Discovering Origins: **Unit 5 Exam** (45 points possible)

Note: It is highly recommended that students have access to their Bibles for the essay prompt.

Vocabulary (2 points each):

Write the definition from the material.

1. A protolanguage is the original ancestor of a modern language.
2. A language family is a group of related languages.
3. A language isolate is a language with no known relatives.

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 tower builders at Babel were attempting to obey God's command to fill the earth.
   Genesis 11:4 says that the people were building the tower "lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth," which was God's command to them.
2. (T) / F God used language confusion as a way to stop the construction of the tower.
   By confusing the people's languages, the builders could not understand one another and so stopped building the tower and instead spread out across the earth.
3. T / (F) According to the Bible, outward appearance determines a person's value.
   According to the Bible, all people are equally valuable to God regardless of their appearance, societal status, wealth, or nationality.
4. (T) / F The genetic bottleneck caused by the Flood accelerated the decay of the human genome.
   Genetic bottlenecks occur when circumstances suddenly squeeze populations down to small numbers, which concentrates mutations and accelerate diseases, causing genome decay.
5. (T) / F The Bible teaches that all people descend from the same original family.
   The Bible says that all people came from Adam and Eve at the beginning, and then again from Noah, his wife, sons and their wives after the Flood.

Multiple Choice (1 point each):

Choose the response that best answers the question.

1. Which statement best reflects the Bible's teaching about race?
   A. Different races were created separately
   B. Some races are superior to others
   C. Race is determined by skin color
   (D.) There is only one human race

2. Approximately how many languages are spoken in the world today?
   A. 70
   B. 700
   C. 2,000
   (D.) Over 7,000

3. Which region is often identified as the origin point of many ancient languages?
   A. Europe
   (B.) Mesopotamia
   C. South America
   D. East Asia

4. Which statement best matches Darwin's personal beliefs?
   (A.) Some races are more superior than others
   B. All people are equal in value and ability
   C. The African race is the most evolved
   D. Women and men are intellectually equal

5. Which statement best explains why humans look different from one another?
   A. Most of our DNA is different
   B. Each race has unique genes
   (C.) Small genetic differences affect appearance
   D. Environment alone determines appearance

Fill in the Blanks (1 point per blank):

1. God instructed Noah and his family to be fruitful, **multiply**, and **fill** the earth.
2. The people of Babel built a tower because they wanted to avoid being **scattered** across the earth.
3. The total number of clans listed from the sons of Noah is approximately **70**.
4. According to Scripture, God created all nations of mankind from **one** man.
5. Humans share **99.9**% of their DNA with one another.

6. Only **0.012**% of human DNA determines traits such as skin color, hair color, and eye color.
7. The pigment primarily responsible for differences in skin, hair, and eye color is called **melanin**.

Short Answer (3 points each):

Respond in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. Discuss how the events of the Tower of Babel help explain the origin of languages around the world today.

When tracing languages back in time, many scientists expected to find one protolanguage that all languages diverged from since, according to the evolutionary theory, all humans evolved from a single ape-like population in Africa. However, they have found about 90 protolanguages, which they expect to lessen slightly as more research is conducted. This discovery makes much more sense if you take the Tower of Babel account literally, as there would have been at least 70 distinct languages God created when He confused the peoples' language and scattered them across the earth.

2. What role does melanin play in hair, eye, and skin color?

Melanin is a type of pigment that every human has, and determines a person's hair, eye, and skin color. Typically, the darker the color or shade, the more melanin that person has. White hair, for example, means there is no melanin in the hair, brown hair means medium amount of melanin, and black hair has a lot.

Essay (10 points):

Answer the following prompt in 1-2 complete paragraphs (*Remember*: a paragraph should have 4-6 complete sentences).

1. Explain why the Bible teaches that race is a sociological concept rather than a biological one. Use Scripture and genetics to support your answer.

The Bible is very clear that there is only one race, the human race, as God created one man and one woman in the Garden of Eden and told them to multiply and fill the earth. The Bible explicitly states that, "He made from one man every nation of mankind" (Acts 17:26). The Bible also never places one group of people who look one way over any other group of people who tends to look another way. Rather, the Bible says that "no one is righteous" (Romans 3:10), "*all* have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and that "God created *man* [mankind; all humans] in his own image" (Genesis 1:27). Finally, Galatians 3:28 says that in Christ, "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." This does not mean that there is no male and female; the Bible explicitly states that God created humans male and female. Rather, this means that in God's eyes, everyone is equal—no matter where you come from, what you do for a living, or what you look like, and that we all must come to God in the same way—by faith.

In recent years, scientists have shown through several mitochondrial DNA (DNA passed down only through females) and Y-chromosome (DNA passed down only through males) studies that all humans are descended from only one male and one female. Other genetic studies confirm that two people can contain all of the genes required to produce all of the variety seen across cultures today. The differences between people groups instead come from people living in different places without contact, forming their own languages and cultures across the globe. In the end, as these points illustrate, race is not a biological, but a sociological construct.