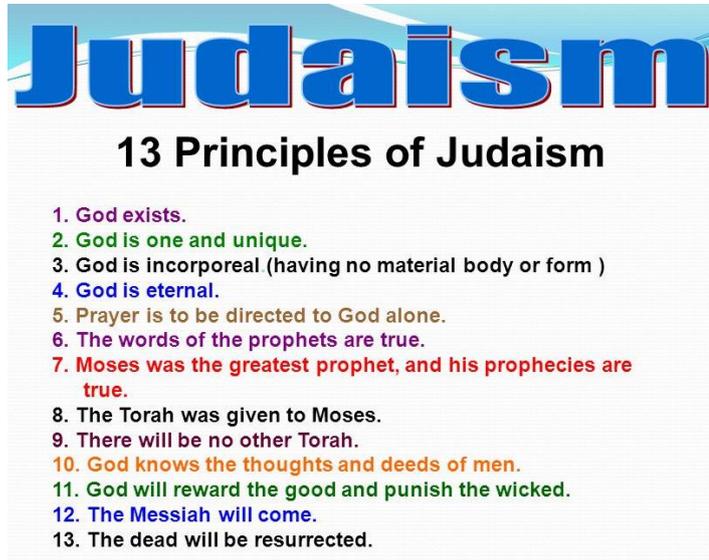


# Judaism Revision booklet

**An overview:** You have studied a range of Jewish beliefs and practices. You will have seen that defining Jewish beliefs is not always an easy thing to do. You know there are 13 principal beliefs, put together in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. For many Orthodox Jews, these beliefs are central beliefs, for other Jews, there are different views and interpretations. All Jews, however, would accept the belief in one God.

Here are the 13 principles:



## Judaism

### 13 Principles of Judaism

1. God exists.
2. God is one and unique.
3. God is incorporeal (having no material body or form)
4. God is eternal.
5. Prayer is to be directed to God alone.
6. The words of the prophets are true.
7. Moses was the greatest prophet, and his prophecies are true.
8. The Torah was given to Moses.
9. There will be no other Torah.
10. God knows the thoughts and deeds of men.
11. God will reward the good and punish the wicked.
12. The Messiah will come.
13. The dead will be resurrected.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vcMwavyvgk> a child's version.

## What do you know about Judaism?



You know it is a worldwide religion, with many different Jewish communities, with no one group sharing the same beliefs or practices. In the UK, there are **2 main groups** in the UK:

**Orthodox Jews** – largest group in UK, who believe God gave Moses the Torah on Mt Sinai, and all Jews must follow it. They try to follow the teachings of the Torah as closely as possible. They will try and follow the 613 MITZVOT. God gave rules about how lives should be lived and those rules are constant. Jewish teachings cannot change, even if science and technology change. You also should know that within Orthodoxy are ultra- Orthodox: the CHAREDI.



**Reform Jews** – Jewish practice should be harmonised with modern life. They believe only the ethical laws of the Torah are binding. They also view the TALMUD as a product of its time, so they wouldn't follow them absolutely. They would not follow the Torah literally, and view it from within the times they now live in.

**Secular Jews are another group:** This means they have Jewish parents, but do not observe the religious beliefs and teachings of Judaism. They do not believe in God.

**Jews are also named according to their place of origin:**

**Ashkenazi Jews** = Jews of France, Germany, Eastern Europe and their descendants.

**Sephardic Jews** = the Jews of Spain, Portugal, North Africa, the Middle East & their descendants. The oldest Sephardic synagogue is found in London, and was built in 1701.

**Judaism Beliefs and Teachings: The Nature of God**

For Jews, the central belief is there is only one God. They would not believe in Jesus or the Holy Spirit or Trinity. Some Jews, to show their respect write God as G-d. Jews have a central prayer, the SHEMA and this declares the belief there is only one God : 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one.' (Deut 6:4). Many Jews will say this prayer each morning and evening. Synagogues are decorated and designed to also reflect this belief.

**God is described as:**

1. God as Creator: The Torah begins with the Genesis story and the creation of the world (we share this text – See Gen 1:1-28). Some Jews believe every detail of this story to be true, for others, they understand God is responsible for everything that exists in creation. For many Jews, the word could not have happened by chance: it must have had a creator. Shabbat is celebrated each week as a celebration of creation. Observant Jews rest as God did on the 7<sup>th</sup> day.

