

Component 3

Judaism

Revision Guide



Name: _____ Class _____

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How to use this guide

Each of the 2 sections we have studied are included in this revision guide.

30 marks will be available for **beliefs and teachings** and 30 marks will be available for **practices**.

This revision guide is only a basic set of notes; you should also use your exercise books to clarify anything you are unsure of.

If you want more information on any area, then the BBC website is a good start which can help you find out more: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/>

Basic Information about Judaism



- There are about 17 million Jews in the world
- It is one of the oldest religions at about 3,500 years old
- Most Jews, about 6.5 million, live in America
- Many Jews, about 6 million, live in Israel
- In this country, the UK, about 300,000 Jews live
- the main holy book is called the Torah
- the main founders of the religion are Abraham and Moses
- There are many different types of Jewish people, such as Orthodox and Reform.
- Jewish people believe in one God and think they are God's chosen people
- Jewish people have been persecuted and treated badly many times through history, and experienced much anti-Semitism (racism) in the past
- Trying to find a homeland after the awful terrors of the Holocaust, the Jewish state of Israel was founded in 1948
- There are 613 rules (Mitzvot) in the Torah which they try to follow as best they can, whichever country they live in.

Differences between Ultra-Orthodox Jews, Orthodox Jews and Reform Jews

- **Ultra-Orthodox Jews** are very strict in how they read the Torah. They often take parts of it word for word and try not to break the rules at all
- they often look different as they have long forelocks of hair, have all their clothes in black and wear large hats
- examples: they would wear a tallit under their clothes all day long, may have big families and often live in communities separate from non-Jews



- **Orthodox Jews** believe they should live their lives as close to the rules laid down in the Torah as possible
- Orthodox keep many rules of Torah very strictly such as not working on Shabbat and only allowing men and women to have certain roles in the synagogue
- **Reform Jews** think that the Jewish religion should move with the times
- Reform Judaism started of about 150 years ago and tries to understand the Torah alongside modern day life



Remember!!!!!!!!!!!!

15 mark questions can ask you to evaluate any of the content. You must be able to give a variety of views and show that you can identify the differences in beliefs and practices of the main branches of Judaism

<u>Word</u>	<u>Definitions</u>
1) Synagogue	Jewish holy place of worship and education
2) Shekinah	God's presence in the world.
3) Shabbat	Jewish Holy day and day of rest, the Jewish Sabbath.
4) Kosher	In Hebrew language it means 'clean' or 'pure', what Jews are allowed to eat.
5) Mitzvot	613 Laws that Jews follow which can be found in the Torah
6) Torah	Contains the first 5 Holy books of Jewish scripture
7) Covenant	Promise made between God and man
8) Messiah	Will come from the line of David, bring peace to the Jews and take them to the land of Israel.

Beliefs and teachings.

Beliefs in God the almighty. Core ideas include belief in one God that is also the creator, the law-giver and judge of all things. The divine presence of God is called the Shekhinah

The Nature of God

God is one.

- Jews believe that is only one God. Therefore Jews are Monotheists.
- The commandments also state you shall have no God's before me.
- there this is the basic prayer of Judaism and is said every morning and evening
- The Shema a declaration of Jewish faith this states the basic belief of Jews which is that there is **one God** (monotheism)

The Shema: Hear, O Israel: Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is the One and Only. You shall love Hashem, your G-d, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your resources. And these matters that I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children and you shall speak of them while you sit in your home, while you walk on the way, when you retire and when you arise. Bind them as a sign upon your arm and let them be ornaments between your eyes. And write them on the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

God is creator

- Genesis states that God created the world and everything within the world. God has a purpose for the world.
- Creation is too wonderful not to have a powerful creator. Jews have a duty to care for Gods creation.
- God rested on the 7th day of creation so Jews observe Shabbat and do not work on this day of rest too.

God as Judge

- Psalms 50
And the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself is judge
- Judaism teaches that God has set his laws and they should be followed. God is the ultimate judge of all human beings
- God's role as judge is strongly associated with death and the afterlife, it is not possible to say sorry after death. This makes it more important to act justly and seek peace in daily life.

God is law giver

- God gave his people the commandments as well as the other mitzvot.
- Obedience of the laws is not only a duty but it brings them closer to God.

Shekhinah

- Comes from the Hebrew meaning dwell. It is the divine presence of God in the world today.
- Adam and Eve “heard the sound of Yahweh walking in the garden” (Gen3:8) this is symbolic to show God is present to humanity within his creation.
- Another example is when God spoke to Moses through the burning bush
- The divine presence of God is important during prayer as it means Jews can have their own personal relationship with God. *“Whenever 10 are gathered for prayer (Minyan), there the Shekinah rests.”* Talmud.
- Some Jews see the Shekhinah as a feminine presence of God, Shekhinah nurtures an understanding that God cares just like a mother cares for her children. This aspect of Shekhinah can be more approachable.

