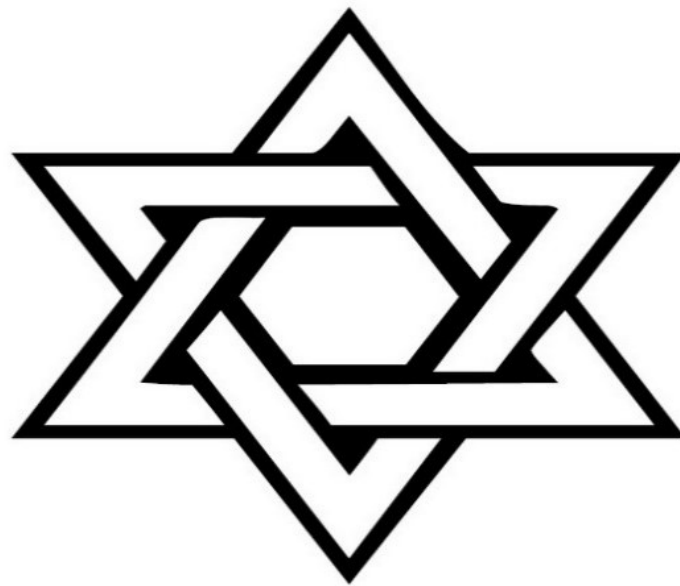


**Year 11 Judaism**

**Component 3**

**Beliefs & Teachings and Practices**

**Exemplar Answers**



**Exam 3: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May p.m.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Judaism Key Concepts

Key concept	Meaning
Synagogue	A place of worship or meeting for the Jewish faith. The synagogue is central to the Jewish community.
Shekinah	The dwelling or divine presence of God. In the Torah the shekinah takes the form of a cloud. Moses witnessed the shekinah on Mount Sinai.
Shabbat	The Jewish day of rest and seventh day of the week. Jews will not work on this day and remember when God created the world and rested on the seventh day.
Kosher	Kosher in Hebrew means 'clean' or 'fit'. It is a word used to describe food that is okay to eat for Jewish people.
Torah	It is the Jewish written law. Jews use the word Torah to represent the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible, commonly known to non-Jews as the Old Testament.
Mitzvot	Actions Jews are to perform or to avoid. There are 613 Mitzvot in Judaism including the 10 commandments.
Messiah	The promised deliverer of the Jewish nation. Jews believe a king will be sent by God to save the Jews.
Covenant	A promise or an agreement. Jews believe God has chosen them and has made several covenants with them throughout history.

**b) Describe Jewish beliefs about the nature of God (5)**

- Creator = G-d created the world 'ex nihilo' as stated in Genesis. **"In the beginning, G-d created the heavens and the earth"** *Genesis*
- One = Jews are monotheist which means they believe in one G-d. This idea comes from the Torah in the commandments and the Shema. **"Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our G-d, the Lord is One and Only."** *Deuteronomy*
- Lawgiver = Jews believe G-d gave laws to Moses. There are 613 mitzvot that Jews must perform or avoid. The laws are clearly shown in the Ten Commandments in the Torah: **"Do not kill" / "Do not steal"** *Exodus*
- Judge = Jews believe that G-d will judge people on their actions and on whether they follow the mitzvot. G-d will reward or punish people for their actions. This is clearly shown in the book of Genesis in the stories of Adam & Eve and Noah's Ark.

**c) Explain why belief in God is important for Jewish people (8)**

- Jewish people believe that **there is one God**. This is important because It shows that Jewish people should only worship and love God. They should have no other gods. **Jews are monotheists** and they confirm this belief when they read the Shema each day.
- Jews also believe that **God is a creator**. They believe this is important because it shows that God is all powerful, all knowing and exists everywhere. He created the world perfectly. The **book of Genesis** shows how God created the world in six days and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Furthermore, Jews believe that **God is a lawgiver**. This has importance because it shows that Jewish people have specific laws to follow. In particular, the **mitzvot** which are actions they should perform or avoid. There are 613 rules that G-d has given Jews to follow including **the Ten Commandments e.g. 'Do not kill'**
- Finally, Jews believe that **God is a judge**. They believe this to be important because it shows Jewish people that they must consider their actions. Jews believe they will be judged on how they have lived their life. Stories such as Adam and Eve or Noah's ark teach Jews that they should obey God.

**d) 'Belief in God is the most important belief for Jewish people' (15)**

**Agree**

- Jews believe that G-d is a creator. This comes from the book of Genesis which states **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"**. This shows that G-d is all-powerful.
- They believe that God is a law-giver. Jews are expected to follow the 613 mitzot, in particular the Ten Commandments which were given to Moses from God.
- The first commandment states **"Worship one God"** showing that belief in God is the most important belief.
- Jews are monotheist which means they believe in one God. Abraham and Moses made covenants with God showing the importance of belief.

**Disagree**

- Some Jews may argue that belief in God is important but it is also important to follow all of the commandments. For example, "Do not kill" shows the importance of human life.
- Belief in the sanctity of life and pikuach nefesh which comes directly from the Torah shows that Jews have a responsibility to save and protect life meaning this is a more important belief.
- Some Orthodox Jews may argue that belief in the Messiah is the most important as the Messiah will be a great and powerful leader that will bring peace to the world.
- The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David and be a great teacher of the Torah.

### **b) Describe Jewish beliefs about the shekinah (5)**

- The word Shekinah is another aspect of G-d and means “the dwelling,” or “the Divine Presence” of G-d. It refers to G-d being very close to the Jewish nation; He lives amongst them. It shows that G-d is always near and a part of what is happening to the Jewish people.
- The Shekinah is referred to in the Torah. It is sometimes shown as a cloud which comes down to the earth and reaches out. It is usually a very frightening experience for those involved because G-d is so glorious.
- It is also shown as being with the Jewish nation throughout the Exodus from Egypt (when they escaped slavery under Pharaoh). It is the spirit of G-d who supports and guides the Jews through the tough journey into freedom.

### **c) Explain why belief in the shekinah is important for Jewish people (8)**

- The Shekinah is important for Jews in many ways. It helped the Jewish people **during the Exodus** which is the most difficult time for the Jewish nation. They were slaves in Egypt and were mistreated by their masters. The Shekinah helped them through the experience because they believed G-d was with them in their hour of need.
- It also important because it was the Shekinah that **revealed itself to Moses** when he was given the Ten Commandments which are the most important rules for Jewish people.
- God’s divine presence is mentioned in the Torah in connection to Moses. **God reveals his presence to Moses through the burning bush and gives Moses the task of freeing the Jews from slavery.** God is also revealed when Moses receives the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.
- It is very important because it **helps Jews to understand the greatness of God.** Many Jews were worried that people would imagine God to be like a great and powerful human. However, they wanted to avoid anthropomorphising God (making G-d human like). The Shekinah means that God is non-material which means G-d has and will always exist.

### **d) Belief in the shekinah is the most important belief for Jewish people (15)**

#### **Agree**

- The shekinah is the divine presence of God. This is important as it means God can reveal himself to the Jewish people.
- God revealed himself to Moses as the shekinah and gave him the ten commandments on Sinai showing that it has an important part in Jewish history.
- The shekinah shows the greatness and power of God. The shekinah shows that God is not human and that God is omnipotent.

#### **Disagree**

- Belief in God as one, lawgiver, judge and creator are more important than the shekinah.
- God created the world as shown in the book of Genesis and created humans in his image and likeness.
- The commandments are also incredibly important because they teach people to worship one God and show love of neighbour. The commandments do not mention the shekinah.
- Belief in the sanctity of life and pikuach nefesh which comes directly from the Torah shows that Jews have a responsibility to save and protect life meaning this is a more important belief.
- Some Orthodox Jews may argue that belief in the Messiah is the most important as the Messiah will be a great and powerful leader that will bring peace to the world.
- The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David and be a great teacher of the Torah.