- 2. God as law-giver: The Torah records the 10 commandments. These help form a just society, close to God. By living these laws, Jews are forming a close relationship with him.
- 3. God as judge: In Judaism, God is a God of justice and mercy, who will judge each person. The Jewish festival of ROSH HASHANAH celebrates the creation of the world, where it is believed God will judge every person. The Talmud describes how the deeds (MITZVOT) of each person will be weighed by God. After this festival, 10 days are given before YOM KIPPUR (the Day of Atonement). People make up for their sins in this time and make amends, asking for forgiveness.

**What do Jews mean by SHEKHINAH?**



SHEKHINAH = the place where God's presence rests and can be felt. In the Torah, the word SHAKAN is used throughout to show God's dwelling on earth. It means God's presence on earth and will mean different things to different people: for some the SHEKHINAH followed the Jews into exile, for others, it remained in Israel in the Temple area (see the wailing wall in Jerusalem as a place of great importance for this). For some, it refers to the female qualities of God and is referred to as 'she'. This presence of God can be experienced but remains

unseen.

## Who is the Messiah, when will the Messiah come and what will the Messiah do?



The Messianic age is a time to come of peace on earth, where violence, hunger and crime will no longer exist. **Isaiah 11:1-9** to describes a time when the wolf shall lie with the lamb, and the lion shall eat straw, like the ox. Jews are waiting for the Messiah (which means 'anointed'). For Orthodox Jews, belief in the Messiah is one of the 13 principles, for Reform Jews, they instead believe the actions of humans that will bring the Messianic age of peace. Why is there this difference: Well, the Torah does not specifically mention the Messiah, and there is another belief amongst Jews that the here and now is important.

There have been false Messiahs as people wait for the Messiah to come (one rabbi predicted he would arrive in 1913). Many Jews instead choose to focus on the actions that will bring about the Messiah.

The Messiah is described in the TENAKH (Jewish bible) as performing 3 actions:

1. Bring back Jews to Israel and restore Jerusalem
2. Rebuild temple of Jerusalem, which was destroyed in 70 CE
3. Bring about a time of peace – no fighting.

### Key People of Judaism

- Abraham = father of the Jewish (Hebrew) people
- Moses = leader who was called by God to lead Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt
- King David = the greatest King of the Kingdom of Israel



### How is COVENANT important to Jews?

The relationship with God is seen as a covenant, as God makes relationships with individuals or groups in the Torah. Many of these covenants have a special sign as a marking of the special time in God's relationship with the Jewish people.

**God's covenant with Abraham:** you studied this in Year 8: Abram's name was changed to Abraham

by God, meaning 'father of many nations'. Abraham was promised land for his descendants, who would number the stars. This land is often called the 'Promised Land' and is now known as Israel. God said 'The whole land of Canaan shall be (your) eternal heritage, and I will be a God to (your descendants).' Gen 17:6-8.

God blessed Abraham and the families of the earth through him, and gave the rite of circumcision as the specific sign of the Abrahamic covenant. This involves the removal of a boy's foreskin on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after birth. Boys are named at the same time. All males were to be circumcised and so carry a lifelong mark of their relationship with God.

**God's covenant with Moses:** Seen by many Jews as the most important prophet, and the father of all prophets. He met God face to face and is the first rabbi. It is through him that God acts, as Moses was the receiver of many miracles and the deliverer of God's words.

**Recap:** think about the rescue from slavery of the Israelites, Moses' birth and upbringing, his calling from God at the burning bush, the 10 plagues, the escape crossing the Red Sea (celebrated during Passover each year).

When in the desert, Moses went up Mount Sinai and disappeared in a thick cloud. Moses here learned the 613 commandments that make up the MITZVOT. Ten of these are the Ten Commandments. Moses was also given the Oral Torah by God at this time. Without Moses, the Jews would never have become a people.

**The importance of the 10 Commandments:** these are 10 of the 613 MITZVOT and are all special for Jewish belief and practice. 4 of the Ten commandments relate to human relationships with God (1-4), the other 6 (5-10) relate to human relationships with each other.

## How should Jews live on earth?

### **Pikuach Nefesh**

Saving one life  
saves the entire world.

In Judaism, the emphasis is on life, not on death. Humans should respect this life and live it to the full. Saving of life should be a priority, so Jews set aside certain Mitzvot in order to save a life. This is called '**Pikuach Nefesh**': the principle in [Jewish law](#) that the preservation of human life overrides virtually any other rule (mitvot).