The Nature and role of the Messiah

The Prophets state the Messiah will:

- Come unexpectedly
- Be the prince of peace
- Restore the temple and Jewish law
- Be a great leader and be powerful

- One day there will be a man who is the Messiah and he will come along and save the world
- the Messiah will lead the Jewish people and show everyone in the world what to do and how to behave, there will be peace on earth.
- The Messiah may come when we need him the most and the earth is so full of sin.
- Orthodox Jews are still waiting for the Messiah to come and pray for his arrival, they believe the prophets are God’s messengers and their word is truth.
- Many reform Jews believe we should work together to achieve peace and harmony this is known as the Messianic age. Jews would rather focus on the world we live in today and carry out good actions as a way to repair the world.

Covenant and Abraham

- A Covenant is a sacred promise between God and His people. This may involve certain conditions.
- God called Abraham to leave his home and move to another land.

- Abraham started Judaism when he made the covenant (the promise) to God to worship Him and move away from worshipping many false gods.
- God promised him he would be the father of all nations. His name was changed to Abraham from Abram
- Abraham was told that all of his people would be looked after so long as they worshipped God and God alone.
- The Jewish people had to believe in one God and also circumcise all baby boys when they were born
- God would protect His people and give them a promised land (which is Israel)
- God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son to God, although he stopped Abraham from doing this at the last minute.
- ⁹ Then God said to Abraham, **“As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised.”**
- Abraham and his son Isaac were both circumcised on the same day.
- This Covenant is a sign that Jews are God’s chosen people.

Covenant and Moses

- Moses is honoured as the greatest prophet in Jewish history.
- Moses was an Isrealite although he grew up in the Egyptian royal palace – all the other Jews were kept as slaves
- God spoke to Moses through the burning bush and asked him to free his people.
- Moses eventually made the King of Egypt let the Isrealites go free, but only after bringing the 10 plagues to Egypt
- Moses led his people into the desert for 40 years before they found the country of Israel where they settled
- God gave the 10 commandments all the rules (the mitzvot) to Moses



The Ten Commandments (Decalogue)

- Given to Moses by God and should be followed by all Jewish people
- Moses climbed up a mountain called Mount Sinai and after being up there 40 days, came back down with 2 stone tablets with the commandments written on them
- Some of the rules in the Decalogue shows that God is to be respected
- some of the Commandments in the Decalogue shows God cares about the Jewish people
- Some of the rules in the Decalogue shows that God wants justice and fairness

10 Commandments

1. I am the one God
2. Do not worship false idols
3. Do not take the Lords name in vain
4. Keep Sabbath day (Shabbat) special and holy
5. Respect your parents
6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not covet (jealous)

The Torah

- this is the first 5 books given by God to Moses and it is the most important part of the TeNaKh (Jewish Bible- Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim)
- The Torah is written onto large scrolls and kept in the ark of the synagogue, they are hand written.
- The Torah contains all the 613 commandments (mitzvot)



Life on Earth - The Sanctity of Human life.

- Jews believe God is the creator of all human life this makes all life sacred. Only God can give and preserve life.
- Jews must do all they can to protect life at any cost.
- The Talmud states “...one who saves a human life is considered a though they have saved the whole world.”
- **Pikuach Nefesh** is the Jewish principle that Jewish laws may be broken in order to save a life. Eg breaking a fast day on Yom Kippur to help somebody who was severely ill. Driving someone to hospital on the Sabbath.
- The Talmud states you should always live by the laws but never die because of them.
- Judaism also permits organ donation because of **Pikuach Nefesh**
- Jews believe only God can ever take life, because of this nothing should ever be done which can bring about death. Euthanasia will never be permitted. Jews have a duty to care for those who are seriously ill.

He shall live by them [the laws of the Torah], but he shall not die because of them.

The Talmud

QuoteAddicts.com

Mitzvot

- There are 613 Mitzvot in the Torah including the 10 commandments.
- Orthodox Jews believe the Mitzvot were revealed to God by Moses on Mount Sinai.
- Reform Jews accept modern critical accounts of Biblical tradition and believe that Revelation was an ongoing process over many centuries, because of this they do not feel bound to follow all of the Mitzvot.
- The Mitzvot show people how to relate to God and one another. They should guide Jews about how to live lives of holiness, justice and kindness. There are 248 positive Mitzvot and 365 mitzvot that Jews should not do.
- Mitzvah – single Jewish rule or duty.