**b) Describe different Jewish beliefs about the Messiah (5)**

- **Orthodox Jews** believe that in every generation there is a descendent of King David who has the potential to be the Messiah.
- This person will be directed by G-d to rule over all humanity with kindness and justice. He will also follow and uphold the Jewish written law (The Torah) and will be the ultimate teacher of it.
- He will rebuild the Temple that was destroyed in 70AD and bring Jews back to the land of Israel.
- In contrast, **Reform Judaism**, rather than believing in a single, male descendant of King David who will be the Messiah, urges us to be more active in bringing a time of peace on earth through our actions. Instead of a particular person, they believe Jewish people have the power to bring peace on earth through their actions and how they react to other people. Reform Jews have the view that we should act the way we hope a messiah would act.

**c) Explain why belief in the Messiah is important for Jewish people (8)**

- The Messiah is important for Jewish people because he is the anointed one who will bring peace to the world. The book of Isaiah teaches that **"He will always rule with honesty and justice."**
- The Messiah is important as he will be a male descendant of King David. The book of Isaiah teaches that the Messiah will be a great and powerful ruler: **"He will rule David's kingdom and make it grow strong."**
- **Orthodox Jews** believe that the Messiah will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. This is foretold in the **book of Isaiah**. The Temple was the most important place of Jewish worship and was destroyed by the Romans.
- Jews believe that the Messiah will be an expert in the law and will guide the Jewish people to follow the mitzvot. For **Reform Jews** they believe that the Messiah is not just one person but that all people can bring about peace by their actions. All people can and should act like messiahs.

**d) 'The Messiah is the most important belief for Jewish people' (15)**

**Agree:**

- Orthodox Jews believe that the Messiah will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. This is foretold in the **book of Isaiah**.
- The **book of Isaiah** teaches that the Messiah will be a great ruler that leads with honesty and justice.
- The Messiah is the anointed one that will bring peace to the world. The Messiah is the promised deliverer of the Jewish nation.
- The Messiah will help Jewish people follow the commandments. Jews have 613 mitzvot to follow and the Messiah will guide them in the law.

**Disagree:**

- Reform Jews place less importance on the Messiah. They believe all people should act as messiahs and bring peace to the world. The Messiah is not mentioned in the Torah.
- Jews are **monotheist**. They believe in one G-d. Therefore, they should not focus on a Messiah, they should focus on G-d.
- The **Shema** teaches that belief in God is the most important belief for Jews. **"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart."** Focus should be on God not the Messiah.
- Belief in G-d as lawgiver is more important. Jews should focus on following the mitzvot, particularly commandments such as **'Do not kill'** of **'Do not steal'**.

### **b) Describe the covenant between God and Abraham (5)**

- A covenant is a promise or an agreement. The Jewish people believe that G-d has made many covenants with them throughout history. Jews believe that G-d made a special covenant with Abraham that was the beginning of the Jewish nation.
- The covenant had three main parts:
  1. The Promised Land – in the book of Genesis G-d promised Abraham and his descendants a new home which is now referred to as Israel.
  2. Descendants – G-d promised Abraham that he would build a great nation from him. The book of Genesis refers to Abraham as the ‘father of many nations’
  3. Circumcision – the sign of the covenant was circumcision. Orthodox Jewish males show their loyalty by being circumcised at eight days old.

### **c) Explain why Abraham is important for Jewish people (8)**

- Abraham is important to Jewish people because he is the founding father **(patriarch) of Judaism**. He was the first to teach Jewish people about monotheism (belief in one God). This is important because it shows that Jews should follow the teachings of the Shema which teaches that **“the Lord is one and only”**
- Abraham is also important because he was a **faithful and obedient servant** of God. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac to show his commitment to God.
- He is also an important figure in Judaism because of the covenants that G-d made with him. **“As for you, you must keep my covenant”** God promised that Abraham would become the father of the Jewish nation and promised them the land of Israel. This makes Jews think that they have been specially chosen by God. To seal the covenant with God, Abraham and his descendants were circumcised. **“Every male among you must be circumcised.”**
- He is important because he shows Jews how to show **obedience to God** and set themselves up as the Jewish people. Orthodox Jews continue to have their children circumcised usually at eight days old in the brit milah ceremony.

### **d) ‘Abraham is the most important person in Jewish history’ (15)**

#### **Agree**

- He is the founding father of Judaism (patriarch). He was the first to teach about monotheism (belief in one God).
- He was a faithful and obedient servant of God. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own son Isaac and shown in the book of Genesis.
- He made important covenants with God. God promised Abraham the land of Israel meaning Jews were specially chosen by God.
- Abraham introduced circumcision as a way of showing obedience to God. This is now practiced by all Orthodox male Jews in the brit milah ceremony.

#### **Disagree:**

- God chose him to help the Jews escape slavery in Egypt. Moses delivered the Jews out of Egypt and through the Red Sea.
- Moses made a new covenant with God on Mount Sinai: **“We will do everything the Lord has said”** (Exodus 19:8). This covenant meant Jewish people have a duty to follow the Torah and the commandments of God.
- He was given the Torah (written Jewish Law) from G-d. Moses was also given the other 603 mitzvot to guide the Jewish people on how to live a good and faithful life.
- He met the Shekinah on Mount Sinai when he received the laws directly from God: **“The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai...Moses entered the cloud as he went up to the mountain.”** (Exodus)

### **b) Describe the covenant between God and Moses (5)**

- The covenant with Abraham was the start of the story of the Jews but the covenant that Moses made with G-d and the Jewish people was the start of the Jewish nation. The covenant at Sinai is the agreement G-d made with Moses while the Jews were wandering in the desert after they had been freed from Egypt and slavery. This covenant helped to cement the idea that the Jews were “one nation.”
- G-d worked miracles with Moses and it was Moses that helped the Jewish people escape slavery in Egypt.
- Moses was given the Ten Commandments by G-d on Mount Sinai. Jewish people are expected to follow these and the other 603 mitzvot as part of the agreement. Moses was given the Torah which became the Jewish written law.

### **c) Explain why Moses is important for Jewish people (8)**

- Moses is important because God chose him to help the **Jews escape slavery in Egypt**. Moses delivered the Jews out of Egypt and through the Red Sea.
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- Moses is also important to Jewish people because Moses made a new **covenant with God** on Mount Sinai: **“We will do everything the Lord has said”**. This covenant meant Jewish people have a duty to follow the Torah and the commandments of God.
- Moses is important because he was given the **Torah (written Jewish Law)** from God. Moses was also given the other 603 mitzvot to guide the Jewish people on how to live a good and faithful life.
- Moses is also important because he met the Shekinah on Mount Sinai when he received the laws directly from God: **“The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai...Moses entered the cloud as he went up to the mountain.”** (Exodus)

### **d) ‘Moses is the most important person in Jewish history’ (15)**

#### **Agree**

- God chose him to help the Jews escape slavery in Egypt. Moses delivered the Jews out of Egypt and through the Red Sea.
- Moses made a new covenant with God on Mount Sinai: **“We will do everything the Lord has said”** (Exodus 19:8). This covenant meant Jewish people have a duty to follow the Torah and the commandments of God.
- He was given the Torah (written Jewish Law) from G-d. Moses was also given the other 603 mitzvot to guide the Jewish people on how to live a good and faithful life.
- He met the Shekinah on Mount Sinai when he received the laws directly from God: **“The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai...Moses entered the cloud as he went up to the mountain.”** (Exodus)

#### **Disagree**

- Abraham is the founding father of Judaism (patriarch). He was the first to teach about monotheism (belief in one God).
- He was a faithful and obedient servant of God. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own son Isaac and shown in the book of Genesis.
- He made important covenants with God. God promised Abraham the land of Israel meaning Jews were specially chosen by God.
- Abraham introduced circumcision as a way of showing obedience to God. This is now practiced by all Orthodox male Jews in the brit milah ceremony.

### **b) Describe Jewish beliefs about the Ten Commandments (5)**

- Jews believe they were given the commandments directly from God. God appeared to Moses (the Shekinah) on Mount Sinai and gave the Ten Commandments as well as the other 603 Mitzvot.
- The commandments guide Jews on how to show love of God. For example, the first commandment tells Jews that they should “worship one God” (monotheism)
- In addition, they guide Jews on how to show love of neighbour. For example, commandments such as “Do not kill”, “Do not steal” and “Do not commit adultery” show how they should treat others.
- Jews also believe that they need to follow the commandments as they will be judged by God on how they have lived their lives.