When the life of a specific person is in danger, almost any command from the Torah becomes inapplicable. For instance, a Jewish relief worker would work during Shabbat to preserve life.

## What is the relationship between free-will and Mitzvot?

Mitzvot means keeping the duties given by God to Moses, doing good deeds and being given an honour (e.g. reading from Torah). The Talmud (Jewish bible) refers to 613 Mitzvot in the Torah and these are represented by the number of knots on the tallit (prayer shawl worn during worship). A Jew today could not keep all 613 Mitzvot, as some are historical, linked to the temple destroyed in 70CE. Mitzvot, like the Ten Commandments, show how to relate to God or to people. Both, however, build a relationship with God. The most important Mitzvot is the treatment of their neighbour.



**Mitzvah Day** started in Britain in 2008 and is now a global day where Jews and non-Jews work together to reduce poverty, care for the environment and care for others. 3 Jewish concepts are really important on the day:

1. Tikkun olam = healing/perfecting the world. Mitzvah day creates interfaith dialogue and partnership e.g. 'Sunshine to Seniors' which provides care to the elderly. Also 'Plant a Tree on Mitzvah Day' in the local area.
2. Gemilut hasadim = 'giving of loving kindness' – the giver expects nothing in return. Over 37,000 people do this on this day.
3. Tzedakah = 'righteousness' & 'justice' social action and loving kindness because it is the right thing to do.

**What about free will?** Judaism teaches God is the creator and sustainer of all life and decides when a person is born and when they will die. The Torah teaches humans have a choice, given by God: how to act and behave. Jews do not believe in the devil or evil being. Instead, the evil within everyone creates **Yetzer ha ra**. Jews believe people have these 2 aspects in balance, but if they do more good, the balance changes, if they do more evil, the balance changes. These are called YETZER HA TOV & YETZER HA RA.

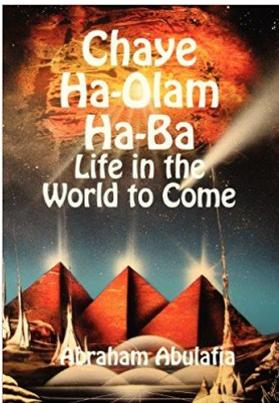
**YETZER HA TOV** = INCLINATION OR NATURAL URGE TO DO GOOD ACTIONS.

**YETZER HA RA** = THE INCLINATION OR NATURAL URGE TO DO EVIL ACTIONS.

A human cannot hide their evil actions from God, and God judges these actions on the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur. These should be atoned for by showing repentance, prayer and giving to charity. Any harm done to others must first be forgiven by the person before they can be forgiven by God.

**The afterlife:** Jews do not frequently consider the afterlife because God is too complex to understand and life should be lived well, now. The afterlife is called **Olam Ha-Ba (the world to come)**.

- The idea of life after death does not appear in the Torah and only comes up once in the rest of the TeNaCh.
- Jews are generally vague about this topic and spend little time considering it. Most Jews would say that they do not know how things will work out, but assume that God is just and that things will eventually turn out to be fair. The main issue is to live a good life in the meantime.



- The resurrection of the dead will occur in the [messianic age](#), a time referred to in Hebrew as the Olam Ha-Ba, the 'World to Come', but that term is also used to refer to the spiritual afterlife. When the [messiah](#) comes to initiate the perfect world of peace and prosperity, the righteous dead will be brought back to life and given the opportunity to experience the perfected world that their righteousness helped to create. The wicked dead will not be resurrected.

- Only the soul goes to Heaven, while the body remains on Earth. The souls of good people, Jews and non-Jews alike, are believed to go directly to their reward, whereas the souls of bad people require time and prayers to help them gain access.

- Repentance before (and possibly even after) death can set everything straight, and those souls can also be helped if those left alive can demonstrate how the memory and influence of the deceased has affected their lives and made them behave well.

**Isaiah 26:19**

<sup>19</sup> Those of our people who have died will live again!  
Their bodies will come back to life.  
All those sleeping in their graves  
will wake up and sing for joy.  
As the sparkling dew refreshes the earth,  
so the LORD will revive those who have long been dead.

**Tasks:**

Go through your notes on resurrection to see the different Orthodox Jew and Reform Jew viewpoints about resurrection... Why do they hold these views?

Explain different Jewish beliefs about the resurrection.

'Keeping the Ten Commandments is the most important part of Judaism.' Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. (You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)

## Religious Practices in Judaism

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/day-life-jewish-rabbi> This is a really good film, following a rabbi in his daily life. Make notes on different aspects of his life, vocation and work.