Love of God

- The Decalogue also states that you should only worship one God, never use his name in vain and respect the Shabbat.
- The Shema also states you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and your strength.

Love of neighbour

<u>Justice</u>	<u>Kindness</u>	<u>Help the Poor</u>	<u>Care for others</u>
Leviticus 9:15 states " <i>Do not pervert Justice do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly</i> "	Leviticus 19:18 <i>Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people but love your neighbour as yourself.</i> " Jewish scriptures believe the universe is built upon kindness.	Giving charity to the poor and needy is an important mitzvah for Jews. Deuteronomy 15:11 " <i>There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be generous toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.</i> "	Jews are encouraged to love the stranger. They must show him as much love as they show family.

Halakah

- It cannot be emphasised enough for Jews that the Written law the 613 Mitzvot is supported by the Oral law of the Talmud. Taken together as Halakah which translates as the way of walking Jews believe this is the guidance for the path of life.

Faith in action

- Mitzvah day began in the UK in 2008 and has spread worldwide. It is a day when Jews and non Jews work together to reduce poverty, care for the environment and care for others.
- It is rooted in 3 concepts:
- **Tikkun Olam** – which is healing or repairing the world. Helping others and the environment at the heart of this.
- **Loving and kindness** – doing something good for someone without a reward
- **Justice and right** – we do good deeds because it is right, not to make us feel good about ourselves or to receive a reward.



The afterlife

- In Hebrew the afterlife is referred to as **Olam Ha Ba** which translates as the world to come.
- Jews do not have a single understanding of the afterlife as Jews place greater emphasis on the present day not the afterlife. Jews also believe God's ways are beyond our understanding, scripture has no clear guidance.
- Jewish understanding of the afterlife comes from understanding the following key terms.
- **Soul** – Jews believe God created the soul of all humans starting with Adam "*He blew into his nostrils the soul of life*" Genesis 2:7
- The rabbis teach that the soul leaves the body while a person is asleep and visits heaven for refreshment. During the Sabbath (a weekly day of rest and worship), God gives everyone an extra soul.
- **Sheol** – a place of the dead awaiting purification.
- **Resurrection** – the belief that the dead arise on judgement day
- Judgement – linked to resurrection, God will determine your fate.
- **Gan eden** – a place of spiritual perfection. Only the very righteous will enter this place.
- **Gehenna** – a place of the dead in punishment (hell) this punishment will come after the day of judgement at the coming of the Messiah.
- When people are judged by God their body and soul are reunited. The soul will blame the body for its actions. Judgement will take place after the coming of the Messiah. Although many Jews believe that they will be punished or rewarded after death for the way in which they have lived their lives, there is no clear teaching about heaven.
- Jews believe that the importance of life is the way in which it is lived on earth. Whatever happens after death is in God's hands and should be left to God to arrange.

Worship and practices

Connecting with God every day is a key teaching of Judaism and therefore worship takes many forms involving prayers at the synagogue and at home.

Shabbat

- The origins of Shabbat lie in the Torah.
- It is one of the 10 commandments
- This is every Saturday and remembers the 7th day god made the world and then rested, so Jews will do no work on this day
- Orthodox Jews think it starts at sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday
- Orthodox Jews will not even switch lights on and off or drive a car or even to write, as these acts are considered work



Shabbat at the synagogue

- This brings the Jewish community together each week. Services are held on Shabbat evening, Shabbat morning and late Shabbat.
- Shabbat morning is the longest service and can last between 2-3 hours.
- Important prayers such as the Shema are said. The Torah is read and the Rabbi will reflect on the Torah through a sermon
- After the service a Kiddush (Blessing) is said over a glass of wine or grape juice.

Shabbat at home

- The mother welcomes Shabbat into the home with 2 candles as she does this she will recite the Shabbat blessing from the siddur the synagogue prayer book.
- The father will start the meal with a Kiddush blessing then another blessing over the Challot bread. This challot bread which remembers God's gift to the Jewish people of food when they were hungry in the desert
- Everyone gathers for the Shabbat meal, it should be cooked prior to the start of the sabbath.
- Shabbat ends with the family lighting the havdalah candle and giving thanks to God for His creation of the world and everything He has given us, and the smelling of sweet spices such as cinnamon

Prayer

- Jews have a duty to pray this does not just happen in the synagogue it should be a part of everyday life.
- Prayer connects believers with God and is a communication of love.
- Traditionally communal prayer requires 10 men to be present this is called a Minyan. Reform Jews will accept women in the numbers when forming a Minyan.
- Families and friends are also encouraged to prayer together, shared prayer is a way or presenting the needs of the community to God.
- Observant Jews will pray at least 3 times a day on weekdays with extra devotions on Shabbat and festivals.
- When Jews pray they will focus on praising God, thanking God and prayers for others.
- There are many set prayers in the Siddur.