### **c) Explain why the Ten Commandments are important for Jewish people (8)**

- The Ten Commandments are important to Jewish people because **they are the commandments that apply to all Jews including men,** women and children. Jews have 613 mitzvot, however, the Ten Commandments are the main rules.
- They are important because the first four commandments focus on the significance of God for Jewish people. The first commandment links to **monotheism** and the **Shema** as it teaches that Jews shall worship no other gods.
- The final six commandments are important because they teach Jewish people about how they should treat others. By following the commandments Jewish people can have a much better relationship with G-d and with others e.g. **‘Do not commit adultery’** and **‘Do not steal’**
- Jewish people believe that **God will judge them on their actions.** If they follow the commandments, then God will judge them kindly. They are important because the commandments are what the Jewish people must do to fulfil their part of the **covenant with God.**

### **d) ‘The Ten Commandments are the most important belief for Jews’ (15)**

#### **Agree:**

- Jewish people believe that Moses was given the commandments from G-d. By following commandments such as **‘Do not kill’** Jews were keeping their side of the covenant.
- The Ten Commandments apply to all Jewish people whereas the mitzvot might only apply to men, women or adults. Teachings such as **‘Keep the Sabbath day holy’** and **‘Do not steal’** can be followed by all people so the commandments are the most important.
- They help Jewish people have a good relationship with G-d and with others. First four focus on G-d and the final six focus on how to treat others.
- The first commandment shows that Jews are monotheist and supports the teaching of the Shema to worship one God.

#### **Disagree:**

- There are 613 mitzvot in total. Jewish people should try to follow all the laws of the Torah not just the Ten Commandments.
- Abraham was the founding father of Judaism and was obedient to God. Male Jews can show their obedience through circumcision and may consider this as being more important than the commandments.
- Sanctity of life (pikuach nefesh) – break laws to save lives.
- Belief in one God (monotheism) is the most important belief. Commandments are important in Jewish lives but belief in God is THE most important.
- Belief in God as creator as seen in the book of Genesis shows that belief in God is more important than the commandments.



**b) Describe Jewish beliefs about pikuach nefesh (sanctity of life) (5)**

- Jews believe that life is sacred and belongs to G-d. The book of Genesis teaches that G-d created all life which shows that life is important.
- Life is so important that Jews believe that most of Jewish law can and should be set aside to save or protect a life.
- Saving human life overrides all the other commandments (mitzvot) in Judaism. The Torah teaches: **“Do not stand by while your neighbour’s life is at risk.” (Leviticus)**
- A Jewish person is not just permitted to break the law, they are required to! Any law that conflicts with life or health should be disregarded: **“It is a religious duty to disregard the Sabbath for any person afflicted with an illness that may prove dangerous” Talmud**

**c) Explain why life is sacred for Jewish people (8)**

- Life is sacred for Jewish people because they believe they were created by God. The book of Genesis teaches that God created all life **“in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”**.
- It is also sacred because of the teachings that come from the Torah. The Torah contains the Ten Commandments and one of them **teaches “Do not kill”**. This teaching shows that only God should take life.
- Furthermore, the Torah teaches **pikuach nefesh**. This is a teaching which states **“Jews should not stand by while their neighbour’s life is at risk.”** They have an obligation to save a life even if it means breaking the commandments.
- Finally, life is sacred to Jewish people because of the teachings of the Talmud. The Talmud is a commentary made by different Rabbis that teaches Jews what to believe to how to act. The Talmud states **“whoever saves a life, it is considered as if they had saved the entire world”**

**d) ‘Jewish people should always follow the Ten Commandments’ (15)**

**Agree:**

- Jewish people believe that Moses was given the commandments from G-d. By following commandments such as **‘Do not kill’** Jews were keeping their side of the covenant.
- The Ten Commandments apply to all Jewish people whereas the mitzvot might only apply to men, women or adults. Teachings such as **‘Keep the Sabbath day holy’** and **‘Do not steal’** can be followed by all people so the commandments are the most important.
- They help Jewish people have a good relationship with G-d and with others. First four focus on G-d and the final six focus on how to treat others.
- The first commandment shows that Jews are monotheist and supports the teaching of the Shema to worship one God.

**Disagree**

- Jews believe that life is holy and belongs to God. This is the sanctity of life. They argue that protecting human life is more important than following Jewish laws such as the commandments.
- The book of Leviticus states that Jews **“should not stand by while their neighbour’s life is at risk”**. Saving lives overrides all other commandments.
- A Jewish person is not just permitted to break the law (commandments), they are required to! Any law that conflicts with life or health should be disregarded.
- The Talmud teaches **“It is a religious duty to disregard the Sabbath for any person with an illness”**. This means they can break the commandment **“Keep the Sabbath Holy”**

### **b) Describe Jewish beliefs about the mitzvot (5)**

- The mitzvot are laws that Jews should perform or avoid. There are 613 mitzvot including the Ten Commandments.
- The Talmud tells us that there are 613 commandments in the Torah; 248 Positive Commandments (do's) and 365 Negative Commandments (do not's). They are known as the mitzvot. They help Jewish people to have relationship with God and with mankind.
- The positive mitzvot correspond to the number of bones in a male human body. The negative mitzvot correspond to the number of days in the year.
- They help Jewish people use their free will correctly as they guide people on how to live a good life. They help Jews make responsible choices.

### **c) Explain why the mitzvot are important for Jewish people (8)**

- There are **613 mitzvot that come from the Torah** and have been developed by rabbis in the Talmud. The mitzvot give guidance on actions that Jewish people should perform or avoid. The mitzvot were given to Moses by God and they guide Jewish people on how to live a **kosher lifestyle**.
- The mitzvot also help Jewish people have relationship with God. The commandments such as **“Worship one God” and “Keep the Sabbath Day holy”** guide Jews on how to show love to God.
- The **mitzvot are part of the covenant with God**. A covenant is a promise or agreement that Moses made with God. By following the mitzvot Jews believe they will be judged positively by God.
- The mitzvot help Jewish people show **their love and obedience** to God. This is shown through rituals such as **brit milah** (circumcision) and **bar mitzvah** which is a ceremony where a child is expected to follow all mitzvot.

### **d) ‘Jews should always to aim to follow the mitzvot’ (15)**

#### **Agree**

- The mitzvot are laws that Jews should perform or avoid. There are 613 mitzvot including the Ten Commandments.
- The Talmud tells us that there are 613 commandments in the Torah; 248 Positive Commandments (do's) and 365 Negative Commandments (do not's). They are known as the mitzvot. They help Jewish people to have relationship with God and with mankind.
- They help Jewish people use their free will correctly as they guide people on how to live a good life. They help Jews make responsible choices.
- The mitzvot help Jewish people show love to God and love to their neighbour e.g. **“Do not kill” and “Worship one God”**.

#### **Disagree**

- Jews believe that life is holy and belongs to God. This is the sanctity of life. They argue that protecting human life is more important than following Jewish laws such as the mitzvot.
- The book of Leviticus states that Jews **“should not stand by while their neighbour’s life is at risk”**. Saving lives overrides all other mitzvot.
- A Jewish person is not just permitted to break the mitzvot (commandments), they are required to! Any law that conflicts with life or health should be disregarded.
- The Talmud teaches **“It is a religious duty to disregard the Sabbath for any person with an illness”**. This means they can break the mitzvot **“Keep the Sabbath Holy”**

### **b) Describe Orthodox and Reform beliefs about life after death (5)**

- Although it is not clear what exactly will happen after death, Orthodox and Reform Jews believe there will be some judgement after death. This involves reward or punishment.
- Orthodox Jews believe in a resurrection of the body. Many Reform Jews prefer the belief in the immortality of the soul. The both believe in some form of heaven.
- Reform Jews think that people also live on in the memories of the people they left behind.
- Orthodox Jews are very strict as to what happens to the body. It must be buried and not cremated because they believe in the resurrection of the body. Reform allow cremation. Orthodox Jews believe that life after death is linked to the Messiah who will bring about a new world. Reform Jews reject belief in a Messiah. It is much more important what you do in this life.