Worship in Judaism: Prayers may be said anywhere, but joining as a community is important, and Jews gather in minimum groups of 10 men, creating a more spiritual experience, with responsibility for the whole community as a focus of the prayers. Each synagogue will usually have daily prayers, and they meet for Shabbat as a community.

### What is Shabbat like at the synagogue?

Shabbat eve is Friday night, Shabbat morning (Sat morning) and late Shabbat afternoon (Sat afternoon).

**Shabbat morning (Sat morning)= longest service of 2-3 hours.** It includes: important prayers (Shema/Amidah/Kaddish). In Orthodox synagogues, there is unaccompanied singing. Rabbis will deliver a weekly sermon and selected parts of the Torah will be read, including from the **haftorah (prophets)**. After the service, a Kiddush is held. This is the special blessing recited over a cup of wine or Shabbat wine before the Friday night dinner.

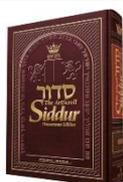
### How do Reform synagogue services differ to the Orthodox services described above?

1. Still keeps tradition, but services will be in the language of the country.
2. Far less Hebrew.
3. Prayers/ readings leave out beliefs about bodily resurrection, a personal Jewish Messiah and mention of angels.
4. Music with instruments/recorded music.

**How do Jews view prayer?** It is a part of everyday life, and forms a bridge between humans and God. A whole area of the Talmud scripture (the berakhot), is based on prayer. Jews have different forms of prayer: for praising, requests of God & Thanksgiving. Set prayers have developed over time and many Jews will say their prayers in Hebrew, in order to feel connected to fellow Jews worldwide and would argue it is a holy language.

**What is the Amidah?** It literally means 'standing', so Jews stand throughout the prayer to show they are in God's presence. It contains the 3 types of prayer mentioned above. It is led by a Cantor and each blessing of the Amidah is replied with 'Amen' by the congregation. The Amidah concludes with these words '*May God who brings peace to the universe, bring peace to us and all of the people, Israel. Amen*' Whilst this is being said, the congregation takes 3 steps backward, bowing to each side & 3 steps forward. This symbolises formally retreating from God's presence. **How do Jews worship in the home?** The home is a sanctuary and values are taught and reinforced. The Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote 'It is where one generation passes on its values to the next and ensures the continuity of a civilisation.'

Prayers = important part of daily life. Orthodox Jews pray the ani, thanking God first thing in the morning. The Shema is also said x3 a day & throughout the day.



### **How do Jews worship in the home?**

Siddur = a book that guides Jews through daily prayers at the synagogue and at home. . It is considered a gift of God. If, for instance, it fell to the ground, it would be picked up and kissed.

**Mezuzah=** on the front doorpost on the right hand side=Parchment scroll with shema prayer on it. Touch it or entering the house and kiss their fingers – sign of living as the Shema describes.



It is a day of spiritual rest or renewal. Begins Friday sunset. Ends nightfall Saturday.

Follws the Torah: 'Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.' (2 things here – note that)

Why? To remember the freedom from slavery in Egypt & celebration of creation.

Most important festival for Jews. You can forget your weekday worries.

### Shabbat –how is it celebrated?

**Shabbat in the home:** All food is prepared beforehand. The father returns from the synagogue & at nightfall, the woman in the home lights the 2 white candles. A blessing is said over 2 loaves of bread: symbolises the double portion of manna in the desert. Kiddush prayer is said over the cup of wine. It is a happy family meal.

Saturday morning: Shabbat service for the family at the synagogue. Orthodox Jews would walk there. Jews might also have a technology free day. Saturday nightfall: family light the Havdalah candle to say goodbye to Shabbat. They sip from a glass of wine that is passed around and smell a sweet smelling spice box to symbolise the hope of a sweet week ahead.

Reform & Orthodox Jews will have different views on the types of work that cannot be done during Shabbat. For Orthodox: no work at all, even carrying items or pushing items (wheelchair/pushchair). Look up Manchester's special area called 'Eruv'

**Shabbat in the home:** this is synchronised with sunset and sunrise times, so will differ slightly around the country.

Even though the form of worship in the home may differ, the people's intention is the same: God is worshipped & kindness to others is shown.

**TASK: create a labelled photo sheet of Shabbat, with information and pictures.**

## What do Jews wear for worship?



Kippah: From your notes, write its meaning and brief history.