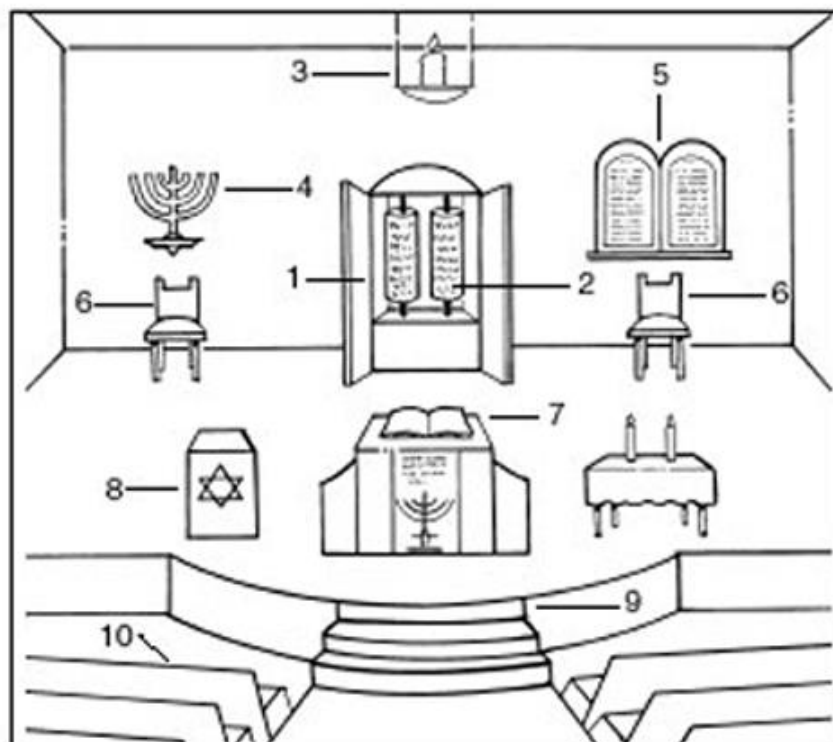


The Shema

- This is the central prayer for Jews. It is a declaration of Jewish faith, reminding Jews daily of the oneness of God. This is recited 3 times daily.

Key features of the synagogue. Can you label this?

Below you will find a diagram of a common synagogue and a list of features.



- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Congregation seating | D. Menorah | G. Ner Tamid |
| B. Torah Scrolls | E. Rabbi's and Cantor's seats | H. Ark |
| C. Ten Commandments | F. Bimah | I. Rabbi's podium |
| | | J. Cantor's and Torah reading table |

- **Ner tamid** – is an everlasting light. This represents the eternal presence of God. The mitzvah to keep a light burning at the temple in Jerusalem. This will always hang near the ark.
- **Ark** – The ark is precious, sacred and the most important place in the synagogue. It contains several Torah scrolls.
- **The Torah scrolls** – each scroll is handwritten and contains the sacred words of God.
- **Bimah** – where the Torah scroll is read. The Bimah is usually central in Orthodox synagogues and at the front in reform synagogues.
- **Yad** – this is used to read from the Torah, it helps you point to the exact place where you should be reading from.

Differences between Orthodox and Reform synagogues	
Orthodox	Reform
Men and women sit separately	Men and women sit together
Always a male rabbi	Could be a male or female rabbi
Services are normally in Hebrew	Services may be in Hebrew or could well be in English instead
Must have a minyan – this is a 10 man prayer group	The minyan can be made up of either men or women
Women do not touch the Torah, read it or lead any prayers	Women have an equal role to men
Songs without music.	Will use music and instruments during Shabbat service
The reasons behind this is the way Jews interpret the Mitzvot as stated in the Torah.	

Role of the synagogue

- The synagogue is at the heart of the Jewish faith. It is a house of prayer, study and gathering.
- Some Orthodox Jews may use the synagogue 3 times a day to pray
- More generally though services take place Mondays, Thursdays and Shabbat.
- The synagogue is also used for Study, Jews study the Torah and discuss this with other Jews. Children may also learn Hebrew at the synagogue.
- They Synagogue is also vital for the community and at the heart of celebrations such as weddings. The synagogue ensures the weak and vulnerable of the community are cared for.

The role and importance of rabbis – could be seen as a source of authority.