### **c) Explain Jewish beliefs about life after death (8)**

- Orthodox Jews believe in the **resurrection of the body**. They believe there will be a physical resurrection where they will be given a new body after death to live again.
- Reform Jews do not believe the body will be resurrected, life after death will be more of a **spiritual resurrection (the soul will live on)**. They also believe the dead person will live on through the good they have done in the memories of the people they leave behind.
- Jews believe that when people leave this world, they are **rewarded or punished** for what they have done during their lives. Jews believe that **God is a judge** who will judge them on their actions.
- Orthodox Jews believe in the **Olam Ha Ba** which is the world to come. This will either be **Gan Eden (heaven)** or **Gahenna (hell)**.
- Many Reform Jews **reject life after death completely** and focus on living a good Jewish life on earth by attending synagogue or taking part in rituals like Bar Mitzvah.

### **d) 'Life after death is the most important Jewish belief' (15)**

#### **Agree**

- Orthodox Jews believe in the resurrection of the body. This gives them hope that there will be life after death.
- Jews believe that when people leave this world, they are rewarded or punished for what they have done during their lives. Jews believe that God is a judge who will judge them on their actions. Jews believe that this life is far more important than the afterlife. That is why they focus on following the 613 mitzvot. This shows that both this life and life after death are important.

#### **Disagree**

- The commandments are more important because Jewish people believe that Moses was given the commandments from G-d. By following commandments such as '**Do not kill**' Jews were keeping their side of the covenant.
- The Ten Commandments apply to all Jewish people whereas the mitzvot might only apply to men, women or adults. Teachings such as '**Keep the Sabbath day holy**' and '**Do not steal**' can be followed by all people so the commandments are the most important.
- Most Jews believe that how they act in this life is more important than thinking about the afterlife. This is why Jews focus on trying to follow the 613 mitzvot and hope for the coming of the Messiah to bring peace to the world.
- Finally, most Jews would argue that belief in God is the most important belief. Jews are monotheist which means they believe in one God. Abraham and Moses made covenants with God showing the importance of this belief.

**b) Describe how the Tanakh and Talmud guide Jewish lives (5)**

- The Tanakh is written in Hebrew and contains the Torah, teachings of the prophets and sacred writings. It guides Jews because the Torah is the Jewish written law. It contains the Ten Commandments which give clear guidance on how Jews should treat G-d and how they should treat others.
- It also contains the Shema which teaches Jews to worship one G-d as they are monotheist and many Orthodox Jews attach the Shema to their wrists and foreheads.
- The Talmud is a commentary made by Rabbis on the Torah and Tanakh. It helps Jewish people to understand the laws, teachings and writings found in the Tanakh.
- For example, the Tanakh teaches that Jews that they should worship one G-d. The Shema teaches Jews that they should have the word of G-d on their hands, their foreheads and on their doorposts.
- The Talmud provides clear guidance on how Jews can do this. For example, it teaches them to attach a Mezuzah to a doorpost.

**c) Explain why the Tanakh and Talmud are important for Jewish people (8)**

- The Tanakh is important for Jewish people because it contains the Laws of God, the first five books known as the **Torah**.
- The Tanakh contains the **Shema** which is the most important Jewish prayer that teaches Jews about monotheism.
- The Talmud explains the meaning of the **613 mitzvot**. It gives direction on how to keep the Sabbath holy.
- The Tanakh contains a detailed history of Jewish people such as **Abraham and Moses**. It contains the **book of Isaiah** which teaches Jews about the **Messiah**.
- The Talmud is important as it gives direction on how Jews should pray and abide by the **Shema**. It guides Jews on what is **Kosher** and gives further direction on what should be eaten and how it should be prepared.

**d) 'The Tanakh is the only form of guidance Jews need' (15)**

**Agree**

- The Tanakh contains the Ten Commandments that were given directly to Moses on Mount Sinai. The guide Jewish people on how to show love of God and how to show love of neighbour.
- The Tanakh contains all 613 mitzvot. The mitzvot are actions that Jews have to perform or avoid.
- The Tanakh contains the Torah which is the Jewish written law.
- The Tanakh contains a detailed history of Jewish people such as Abraham, Moses and the other prophets. Jews are encouraged to study the Tanakh at length so that they can develop their relationship with God.

**Disagree**

- Many Jews argue that they need both the Tanakh and Talmud. The Talmud. The Talmud is a commentary made by Rabbis on the Torah and Tanakh. It helps Jewish people to understand the laws, teachings and writings found in the Tanakh.
- For example, the Tanakh teaches that Jews that they should worship one G-d. The Shema teaches Jews that they should have the word of G-d on their hands, their foreheads and on their doorposts.
- The Talmud is needed as it gives direction on how Jews should pray and abide by the Shema. It guides Jews on what is Kosher and gives further direction on what should be eaten and how it should be prepared.
- Some Jews may also argue that they need guidance from their Rabbi. The Rabbi teaches the community in the synagogue and can direct on how to live a holy life.

### **b) Describe how Jewish people worship (pray) (5)**

- Modeh Ani - These are the first words Jews should speak every morning—while still lying in bed. Their first conscious moments are spent thanking G-d for the gift of life. *I thank you, living and enduring king, for You have graciously returned my soul within me. Great is your faithfulness.*
- The Mezuzah - A mezuzah serves two functions: Every time you enter or leave your house, the mezuzah reminds you that you have a covenant with God; second, the mezuzah serves as a symbol to everyone else that the home is a Jewish household.
- Tallit, Tefillin and Kippah - The tallit and tefillin are worn as symbols of prayer. The tallit is a prayer shawl and the tefillin is a small box worn on the forehead and wrist containing the Shema. The kippah is a brimless skull cap worn as a sign of respect to G-d.
- The Siddur - Jewish prayer book containing a set of daily prayers. It contains the 3 daily prayers that Jewish people should say.

### **c) Explain how Jewish people worship God (8)**

- Jewish people worship by **wearing tefillin**. These are small leather boxes containing extracts from the Torah, strapped to the wearer's arm and forehead for Morning Prayer. **They contain passages from the Torah and the words of the Shema**. It reminds Jews that during prayers their total concentration should be on God.
- They also worship by **wearing a prayer shawl called a tallit**. This is made from wool or silk, with a long tassel called a tzitzit attached to each corner. The tzitzit represent the 613 mitzvot. It is usually white with blue or black stripes. It reminds Jews that they are obeying God when they wear it.
- **Jews worship God through prayers such as the modeh ani** and the Amidah. The modeh ani are the first words Jews should speak every morning—while still lying in bed. Their first conscious moments are spent thanking G-d for the gift of life. The **Amidah** is also called the standing prayer or eighteen blessings. It is prayed in silence while facing Jerusalem.
- Jews worship God by **fixing a mezuzah to the doorframe of their homes**. This serves two functions: Every time you enter or leave your house, it reminds you that you have a covenant with God; second, it serves as a symbol to everyone else that the home is a Jewish household. It contains a small copy of the Torah and the words of the Shema

### **d) 'Worship in the synagogue is more important than worship in the home (15)**

#### **Agree**

- The synagogue is the Jewish place of worship. Synagogues were created to be a community centre that would bring Jewish people together to help them worship and learn about God.
- The Tanakh teaches that God created the synagogue as a place of refuge and safety: **"I have made for them a small sanctuary (synagogue) in the lands where they have arrived."**
- The synagogue contains the Holy Ark and the Torah Scrolls. The Holy Ark is linked to the Temple and shows that God is present in the place of worship.
- The Torah Scrolls are the written Jewish law and Jewish people can learn about the law from the Rabbi in the synagogue.

#### **Disagree**

- Worship in the home is more important than the synagogue because of the teaching of the Shema. It states that Jews should say this prayer each morning and night and when they are in their homes.
- Jews worship God by fixing a mezuzah to the doorframe of their homes. This serves two functions: Every time you enter or leave your house, it reminds you that you have a covenant with God; second, it serves as a symbol to everyone else that the home is a Jewish household. It contains a small copy of the Torah and the words of the Shema.
- Jews worship God each week on Shabbat by having a family meal – this is far more important than worshipping in the synagogue.