Tallit: From your notes, write its meaning and brief history.

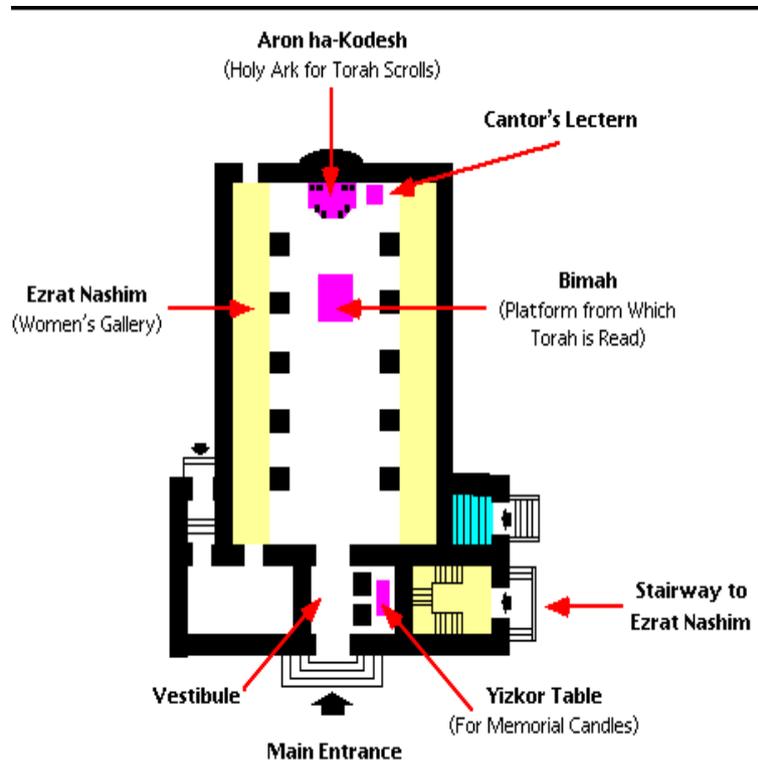


Tefillin: From your notes, write its meaning and brief history.

How do women worship, what can, and can't they wear? See p237 Hodder.

## Judaism: The Synagogue

The [synagogue](#) is the Jewish equivalent of a church, more or less. It is the centre of the Jewish religious community: a place **of prayer, study and education, social and charitable work, as well as a social centre.**



### You need to know the features of a synagogue.

What is the Aron Hakodesh?

What and where are the Torah scrolls?

What is the ner tamid?

What is the bimah?

Where do the women sit and why?

### Tasks:

#### What rituals do Jews celebrate at key times of life?

Using your revision guide and notes from lessons, create a mind map of the:

Birth ceremonies – the Brit Milah – name 3 important features of the Brit Milah.

What is a Bar Mitzvah and how is it celebrated?

What is the orthodox Jewish ceremony bat chayil and who is it for?

How important are bar and bat mitzvahs today?

What is the usual age for this and is it ever too late to have such a ceremony?

**Marriage:** this is seen as an important religious and spiritual ceremony in Judaism that links with Gen 2:24 'That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one.'

The word KIDDUSHIN is used to describe marriage. This means 'God-given', 'holy', 'sanctified'. The ceremony is in 2 parts: the betrothal and the nisuin, which finalises the marriage. The key features can be plotted in the word KIDDUSHIN. Complete this part next:

**Ketubah –**

**Intentions –**

**Down the aisle –**

**Declaration –**

**Under the chuppah –**

**Stamping of glass –**

**Happiness –**

**Index finger –**

**Nisuin -**

**Mourning rituals:**

**At death:** if possible, the person's last moments should recite the Shema.

The chief mourner (the onan) arranges everything. The burial society volunteers with great care prepare the body for burial near the synagogue as the body is the container of the soul: The body is washed & dressed in plain white gowns.

**Someone will stay with the body until burial** = an act of respect/care/vessel of the soul/God's image.

**Burial is** done as quickly as possible. Funeral is as plain as possible. At this point, the main mourner is no longer an onan.

**Shiva**= a period of mourning where rituals are followed after the funeral: it means 7 days. Most mourners will stay in their homes & be visited by others. Prayers will be said.

**Shloshim** = the first 4 weeks of mourning – no parties, no haircuts. Prayer for one year for the deceased person.

**Before the end of this first year** = tombstone erected. This is called the unveiling. At the graveside, stones are left (not flowers)... why? → because Abraham left a pebble where Sarah was buried.