- A rabbi is a spiritual leader of the Jewish community
- They often read the Torah in the synagogue or leads prayers (not all the time thought, as the chazan does much of this)
- They conduct things like weddings and funerals and they may conduct study sessions and help people with problems with Jewish law
- They must be very learned in the TeNaKh and spent years learning about things like death and mourning rituals, kashrut laws (how to keep a good Jewish home) and how to celebrate festivals



Dress laws in Judaism

- Many ultra-Orthodox Jews wear black because it is modest and they also have long forelocks as a mitzvah says not to shave the hair at the side of the head, this is especially common with Hasidic Jews
- Orthodox Jews will always have some kind of head covering like kippah, or at least some form of hat, as a mark of respect to God above
- Orthodox women will dress modestly as it shows they believe themselves to be respectful of their bodies and that their focus is on their faith




Dressing for prayer

- In the synagogue men will often wear the **tefillin** for certain prayers – these are the 2 boxes with the Shema written in them – on the head and the arm. This is a **Mitzvah**. One is tied to their head to remind them to worship God with their mind, the other is tied to their arm to remind them to Love God with all their strength and do his good work.
- **Tallit** are worn, these prayer shawls having tassels in each corner as is commanded
- After death, Jewish men will be wrapped and buried in their tallit
- Some Jews will wear a special smaller tallit under their clothes all day
- **Kippah** – commonly worn by Jewish males during prayer services as a mark of respect to God. Orthodox Jews will wear one all day as a reminder of God's presence above all things.
- Strict Jews will not wear clothes which are a mixture of wool and cotton as a mitzvah prohibits this



Jewish rituals from Birth

Coming of age and rites of passage	
Brit milah	The circumcision of baby boys when they are 7 days old. The man cutting the foreskin is called the mohel and has been specially trained. It is a symbol of the baby boy being welcomed into the religion. It remembers God's covenant with Abraham.
Bar mitzvah	When a boy is 13 he becomes a 'son of the commandment'. this is when he becomes a man. It is celebrated by his family. He reads part of the Torah. He wears the tallit and tefilin. 
Bat mitzvah	When a girl is 12 she becomes a 'daughter of the commandment'. this is when she becomes an adult and it is celebrated by her family. This only happens in reform synagogues.
Bat Chayil	Orthodox girls do not celebrate a bat mitzvah. However they do have a ceremony to mark their coming of age. They give a presentation of things they have learnt about Judaism and say a prayer. They do NOT read from the Torah.

- After the coming of age ceremonies the young people will get more involved in the Jewish community and aim to do good deeds and involve themselves in charitable giving.

Jewish marriage

- Marriage is an important part of Jewish life and having children within the marriage is believed to be God's plan for humanity "to be fruitful and multiply" thereby ensuring that Judaism continues to grow.
- Marriage is understood to form a special bond between a couple, this is evidenced in the Torah "this is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife and they become one body"
- **Ketubah** is a marriage contract this is signed by two male witnesses before the ceremony begins. This contract contains the duties each partner will take as a married couple. The Groom signs the Ketubah, however in reform communities
- **The Marriage Chuppah** – the Jewish ceremony can happen anywhere but it must be performed under a chuppah. The Chuppah symbolises a home and is so significant that the ceremony itself is sometimes referred to as the chuppah.



- **The couple stand under the Chuppah and the Rabbi blesses them.** He then takes a cup of wine and recites the marriage blessing. Both the bride and the groom drink from the cup and a wedding ring is offered to the bride.
- Once the ring (or rings in a reform wedding) has been placed the Ketubah is read out loud by the groom and given to the bride.
- This is followed by the 7 marriage blessing or **Sheva Berachot**. Which can be recited by several people selected by the couple.
- At the end of the ceremony the groom smashes a glass wrapped in a cloth with his right foot. This reminds Jews that with every moment of joy there is sadness that in the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem and as a result all Jews are scattered all over the world.
- When the ceremony is over all present shout Mazel Tov to the couple. This means good luck in Hebrew. Then the celebration of food wine and dancing begin.



Marriage in reform and orthodox communities.	
Orthodox	Reform
Do not allow mixed marriage due God's command. <i>"you must not give a daughter of yours to a son of theirs nor take a daughter of theirs for a son of yours"</i> Deut 7:3	Some Reform synagogues will offer blessing ceremonies for interfaith couples. They do not allow a full Jewish wedding. They still try to encourage conversion
The bride and groom will not see each other for a week, the bride will take a ritual bath.	The bride and groom will not see each other the night before the wedding.
Couple will fast the day before the wedding, following the ceremony they will go to a private room to break their fast together.	Fasting can be a personal choice, not always encouraged. Bride will give the groom a wedding ring too.