### **b) Describe the different features of the synagogue (5)**

- Jews meet together in a synagogue to worship G-d. The synagogue is usually a plain building that would have the Star of David on them to make them recognisable.
- One important feature is the Menorah which is a seven-branched candlestick that was originally found in the Temple.
- It also contains the The Holy Ark. This is a cupboard where the holy Torah Scrolls are kept. It often has a curtain across it.
- Above the Holy Ark is the Ner Tamid. This is the eternal, everlasting light that represents the presence of God in the synagogue.
- The Torah Scrolls inside the ark are the holy book of the Jewish people. It is the first five books of the Tanakh.
- The synagogue also has the Yad and the bimah: In Hebrew yad means 'hand'. It is used to read the Torah scrolls from the bimah. Finally, the synagogue has a copy of the Commandments: The first letters or numbers of the Ten Commandments are displayed on the outside of the Ark or on the curtain drawn across the Ark.

### **c) Explain the difference between Orthodox and Reform synagogues (8)**

- For all Jews the synagogue is the Jewish place of worship, but is also used as a place to study, and often as a community centre. **Orthodox men always cover their heads with a skull cap known as kippah.** In Orthodox synagogues married women will cover their heads. Most reform men will cover their heads but not all.
- Orthodox and Reform synagogues have all the same features such as the **Torah scrolls, the commandments and the ner tamid (everlasting light)** but the services can look very different. In Orthodox synagogues men and women sit separately, and everyone (except young girls) has their head covered. In a Reform synagogue men and women can sit together.
- **Orthodox synagogue services are led by a male rabbi and cantor whereas Reform can have female rabbis and cantors (chazzan).** In an Orthodox synagogue traditional Jewish worship requires a minyan (a group of ten adult males) to take place. Whereas Reform allow women to make up number.
- In an Orthodox synagogue the service will be conducted in **ancient Hebrew**, and the singing will be unaccompanied. In a Reform synagogue the service will be at least partly in English, there may a choir and instruments, and men and women can sit together.

### **d) 'The synagogue is just a place of worship for Jews' (15)**

#### **Agree**

- The synagogue contains the Holy Ark and the Torah Scrolls. The Holy Ark is linked to the Temple and shows that God is present in the place of worship.
- The Torah Scrolls are the written Jewish law and Jewish people can learn about the law from the Rabbi in the synagogue.
- The synagogue is a place where Jewish men and women go to pray. For example, the Amidah prayer is carried out in a synagaoque when ten or more men are present showing that worship is the main function.
- The synagogue contains the Yad and the bimah: In Hebrew yad means 'hand'. It is used to read the Torah scrolls from the bimah.
- Finally, the synagogue has a copy of the Commandments: The first letters or numbers of the Ten Commandments are displayed on the outside of the Ark or on the curtain drawn across the Ark.

#### **Disagree**

- The synagogue serves a number of different functions. As well as being a place of worship the synagogue is used as a community centre. The Tanakh teaches that God created the synagogue as a place of refuge and safety: **"I have made for them a small sanctuary (synagogue) in the lands where they have arrived."**
- Synagogues have always been community centres which help to keep the Jewish community and identity together outside of Israel. They have many uses in Britain such as Hebrew classes for children and adults as well as adult education classes.
- The word synagogue comes from a Greek word meaning 'meet together'. This proves that one of its major functions is a place of meeting not just worship.

**b) Describe how Jews celebrate Shabbat (Sabbath) in the home (5)**

- Preparations are made in advance. Many will cook food in advance and use large urns filled with water. The wife or mother lights two candles 18 minutes before sunset – This is the last work that is done. Two candles represent the two parts of the commandment.
- A blessing is made over a glass of wine called Kiddush. **“Blessed are You, our G-d, who creates the fruit of the vine.”** People wash their hands and then a blessing over two pieces of bread called Challah is said **“Blessed are You, our G-d, who brings forth bread from the earth”**
- On Saturday, the family will have a traditional lunch and will spend a quiet afternoon together. When three stars appear in the sky, Shabbat is over. This is marked by a little ceremony called Havdalah.
- The family sip wine and recite a special blessing over spices and the light of a plaited candle. They wish each other a ‘good week’

**c) Explain why Jews worship on Shabbat (Sabbath) (8)**

- Jews worship on Shabbat because of the creation story found in the book of **Genesis**. The Torah states that God created the world in six days and on the seventh God rested. Jews follow this example and perform no work throughout Shabbat.
- Jews also worship on Shabbat because it is one of the **Ten Commandments: “Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy”**. All Jews are expected to follow the commandments.
- Jews worship on Shabbat as it is part of the **covenant that Moses made with God at Sinai**. A covenant is a promise or agreement that Jews are expected to keep.
- Jews worship on Shabbat because it is an opportunity for the family to spend time together. It is also a way in which Jews can have **structure and discipline** in their lives.

**d) ‘It is important to have a complete day of rest for Jews’ (15)**

**Agree**

- It is important because of the creation story found in the book of Genesis. The Torah states that G-d created the world in six days and on the seventh G-d rested. Jews follow this example and perform no work throughout Shabbat.
- It is also important for Jews to complete a day of rest because it is commanded by God **“Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy”**.
- The Sabbath is an excellent opportunity for families to spend some quality time together. They do this by having a family meal and attending the synagogue when the Sabbath begins on a Friday evening.
- It is also a way in which Jews can have structure and discipline in their lives. All preparations are made before the Shabbat and the same prayers and rituals are carried out each week. The wife or mother lights two candles and blessings are said over wine called Kiddush and blessings are made over two pieces of bread.

**Disagree**

- The book of Leviticus states that Jews **“should not stand by while their neighbour’s life is at risk”**. Saving lives overrides all other commandments so you don’t always need to rest.
- A Jewish person is not just permitted to break the law (commandments), they are required to! Any law that conflicts with life or health should be disregarded. Therefore, Jews may have to work on the Sabbath in jobs such as the health service or the police force.
- Jews are expected to attend the synagogue on the Sabbath. If they do not live close to the synagogue, then they may have to walk a long distance.

**b) Describe the brit milah (circumcision) ceremony' (5)**

- A circumcision takes place when a baby is 8 days old. The women all leave the room.
- The baby is passed around all the males. The father asks the mohel to circumcise his son. The sandek has the honour of holding the baby on his lap during the circumcision.
- The baby is handed back to his mother after the circumcision. The baby has a little wine to sooth the pain. The baby is given two names. One Jewish and one family name.
- The baby is welcomed as a member of the Jewish religion and special prayers are said. A celebration usually follows.

**c) Explain why brit milah is important to Jewish people (8)**

- Brit milah is important to Jewish people because the Torah says that Jews should be circumcised; **"Every male among you must be circumcised."** The Torah states that Abraham was commanded by God to be circumcised. Jews should follow the example of Abraham.
- It is also important because **circumcision gives a sense of belonging for** the child. It is a sign of being part of the Jewish community. **Circumcision is part of the covenant (agreement or promise)** that binds a Jewish person to God.
- Brit milah is important because under Jewish law, failure to follow the commandment given to Abraham incurs the penalty of **karet (being cut off from the rest of the community of God)**. Jewish people are expected to follow all the mitzvot so they should be circumcised.
- Finally, brit milah is important because **it demonstrates dedication to God and links Jews today to the Jews at the time of Abraham**. It helps modern Jews remember their history and tradition.

**d) 'Brit milah (circumcision) is the most important ceremony in Jewish life' (15)**

**Agree:**

- The Torah says that Jews should be circumcised; **"Every male among you must be circumcised."**
- The Torah states that Abraham was commanded by God to be circumcised. Jews should follow the example of Abraham.
- Circumcision gives a sense of belonging for the child. It is a sign of being part of the Jewish community. Circumcision is part of the covenant (agreement or promise) that binds a Jewish person to God.
- The ritual is an ancient practice that has been carried out by Jewish parents for more than 3,000 years. Under Jewish law, failure to follow the commandment given to Abraham incurs the penalty of karet (being cut off from the rest of the community of God).

**Disagree**

- The Torah states: **"You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh on account of the dead or tattoo any marks upon you: I am the Lord."** The child is only eight days old. They have no choice over whether they want to circumcised.
- The tradition belonged to Jews that lived in a different time and place. It has no relevance today. Some Reform Jews have replaced this ceremony with a Brit Shalom – this is a naming ceremony.
- Bar and Bat Mitzvah are more important ceremonies as they represent the movement to adulthood. The Jewish person now has more responsibility to follow all the 613 mitzvot not just the 10 commandments.
- The Jewish marriage ceremony is more important as it signifies the love between a Jewish man and woman.



