

COMA Questions

Genre/Item	Gospels/Acts	Old Testament	Epistles	Hebrew Literature/Poetry	Prophetic Literature	Apocalyptic Literature
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has happened so far in the narrative? Have there been any major events, characters or themes? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can you learn about the person or situation to which the letter is written? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the passage was written? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the prophecy was given or written? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any clues about the historical circumstances the literature is addressing?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has happened just prior to the section you are reading? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What clues are there about the author and his circumstances? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has happened so far? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are any people or places mentioned that you aren't familiar with? (Chase them up in earlier parts of the book, or refer to a Bible dictionary or commentary.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are other bits of the Bible mentioned or hinted at in the passage? What part do these 'memories' play in the text?
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the main point of the passage immediately before this one? Are there logical or thematic connections to the passage you are reading? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are other bits of the Old Testament mentioned or alluded to in the passage? What part do these 'memories' play in the text? 	
Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them? How do they describe themselves? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there key connecting words (for, therefore, but, because) that indicate the logical flow of the passage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there repetitions or multiple instances of similar ideas? Do these repetitions make a particular point, or point to the structure of the passage? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What images are used in the passage? What effect do they have?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the passage? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main point or points? What supporting points does the author make? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What images or metaphors does the author use? What do they indicate about God or the other people in the text? What might they indicate about modern readers? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying attention to when the prophet is speaking and when God is speaking, what does the passage tell us about God's plans? What does it tell us about God's character? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What emotions does the passage arouse (e.g. fear, expectation, awe)?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a conflict or high point in the passage? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What surprises are there in the flow of the argument? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the tone of the passage? What emotions is the author arousing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of human behaviour, if any, is condemned or rewarded? What response is called for (if any)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the passage seek to reveal what God is like? Where in this passage might we find hope for men and women?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think there is a main point or theme in this section of the story? 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the main point or points? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a crisis in the passage? What is the tension/conflict about, and how does it relate to readers?
Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What surprises are there? 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What surprises are there? 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any 'editorial' comments from the author about the events in the narrative? How do these comments illuminate what is • Does someone in the narrative learn something or grow in some way? How? What does this person learn? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this text relate to other parts of the book? • How does the passage relate to Jesus? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there specific instructions/commands given to the reader? Does this passage mention any consequences for not following God's commands? • How does the author motivate the reader/audience, or make his appeal? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the text have a sense of expectation about something happening in the future? What is to be expected and when? How should this motivate action in the present? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the passage reveal about who Jesus is, and what he came into the world to do? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the passage point forward to what God is going to do in the future? Does it prophesy or anticipate Jesus Christ in some way? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this teach you about God? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the passage teach us about God, and his people, and life in his world? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the passage point to Jesus? Is the gospel foreshadowed or looked back upon in some way?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the passage point forward to Jesus? Is the gospel anticipated or foreshadowed in some way? 		
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this passage challenge your understanding about who God is and what he is like? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is your own situation similar to or different from those being addressed? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there some attitude you need to change? • What does this passage teach you about being a disciple of Jesus? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there some attitude you need to change? • How does this passage call on you to change the way you live? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding? • How does this passage lead you to trust God and his promises in Jesus? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does this passage lead you to trust God