1 point per blank):

1. The first ten generations after Adam and Eve experienced very low **mutation** rates.
2. One study suggests pre-flood oxygen levels may have reached **35**% compared to today's 21%.
3. Noah's ark measured 300 × 50 × 30 **cubits**.
4. Roughly **5,700** animals are estimated to have been aboard the Ark.
5. God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again and used the **rainbow** as a sign.
6. Jesus likened His return to the **Flood** of Noah.
7. Genesis 8:11 describes a dove returning with an **olive** leaf.

Short Answer (3 points each):

Respond in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. Why would birds surviving a local flood contradict Genesis 6:7?

Genesis 6:7 says, “So the Lord said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.’” If Noah’s flood was only local, birds could simply fly somewhere else and survive. This would directly contradict God’s stated purpose in this verse, which is to destroy “man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens.”

2. Why do polystrate fossils challenge the idea of millions of years of gradual deposition?

Polystrate fossils challenge the idea of millions of years of gradual deposition because trees cannot survive in the open air for millions of years. Instead, we see them rot and decay often within only a few years or decades.

3. Why didn’t Noah need to bring marine animals or most insects on the Ark?

The Bible only says that every land-dwelling animal with “air in its lungs” *outside the ark* died. Marine animals, and even insects, are capable of surviving a global flood, and again, the Biblical text does not require their death.

Essay (15 points):

Answer the following prompt in 2-3 complete paragraphs (*Remember*: a paragraph should have 4-6 complete sentences).

1. Explain why the Flood must have been global from a biblical, theological, and logical/scientific perspective. Make sure to include at least 5 Scripture references as support, but do not quote every verse you cite. Instead, just mention references for the point you are trying to make. One or two short verse quotations is okay.

Noah's flood must have been global because the Bible requires it. While there are many reasons we can say that Biblically, Noah's flood had to be global, the biggest three are that a local flood would not fulfill God's stated purpose for the Flood, God's promise to never flood the earth again would be a lie, and Jesus compared His second coming and final judgement to the judgement of Noah's day. God said He sought to destroy all flesh as a judgement (Genesis 6:7, 13, 7:4), both man and beast, but a local flood would only do part of that. Throughout Genesis 6-9, the Bible repeats the words "all" and "every" many times, emphasizing that all flesh with air in its lungs died. The Bible also uses a completely different word (*mabbul*) for Noah's flood than for any other flood.

In Genesis 9:8-17, God establishes a covenant with Noah and makes the rainbow a symbol of His covenant. He tells Noah, "The waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh" (Genesis 9:15). If Noah's flood was local, God would have broken that promise over and over and over again, because we have local floods often. Jesus also compared His second coming and the final judgement to the watery judgement of Noah's time, saying, "For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the Ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man" (Matthew 24:37–39). If Noah's flood was local, God the Father and God the Son would have lied about the nature of the flood, which would mean that Jesus is not perfect, and cannot save us from our sins. If the flood was local, our faith is futile.

From a logical and scientific standpoint, a few reasons the Flood could not have been local are that the Bible says the floodwaters covered the highest mountains by at least 15 cubits (Genesis 7:20), and not all animals (especially creatures like birds) would have needed to get on a boat to survive a local flood. Water seeks a level plane, so it is impossible for a flood to cover the highest mountains by 15 cubits without covering the entire earth. Also, the Bible specifically includes birds as some of the creatures that needed to be on the ark and died if they were not on the ark (Genesis 7:13-14, 21-23). If the Flood was local, birds would have easily flown away to another area. While a few may have died in a local flood, most of them would simply survive in a different area like the birds do today.