### **b) Describe the Bar Mitzvah ceremony (5)**

- It takes place on the first Shabbat after the boy's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bar Mitzvah means 'Son of the Commandment'. The boy is being welcomed fully into the Jewish community and it is expected that they will follow all the mitzvot.
- The boy has to learn a section of the Torah in Hebrew. At the ceremony, he has to read from the Bimah in front of the whole congregation.
- The boy then reads a second reading and helps return the Torah to the Ark.
- The boy's father reads a speech about his son declaring him responsible for his actions. The Rabbi then asks G-d to bless the boy and explains his new responsibilities.
- Following Bar Mitzvah the boy can now form part of a minyan (the 10 men needed to start prayers in the synagogue).

### **c) Explain why the Bar Mitzvah ceremony is important for Jews (8)**

- Bar Mitzvah is important because it means '**Son of the Commandment**' and shows that they have reached adulthood in the eyes of the Jewish community. The commandments were given by God to Moses and are part of the **covenant agreement**.
- Bar Mitzvah is important because it means that the **child now becomes an adult in the eyes of the Jewish community**. They have full responsibility and can take part in all the activities in the synagogue such as carrying the Torah scrolls and reading from the bimah.
- It is also important because the ceremony means that the **child can now observe all the 613 mitzvot**. Prior to 13 years of age the child only needed to follow the Ten Commandments but now they can take a fuller part in the Jewish community.
- It is important because they can **now take part in the festival of Yom Kippur**. This is when Jews will ask for forgiveness and fast to show their sincerity to God. Furthermore, Bar Mitzvah means the child can now become part of the Minyan. They can make up part of the 10 men required/needed to worship in the synagogue.

### **d) 'Bar Mitzvah is the most important ceremony for Jewish people' (15)**

#### **Agree**

- Bar Mitzvah means 'Son of the Commandment' and show that they have reached adulthood in the eyes of the Jewish community.
- Bar Mitzvah means that the child now becomes an adult in the eyes of the Jewish community. They have full responsibility and can take part in all the activities in the synagogue.
- The ceremony means that the child can now observe all the 613 mitzvot. They can keep the covenant between the Jewish community and God.
- They can now take part in the festival of Yom Kippur. This is when Jews will ask for forgiveness and fast to show their sincerity to God.
- Bar Mitzvah means the child can now become part of the Minyan. They can make up part of the 10 men required/needed to worship in the synagogue.

#### **Disagree**

- Brit milah is more important because the Torah says that Jews should be circumcised; "**Every male among you must be circumcised.**" The Torah states that Abraham was commanded by God to be circumcised. Jews should follow the example of Abraham.
- The ritual is an ancient practice that has been carried out by Jewish parents for more than 3,000 years. Under Jewish law, failure to follow the commandment given to Abraham incurs the penalty of karet (being cut off from the rest of the community of God).
- Marriage is the most important ceremony because the Torah teaches that Jewish men and Jewish women should marry and start a family. "**A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.**"

### b) Describe a Jewish wedding ceremony (5)

- The badeken is the veiling of the bride by the groom. The ceremony takes place under the chuppah (canopy), a symbol of the home that the new couple will build together.
- Two cups of wine are used in the wedding ceremony. The groom now takes the wedding ring in his hand, and in clear view of two witnesses, declares to the bride, "**Behold, you are betrothed unto me with this ring, according to the law of Moses and Israel.**"
- Now comes the reading of the ketubah (marriage contract). The Seven Blessings are then recited over the second cup of wine. A glass is now placed on the floor, and the groom shatters it with his foot and they shout "**mazel tov**". This serves as an expression of sadness at the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

### c) Explain how Jewish people are married (8)

- The marriage ceremony begins with the **badeken**. This is the **veiling of the bride by the groom**. The wedding ceremony takes place under the **chuppah (canopy)**, a symbol of the home that the new couple will build together. The bride circles the groom seven times representing the seven days of creation in Genesis.
- **Two cups of wine** are used in the wedding ceremony. The couple drinks from the cup as wine is a symbol of joy in the Jewish tradition. The groom now takes the wedding ring in his hand, and in clear view of two witnesses, declares to the bride, "**Behold, you are betrothed unto me with this ring, according to the law of Moses and Israel.**"
- Now comes the reading of the **ketubah (marriage contract)**. The Seven Blessings are then recited over the second cup of wine. A glass is now placed on the floor, and the groom shatters it with his foot and they shout "**mazel tov**". This serves as an expression of sadness at the **destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem**.

### d) 'Marriage is the most important ceremony in Judaism' (15)

#### Agree

- Marriage is the most important ceremony because the Torah teaches that Jewish men and Jewish women should marry and start a family. "**A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.**"
- It is also an important ceremony as the Talmud teaches "**A man without a wife is incomplete.**" Marriage is one of the most important things a Jewish person can do.
- The Talmud also teaches that marriage is important because it brings joy and protection. Marriage means the start of a Jewish home where God is worshipped.
- There are many symbols in the marriage ceremony which show the importance. For example, the groom stamps on a glass to represent the destruction of the Jewish temple. Also, the marriage takes place under the chuppah which shows the importance of the Jewish household.

#### Disagree

- Brit milah is more important because the Torah says that Jews should be circumcised; "**Every male among you must be circumcised.**" The Torah states that Abraham was commanded by God to be circumcised. Jews should follow the example of Abraham.
- The ritual is an ancient practice that has been carried out by Jewish parents for more than 3,000 years. Under Jewish law, failure to follow the commandment given to Abraham incurs the penalty of karet (being cut off from the rest of the community of God).

**b) Describe the Jewish funeral ceremony (5)**

- There are five stages to this ritual. 1) Arrangements are made as soon as possible, preferably 24 hours. Body is washed and dressed in a simple white shroud (cloth). The body is placed in a simple coffin and it is buried not cremated. Mourners make a small tear in their clothes.
- 2-3) A seven-day period following the burial known as Shivah is carried out; the first three days are characterised by a more intense degree of mourning where families will stay at home, mirrors are covered, men do not shave and people sit on low chairs.
- 4) The 30-day mourning period begins.
- 5) The First Year (observed only by the children of the deceased).

**c) Explain orthodox and reform beliefs about death rituals (8)**

- **Orthodox** Jews want the burial to happen within **24 hours** whereas **Reform** allow more time to elapse before the funeral so all family members can attend.
- Orthodox Jews will only bury their dead as the **Torah teaches** that we came from dust so we must return to dust. Reform Jews allow cremation as they believe **only the soul will live on.**
- Orthodox Jews and Reform Jews will make a physical mark to show they are grieving. Reform Jews may put on a **black ribbon** rather than **tearing their clothes.**
- Orthodox Jews sit **shivah** for seven days whereas Reform sit shivah for one day or at most three days and do not use low chairs. Whilst Orthodox Jews are mourning no celebration should take place. Reform may do this differently and they might play music at a funeral or have a party to celebrate the person's life.

**d) 'Jewish death rituals help Jews come to terms with their loss' (15)**

**Agree**

- Jewish death rituals give them a chance to mourn their dead relatives and friends. There are 5 stages to the death ritual that help to come to terms with their loss.
- Mourners make a small tear in their clothes (physical mark) to show that they are grieving. This mark is a way of recognising the death.
- A seven-day period known as 'shivah' allows Jewish to mourn and come to terms with their loss. During this time family's stay at home, mirrors are covered and people sit on low chairs.
- Following 'shivah' a 30-day mourning period takes place to help them come to terms with their loss.
- If the person who has died is a parent the death ritual allows the children to mourn them for a year in total.

**Disagree**

- Some people are never able to come to terms with the loss of a relative or friend. If the person was young then it can be difficult, especially for parents, to accept this.
- There are different opinions within Judaism regarding the death rituals. Orthodox and Reform Jews do not follow all the same customs which seems to prove that these rituals will not always help Jews come to terms with their loss. For example, Reform Jews may celebrate to remember a person's life whereas Orthodox Jew would not.