Divorce.

- Jews do recognise that some marriages break down so divorce is permitted as even the Torah allowed divorce.
- The Bill or document of divorce is known as a Get and the purpose of it is to show that the couple are divorced and they are free to remarry.



Rituals of death and mourning

- Comforting the sick is a strong Jewish tradition and it is seen as a sacred religious duty.
- If possible, they will confess their sins and a person's last words will be a recitation of the Shema (Declaration of Jewish faith)
- The Chevra Kaddisha is the group of volunteers in the community who help prepare bodies for burial when someone dies. They take great care as a mark of dignity.
- A male Jew may be wrapped in the Tallit. In recognition that the dead person was made in God's image the dead person will never be left alone. The Family will stay with the body until the burial.
- The funeral service will have 4 main parts: the procession to the ceremony, the burial itself, the eulogy and the Kaddish prayer (even in Grief God Must be praised)
- As a sign of mourning family members may make a small rip in their clothes.
- The 7 days after someone is dead are known as shiva , they believe they cannot carry on as they did before. People must wear black during this time, must not shave, bathe, have sex, wear perfume or wear leather shoes. Orthodox Jews follow this much more closely.
- They sit on low chairs and don't do things of pleasure or comfort, mirrors are covered in the home.
- Visitors come to see the mourners during shiva, but no food is served as nothing is to be taken from the mourning family
- During the intense mourning of shiva, a jahrzeit candle is burnt and is also burnt a year after the death
- Orthodox Jews think only burial is allowed as Genesis in the Torah says we came from the soil and shall return; Reform Jews allow cremation
- The chevra kaddisha will have someone stay with the body until it is buried, which is normally as quickly as possible
- A prayer called kaddish will be said many times over the week of shiva, this prayer being about God's greatness and the hope for peace
- Close to the year anniversary Jews will place a stone on top of the grave rather than flowers.



The written law and the Oral law in daily Jewish life.

The TeNaKh

- This is all the books and writings of different Jewish prophets (teachers about God) that are put together, this can also be known as the Hebrew Bible.
- T is for Torah: the first 5 books of Moses (e.g. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy)
- N is for Nevi'im: the books of the prophets (e.g. Isaiah)
- K is for Ketuvim: other holy writings (e.g. Proverbs, psalms)
- This provides the history of the Jewish faith. Can often be called the Hebrew Bible. This contains 24 books.
- The Torah is held in the highest regard and it is read out in the synagogue services for reflection and guidance of life.

The Oral Torah

- Jews believe God Gave Moses two Torahs on Mount Sinai, not just the Written Torah but also the oral Torah. These are inseparable.
- The Oral tradition helps Jews to understand the written Torah and to fill in the gaps where they need further clarification.
- For example the Written law states Jews have to wear Tefillin but the oral law which was passed down from generation to generation give Jews the specifics of they need to wear tefillin correctly.



The oral Torah – the Torah spoken by word of mouth

The Halakhah	This is the name given to all of the Jewish laws and rules which are not in the Tenakh, but which has been collected over the years from Rabbis and famous Jewish people. Contains list of all 613 mitzvot.
The Mishnah	During the persecution of the Jews and the destruction of the temple there was concern that the oral tradition would be lost so Rabbi Judah the Prince, wrote the Mishnah in about 200CE, which contains lots of opinions about the Torah which he got from many other Rabbis in the past. It contains guidance on things such as taxes, festivals, family life and food laws.
The Talmud	A book written about different rabbis' opinions on the Mishnah and what it meant. A collective term for all the oral traditions
The Midrash	Comes from the Hebrew word to <i>seek out</i> it is a way to interpret the tenakh and is a collection of commentaries written by Rabbis. These reflections contain teachings on the mitzvot, morality and religious life based on the torah.

These different rules talked about by all the rabbis in the past are useful because they tell Jewish people how to live their lives, how to deal with difficult situations and what to do if mitzvot clash with each other.

INTRO -The significance of the Tenakh and Talmud in Jewish life

- Orthodox Jews will interpret the Tenakh in a literal sense. E.G. the story of creation is as it states in the Torah
- Reform Jews interpret the Tenakh in a more symbolic way. For example the symbolism of the story of Adam and Eve is more important. Reform Jews believe the Torah must be interpreted in the light of the world we live in. for example using a car to get to the synagogue of the Sabbath.
- The Talmud ultimately helps Jews to understand the Torah especially when the text is unclear and challenging to understand. The Talmud as part of the oral tradition is used because many generations of Rabbis argued and discussed the texts and offered invaluable explanations.
- Many modern Jews may read the Talmud using an app.