**Yahrzeit ceremony** = a prayer ceremony each year after death. Prayers are said and a candle is lit for 24 hrs to symbolise the departed soul.

## Finally: look at your section on daily life. This is the summary:

For many Jews the teachings in the Torah and the Tenakh influence their homes, values and worship.

**Kosher** = fitting or proper, according to Jewish law. It refers to food that can and cannot be eaten by observant Jews. Treifah is food which is forbidden.

**Torah** = contains these food laws. Many of these foods are types of birds and shellfish.

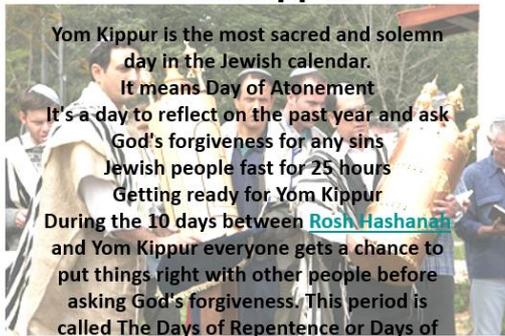
Animals are considered kosher if they are killed in a certain way.

Kosher food has to be prepared in the correct way – e.g. meat and dairy must be separate.

Kosher food in Britain = quite hard to find/expensive.

**Festivals:** Each festival will remember a key event in Jewish history and an opportunity to build a relationship with God. Festivals are often called 'Moed' or 'date'. A time to have a date with God!

### Yom Kippur



Yom Kippur is the most sacred and solemn day in the Jewish calendar.  
It means Day of Atonement  
It's a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins  
Jewish people fast for 25 hours  
Getting ready for Yom Kippur  
During the 10 days between [Rosh Hashanah](#) and Yom Kippur everyone gets a chance to put things right with other people before asking God's forgiveness. This period is called The Days of Repentance or Days of Awe.

## Rosh Hashanah

- Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year festival. It lasts two days.
- It commemorates the creation of the world.
- Rosh Hashanah is also a judgement day, when Jews believe that God balances a person's good deeds over the last year against their bad deeds, and decides what the next year will be like for them.
- It's a time for people to think about their priorities in life and to reflect on what has been achieved in the past year.
- It's a time of asking for forgiveness for wrongdoings (sins)
- It's a chance for Jews to ask questions about their actions throughout the year.

*Wishing you a  
happy  
and blessed  
New Year!*

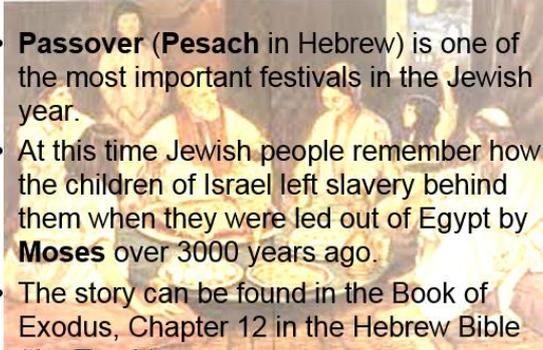
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## Hanukkah



- Hanukkah or Chanukah is the Jewish Festival of Lights.
- It dates back to two centuries before the beginning of Christianity.
- In the western calendar Hanukkah is celebrated in November or December.
- The word Hanukkah means rededication and celebrates one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history.

## Passover

- 
- **Passover** (**Pesach** in Hebrew) is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish year.
  - At this time Jewish people remember how the children of Israel left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by **Moses** over 3000 years ago.
  - The story can be found in the Book of Exodus, Chapter 12 in the Hebrew Bible (the Torah).

Also look up from your notes: Sukkot .

**Practice questions: This exam paper is in two sections: Beliefs and Teaching questions a-d, followed by religious practice questions a-d**

### **Beliefs and Teaching**

- a. What is the meaning of 'Shekinah'?
- b. Explain different Jewish beliefs about resurrection. [5]
- c. Explain why Moses is important in Judaism. [8]
- d. "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]

(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)

### **religious practice**

- a. What are 'mitzvot'? [2]
- b. Describe how Jewish women might worship differently to men. [5]
- c. Explain why Shabbat is important in Judaism. [8]
- d. "You have to go to the synagogue to be a Jew."

Discuss this statement showing that you have considered more than one point of view. [15]

(You must refer to religion and belief in your answer.)