### **b) Describe Jewish beliefs about dietary laws (Kosher) (5)**

- Kosher in Hebrew means 'clean' or 'fit'. It can be used to describe certain actions but it usually refers to food that is okay to eat for Jewish people.
- Certain animals may not be eaten at all. This restriction includes the flesh, organs, eggs and milk of the forbidden animals.
- Of the animals that may be eaten, the birds and mammals must be killed in accordance with Jewish law.
- All blood must be drained from meat and poultry or broiled out of it before it is eaten.
- Certain parts of permitted animals may not be eaten. Fruits and vegetables are permitted, but must be inspected for bugs (which cannot be eaten)
- Utensils (including pots and pans and other cooking surfaces) that have come into contact with meat may not be used with dairy, and vice versa. Utensils that have come into contact with non-kosher food may not be used with kosher food. This applies only where the contact occurred while the food was hot.

### **c) Explain why Jews have dietary (Kosher) laws (8)**

- The Torah clearly states that Jews should not eat some foods. '**Of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat**'. Jews believe that the Torah contains the laws of God that must be obeyed.
- Kosher helps Jews keep a strong relationship with God. Like many other rituals practices in Judaism, kosher is an **important tradition**.
- Keeping kosher is a way in which Jews can show they are being obedient to God and keeping their part of the **covenant** which is to follow the mitzvot.
- Keeping Kosher is a **mitzvot**. That means it is one of the **613 commandments** that Jews are expected to follow once they have had their bar or bat mitzvah. By following these commandments Jews become closer to God.

### **d) 'Jewish food laws (kosher) are out of date' (15)**

#### **Agree**

- The Torah clearly states that Jews should not eat some foods. '**Of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat**'. Jews believe that the Torah contains the laws of G-d that must be obeyed.
- Some Jews consider keeping kosher a blessing from G-d. it helps them keep a strong relationship with G-d.
- Like many other rituals practices in Judaism, kosher is an important tradition. Jews have been keeping kosher for over 3000 years so it is now part of Jewish culture.
- Keeping kosher is a way in which Jews can show they are being obedient to G-d and keeping their part of the covenant which is to follow the mitzvot.
- Keeping Kosher is a mitzvot. That means it is one of the 613 commandments that Jews are expected to follow once they have had their bar or bat mitzvah. By following these commandments Jews become closer to God.

#### **Disagree**

- Some Reform Jews argue that kosher is not necessary. It is outdated and old fashioned. It can be too restrictive in modern life.
- Foods such as shell fish and pork are eaten regularly in Britain. It may be too difficult for Jews to avoid eating this food.
- Keeping a kosher kitchen is not practical. Modern life is extremely busy and having different dishes for dairy products and different dishes for meat.
- Kosher can be really expensive especially in areas where there are few Jewish shops. This has made some Jews give up as they can't afford it.
- Kosher is down to individual choice just like the other Jewish practices. Reform Jews believe G-d created them with the freedom to make their own choices.

**b) Describe how Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashanah (5)**

- Rosh Hashanah is commonly known as the Jewish New Year. On Rosh Hashanah Jews celebrate God creating the world.
- It is a happy and serious festival. It is happy because Jewish families celebrate the New Year and it is serious because they think about how they could have done better.
- On the night before Rosh Hashanah special services are held in the synagogue. The prayers said refer to God as a king sitting in judgement of the world. As people leave the synagogue they will say 'May you be written down for a good year'.
- In Jewish homes wine is blessed and slices of apple dipped in honey are eaten. Challah (bread) is also eaten but the challah is round rather than a plait to represent the cycle of the year. A shofar horn is blown 100 times with notes that sound like crying. Later in the day Jews say special prayers at a stream or river. Crumbs from the challah are thrown into the water representing the sins thrown away. For the next ten days Jews try to make up for actions they regret and plan ways in which they can live a better life.

**c) Explain why Rosh Hashanah is important to Jews (8)**

- Rosh Hashanah is important to Jews because it is the celebration of the Jewish New Year. On Rosh Hashanah Jews celebrate God creating the world. The book of Genesis teaches: **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"**.
- It is looked upon as being one of Judaism's **'High Holy Days'**. This means that Rosh Hashanah is a festival that should be celebrated by all Jews above all others.
- The festival gives Jews the opportunity to spend **ten days planning** how they are going to live a better life throughout the year ahead.
- It is a happy and serious festival. It is happy because Jewish families can **celebrate the New Year** together and serious because they think about how they could have done better.

**d) 'Rosh Hashanah is the most important Jewish festival' (15)**

**Agree**

- Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are looked upon as Judaism's 'High Holy Days'. This means that these two festivals should be celebrated by all Jews above all others.
- Rosh Hashanah gives Jews an opportunity to celebrate God creating the world. God as creator is one of the most important Jewish beliefs about God.
- It is a happy and serious festival. It is happy because Jewish families can celebrate the New Year together and serious because they think about how they could have done better.
- The festival gives Jews the opportunity to spend ten days planning how they are going to live a better life throughout the year.

**Disagree**

- Pesach (Passover) is more important to Jews today because G-d commands Jewish people to celebrate Passover in the Torah, namely the book of Exodus which tells the story of the Jewish people escaping Egypt. Jews believe G-d is a lawgiver and judge so they attempt to follow all of his commandments.
- Furthermore, it is more important because retelling the story ensures that the Jewish faith and religion are passed on. This means younger Jewish people will learn the important events from Jewish history and be able to pass these on to their children in the future.

**b) Describe how Jews celebrate Yom Kippur (5)**

- This is looked upon as being the holiest day of the year and all Jews are expected to attend the synagogue. It takes place ten days after Rosh Hashanah. On the day before Yom Kippur many Jews visit a mikveh (a pool of natural water) for a spiritual cleaning.
- The rules of Shabbat apply on Yom Kippur and Jews are expected to fast (take no food or water) for 25 hours.
- There are 5 prayer services on the day. At each service Jews confess their sins to G-d. Rabbis and cantors dress in white on this day to represent forgiveness. Throughout the service the doors of the Holy Ark are open so that they can confess directly to G-d.
- Jews have a memorial service on this day to remember those who have died. The day ends with Jews saying the Shema together. At nightfall, Yom Kippur ends. This is marked by a single blast of the shofar horn.

**c) Explain why Yom Kippur is important to Jewish people (8)**

- Yom Kippur is important to Jewish people because along with Rosh Hashanah, it is looked upon as one of Judaism's '**High Holy Days.**' This means that Yom Kippur is a festival that should be celebrated by all Jews above all others.
- It is looked upon as the **holiest day of the year** for Jewish people. All Jewish people are expected to attend the synagogue on this day and seek forgiveness for their sins.
- It is referred at as the '**Sabbath of Sabbaths.**' Even Jews who do not always follow Sabbath laws throughout the year will try to do so on this day.
- Yom Kippur is important because the **Torah commands** all Jews to fast for 25 hours. Throughout the service at the synagogue the doors of the **Holy Ark** are open so that they can confess directly to God.

**d) 'Yom Kippur is the most important Jewish festival' (15)**

**Agree**

- Yom Kippur is important to Jewish people because along with Rosh Hashanah, it is looked upon as one of Judaism's '**High Holy Days.**' This means that Yom Kippur is a festival that should be celebrated by all Jews above all others.
- It is also important as it is looked upon as the holiest day of the year for Jewish people. All Jewish people are expected to attend the synagogue on this day and seek forgiveness for their sins.
- Furthermore, Yom Kippur is important because it is sometimes referred at as the 'Sabbath of Sabbaths'. Even Jews who do not always follow Sabbath laws throughout the year will try to do so on this day.
- Finally, Yom Kippur is important because the Torah commands all Jews to fast for 25 hours. During this time Jews can focus on God rather than focus on material possessions.