Dietary laws and their significance

Kosher food

- The 'kashrut' laws tell what a Jew is allowed and not allowed to eat, and if it is good then it is 'kosher'
- 'Parev' foods are fruit and vegetables and mean if a food is neither good or bad and can go with any other food
- Some foods are 'treifah', meaning forbidden, such as shellfish, birds of prey, and animals with single hooves



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- Animals must be killed by a swift cut across the throat with a razor sharp knife, this is called 'shechitah' and all blood must be removed from meat
- The Torah states 'You shall not cook a kid (a baby goat) in the milk of its mother'. For this reason, meat and dairy must be kept separate and Jewish kitchens do this with 2 sets of everything so they are never mixed. A Jew will never eat a hamburger for this reason.

The role and importance of the Bet Din

- This is the Jewish court and is made up of 3 rabbis
- They can help people to work out how to apply to Torah and the Halakhah to modern day problems
- They can give judgements on Jewish people who have problems with each other
- They certify kosher food and make sure it follows the mitzvot
- If someone wants to have a 'get' (a divorce) then the married couple must go to the bet din
- People wanting to convert to Judaism must be approved by the bet din



Festival – have two main features. They recall a famous event in Jewish history, renewing their relationship with God. They also offer special time with family and friends. Festivals may differ slightly depending on Orthodox or reform traditions.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

- **Rosh Hashanah** is the Jewish New Year and is celebrated for over 2 days, and is followed by Yom Kippur after 10 days
- It is a time to think about what you have done right and wrong over the past year
- The festival starts in the evening and God is talked about as if there in the synagogue as He is in judgement of everyone there
- Apples dipped in honey are eaten as people wish to each other that God has written a good new year ahead for them
- People may put a fish's head on the table at home to hope for good deeds to multiply as much as fish in sea

Yom Kippur

This is the Day of Atonement and is when Jews ask for forgiveness. White clothes may be worn to show how people's sins are to be cleaned. People often give to charity some money or some food. Adults normally fast for the day (don't eat food) and take the day as a chance to reflect on what they have done. This is the holiest day of the year and even secular Jews will attend synagogue during prayers in the synagogue, people quietly ask God for forgiveness



- In the morning of the second day, 100 notes of the shofar horn are blown
- There is a ceremony in the afternoon when people ask God to remove their sins and go to a riverbank so they can symbolise casting their sins into the depths of the sea

Sukkot

- Sukkot takes place just 5 days after the serious celebration of Yom Kippur. Sukkot is more joyful and is the festival of tabernacles, meaning booths.
- People build tents and huts and celebrate various parts of this over a week, remembering with the huts when the Israelites (the Jews) left Egypt and roamed the desert as nomads for 40 years.
- The booths can be very large, enough for many people, and people are often invited into a family's sukkah (plural is sukkot).



- Leaves and greenery will be placed around the hut in the roof and is a reminder of the type of leafy roofs which their ancestors would have had.

- No work is allowed on the first and second day of the holidays.

- This festival is followed by Simchat Torah. This is a 2 day celebration which marks the completion of the annual reading of the Torah in the synagogue. This is a time of great rejoicing.

Pesach – the festival of Passover

- This remembers the time the Jewish people were saved by Moses from Egypt. This festival marks the beginning of the Jewish year.
- In the synagogue there we be worship and reading which remember this story.
- Homes will have all yeast foods thrown out and will be cleaned in preparation, all chametz must be removed as the mitzvot states.
- Each home has a Passover plate which has food like matzah crackers to remember how there was no time for the bread to rise, and bitter herbs like horseradish to remember the bitterness of slavery, salt water to remember the tears of the slaves.
- The final plague was when the angel of death killed all the first born boys in Egypt, but passed over the Jewish houses as they put lamb's blood over their doorways.
- This festival reminds Jewish people that they are God's chosen people, and that he saved them.
- The order of service for the seder meal is called the Hagadah. the youngest of the family will ask 4 questions to remind everyone of the story.



How to answer exam questions

A. This is a key word definition. This requires 2 parts to get the maximum marks.

i. e.g. Shekhinah is the divine presence of God. Sometimes used to refer to the feminine attributes of God.

B. This is a description question it requires you to use knowledge, influence (if possible), specialist language and a source of authority.

e.g Describe how Jewish women might worship differently to men (5)

In orthodox traditions men and women will sit apart in the synagogue. Also women cannot read from the Torah during a service. During prayers men are expected to cover their heads for worship but unmarried women do not need to.