**Disagree**

- Pesach (Passover) is more important to Jews today because G-d commands Jewish people to celebrate Passover in the Torah, namely the book of Exodus which tells the story of the Jewish people escaping Egypt. Jews believe G-d is a lawgiver and judge so they attempt to follow all of his commandments.
- Rosh Hashanah is more important because it is the celebration of the Jewish New Year. On Rosh Hashanah Jews celebrate G-d creating the world. The book of Genesis teaches that God created the world in six days and on the seventh God rested. "**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**"

**b) Describe how Jews celebrate Pesach (Passover) (5)**

- Jews celebrate Passover to remember the escape of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. The celebrations usually last for seven days. This story is found in the Torah in the book of Exodus.
- Before celebrations begin the house must be cleaned from top to bottom to remove any traces of risen bread or food made from grains from the home. This commemorates the Jews leaving Egypt who did not have time to let their bread rise.
- The highlight of Passover is the Seder meal. This begins with the reading of the Passover story followed by hymns and blessings which are sung.
- The Seder meal has many different parts that represent different aspects of the Passover story. The salt water represents the tear shed by the slaves. The lamb bone represents the lamb that was sacrificed so its blood could be painted above Jewish doors. The wine and the charoset represent the joy of escaping slavery in Egypt.

**c) Explain why Pesach (Passover) is important to Jews today (8)**

- Pesach (Passover) is important to Jews today because **God commands Jewish people to celebrate Passover in the Torah**, namely the book of Exodus. It retells the story and ensures that the Jewish faith and religion are passed on.
- Pesach is also an important festival because it reminds Jews to think about people today who are **suffering**. When they taste the bitter herbs on the **Seder plate** they are able to think about the bitterness of slavery.
- Pesach is important to Jews today because it is a joyful celebration and **helps Jews remember their freedom and entering the Promised Land.**
- It is an opportunity to spend time with family and show gratitude to God. **Eating the haroset and drinking the wine during the Seder meal represents the sweetness of freedom** and the joy that the Jewish people are no longer in slavery.

**d) 'Pesach (Passover) is the most important festival for Jews' (15)**

**Agree**

- Pesach (Passover) is important to Jews today because G-d commands Jewish people to celebrate Passover in the Torah, namely the book of Exodus which tells the story of the Jewish people escaping Egypt. Jews believe G-d is a lawgiver and judge so they attempt to follow all of his commandments.
- Furthermore, it is important because retelling the story ensures that the Jewish faith and religion are passed on. This means younger Jewish people will learn the important events from Jewish history and be able to pass these on to their children in the future.
- Pesach is also an important festival because it reminds Jews to think about people today who are suffering from slavery and oppression. When they taste the bitter herbs on the Seder plate they are able to think about the bitterness of slavery.

**Disagree**

- Yom Kippur is more important because it is looked upon as the holiest day of the year for Jews. It is an opportunity to ask God for forgiveness just like their ancestors did in the Temple in Jerusalem.
- The Festival of Sukkot is more important because it commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. It celebrates the way in which God protected them under difficult desert conditions for forty years.

### **b) Describe how Jewish people celebrate Sukkot (5)**

- Sukkot is also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, or the Feast of Booths. The word sukkot means hut or booth. Every Jewish family will build an open air structure in which to live during the holiday.
- The essential thing about the hut is that it should have a roof of branches and leaves, through which those inside can see the sky, and that it should be a temporary and flimsy thing.
- The Sukkot ritual is to take four types of plant material: an etrog (a citron fruit), a palm branch, a myrtle branch, and a willow branch, and rejoice with them. People rejoice with them by waving them or shaking them about.
- The Festival of Sukkot commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. It celebrates the way in which God protected them under difficult desert conditions for forty years.

### **c) Explain why the festival of sukkot is important for Jewish people (8)**

- Sukkot is important because it **commemorates** the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. It celebrates the way in which God protected them.
- It helps Jewish people **connect with their ancestors**. The word sukkot means **'hut' or 'booth'** and every Jewish family will build an open air structure in which to live during the holiday. This reminds them of how the Jewish people lived whilst in the desert.
- Jews are commanded to celebrate this festival in the Torah. **"You shall dwell in sukkot seven days so that generations will know how the Israelites lived"**. The Torah is the written Jewish law that Jews must follow.
- Celebrating sukkot is one of the **613 mitzvot**.

### **d) 'Sukkot is the most important Jewish festival' (15)**

#### **Agree**

- Sukkot is the most important festival because it commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. It celebrates the way in which God protected them under difficult desert conditions for forty years.
- Furthermore, it is important because Jews are commanded to celebrate this festival in the Torah. **"You shall dwell in sukkot seven days so that generations will know how the Israelites lived"**. The Torah is the written Jewish law that Jews must follow.
- Celebrating sukkot is one of the mitzvot. The mitzvot are actions that Jews must perform or avoid so they are expected to celebrate this festival.

#### **Disagree**

- Pesach (Passover) is more important to Jews today because G-d commands Jewish people to celebrate Passover in the Torah, namely the book of Exodus which tells the story of the Jewish people escaping Egypt. Jews believe G-d is a lawgiver and judge so they attempt to follow all of his commandments.
- Yom Kippur is more important because it is looked upon as the holiest day of the year for Jews. It is an opportunity to ask God for forgiveness just like their ancestors did in the Temple in Jerusalem.
- Rosh Hashanah is more important because it is the celebration of the Jewish New Year. On Rosh Hashanah Jews celebrate G-d creating the world.



## **Judaism: Beliefs and Teachings Possible Exam Questions**

### **Part A Questions – Key word (2 marks)**

You need to know the correct definitions of the following terms:

- Synagogue
- Shekinah
- Shabbat
- Kosher
- Torah
- Mitzvot
- Messiah
- Covenant

### **Part B Questions – Describe (5 marks)**

- Describe Jewish beliefs about G-d
- Describe Jewish beliefs about the nature and role of the Messiah
- Describe Jewish beliefs about the Shekinah
- Describe the covenant between God and Abraham
- Describe Jewish beliefs about the Ten Commandments
- Describe Jewish beliefs about pikuach nefesh (sanctity of life)
- Describe Jewish beliefs about the mitzvot
- Describe Jewish beliefs about life after death

### **Part C Questions - Explain (8 marks)**

- Explain why belief in God is important for Jewish people
- Explain why the Messiah is important for Jewish people
- Explain Jewish beliefs about pikuach nefesh (sanctity of life)
- Explain why Abraham is important for Jewish people
- Explain why Moses is important for Jewish people
- Explain why the Ten Commandments are important for Jewish people
- Explain different Jewish beliefs about life after death

### **Part D Questions – Statement (15 marks)**

- 'The Messiah is the most important Jewish belief'
- 'Belief in God is the most important Jewish belief'
- 'Abraham/Moses is the most important person in Jewish history'
- 'Jewish people should always follow the Ten Commandments'
- 'Jews should always follow the mitzvot'
- 'Life after death is the most important Jewish belief'

## Judaism: Practices Possible Exam Questions

### Part B Questions – Describe (5 marks)

- Describe how the Tanakh and Talmud guide Jewish lives
- Describe how Jewish people worship in their home
- Describe the different features of the synagogue
- Describe the difference between Orthodox and Reform synagogues
- Describe how Jewish people celebrate the Sabbath
- Describe the brit milah/bar mitzvah ceremony
- Describe the different ways in which Jewish people pray
- Describe 3 features of the Jewish marriage service
- Describe 3 ways in which Jews mourn for the dead
- Describe Jewish beliefs about kosher
- Describe how Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur / Passover / Sukkot

### Part C Questions - Explain (8 marks)

- Explain how and why Jewish people worship God
- Explain how and why Jews celebrate Shabbat
- Explain why the synagogue is important for Jews
- Explain why the home is important for Jews
- Explain the difference between Orthodox and Reform synagogues
- Explain why festivals are important for Jewish people
- Explain why Jews keep kosher
- Explain how Jewish people are married
- Explain Orthodox and Reform beliefs about death rituals
- Explain why bar mitzvah/brit milah is important for Jewish people
- Explain why Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur / Passover / Sukkot are important festivals for Jews

### Part D Questions – Statement (15 marks)

- 'The Tanakh (Torah) is the only guidance Jews need'
- 'All Jewish males should be circumcised'
- 'Shabbat is the most important form of worship for Jews'
- 'Brit Milah (circumcision) is the most important Jewish ceremony'
- 'Bar mitzvah is the most important Jewish ceremony'
- 'Keeping kosher is the most important practice for Jews'
- 'Jews should worship God in the synagogue'