There are other duties that only apply to men, for example as stated in the Torah men must wear Tefillin for worship and to pray three times a day but women do not have this obligation. The main religious duties for a Jewish woman lie in the home, especially to bring in Shabbat by lighting candles.

C. This is an explanation question it requires you to use knowledge, influence (if possible), specialist language and a source of authority

e.g Explain why Moses is important in Judaism. (8)

Moses is important in Judaism because he was specially chosen by God to lead his people out of Egypt. He led them to freedom across the Red sea and in memory of this event Jews celebrate the Passover every year. It is called Passover because the angel of death passed over the houses of the Israelites but also because the Jews passed over the Red sea from slavery to freedom.

He is also important because he received the Torah on Mount Sinai and taught this to God's people. The keeping of the Torah has been what defines Judaism ever since.

On Mount Sinai Moses spoke to God face to face. Jews believe he is the only being ever to have seen God face to face and lived. For this reason he is the link between heaven and earth. He is the one who could make God's laws known to the people. Jews today still keep these laws.

Moses entered a covenant with God on behalf of the people of Israel. This covenant with Moses continued the covenant God made with Abraham and made the Israelites God's chosen people. So Moses is important because he freed them from slavery, gave them the law and made them into God's chosen people.

- D. This requires you to discuss a statement referring to a multitude of sources and ideas. You are required to use knowledge, influence, specialist language and a source of authority. You must also reach a justified conclusion with judgements and opinions. Try to weave these judgements throughout the answer in case you run out of time.

e.g “keeping the ten commandments is the most important part of judaism” Discuss the statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (15)

I will argue that keeping the commandments is very important part of Judaism but it is not the most important part of Judaism. Clearly the commandments are very important because they were part of the covenant with God and Moses. Some people might argue that for this reason they are the most important part of Judaism.

However I would argue that even though they are central to the Jewish faith many other Mitzvot in the Tenakh are also very important. In fact the other 603 mitzvot will have much greater influence on the daily life of a Jew. The decalogue are basic moral rules but the other 603 are how Jews should live every day. For example this would be mitzvot surrounding Kosher foods and prayer that impact daily life.

Also even amongst Jews they have different views on the 10 commandments, especially when it comes to Shabbat. Orthodox Jews will be much stricter in their interpretation of this commandment than reform Jews. A Reform Jew may find it acceptable to drive to the synagogue. Some people might argue that it does not matter because all Jews agree the commandment on Shabbat is important even if it is interpreted differently. However I would argue that if the 10 commandments were the most important thing then different Jews would not disagree with how they are kept.

I would argue that there are other key features of Judaism that are more important than the 10 commandments because all Jews agree on what they mean and how important they are. For example the commitment to Pikuach Nefesh, which is the duty to save life, is believed by all Jews of all denominations and affects the way all Jews live their lives. All Jews should accept that the duty to save a life overrides all the other commandments, so it must be more important.

In conclusion I would agree that keeping the 10 commandments is very important as they came directly from God but not the most important part of Judaism as Pikuach Nefesh is far more important

Key Vocabulary

The following words may not be assessed as an a) definition question but are useful in helping you answer other types of questions. They demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

Beliefs and Values

covenant an agreement between two parties/the agreement between the Almighty

and the Jewish people

Decalogue the Ten Commandments should not be pronounced unnecessarily)

Mishnah the oral law as written by Rabbi Judah the Prince in about 200 CE

omnipresent the belief that the Almighty is everywhere

shekinah the divine presence of God in the world.

Shema the major Jewish prayer affirming belief in the one Almighty (used by

Jewish people in the mezuzah etc to remind themselves of the Almighty's unity)

Talmud collection of writings on Jewish law and morals

Tenakh the Jewish Bible

Torah the five books of Moses which contain the Almighty's law

Community and Tradition

Mitzvot the commandments a Jew must follow

Rabbi an ordained Jewish teacher/spiritual leader of a Jewish community

Worship and Celebration

Bar Mitzvah initiation ceremony for boys

Brit Milah covenant of cutting/circumcision ceremony

minyan the minimum of 10 adult Jewish men required for a service

Pesach the festival of Passover

Rosh Hashanah the Jewish New Year

siddur the daily prayer book

Sukkot the festival of Booths or Tabernacles

Yom Kippur the Day of Atonement

Living the Jewish Life

kippah head covering worn during daily prayers

kosher foods which a Jewish person is allowed to eat

mezuzah a small scroll of the shema placed on Jewish doorposts

shiva seven days when bereaved people sit at home

tallit prayer shawl (four-cornered garment with fringes)

tefillin the two leather boxes, containing Torah passages, worn by Jewish males for morning prayer

