

Revision- Judaism- Beliefs and Teachings

God as One

- Judaism believes in one God. His work can be seen throughout history. The Jewish scriptures help Jews to learn more about God, particularly that God is at work in the past, present and future.
- Some Jews prefer not to write or speak the word 'God'. Instead, when writing they use G-d or YHWH (the Jewish letters for God). This is a sign of respect. Any book containing the Hebrew name of God is treated with respect and never destroyed.
- God is always present in their lives; every experience they have is seen as a meeting with God. This is best expressed through the Shema.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Deuteronomy 6: 4-5 (the Shema)- The Lord is your only God. Love him with all your heart and soul.
- This shows that God needs total loyalty. God is infinite and eternal; he is the only being who should be praised.

Questions

1. What does monotheism mean?
2. What do they do with the Torah once they are finished with it?
3. How is this similar to what Christians believe about God?

God as Creator

- At the beginning of the Torah (Genesis 1) it is established that God created the universe from nothing.

- Orthodox and Ultra- Orthodox Jews believe that the Genesis story of creation is the literal truth and happened around 6,000 years ago.
- Other Jews accept the theory of evolution but still believe that God made everything happen.
- It took God 6 days to create everything and on the 7th day he rested. This is where the belief in Shabbat comes from.
- Evil and Free Will- God as creator must have created evil but he also gave us free will to choose what we know is right. Being able to choose what is good is more significant.
- Sustainer- When God created the world he created enough resources to feed and provide for all species. The fact that resources are not shared equally is a result of human free will.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Genesis 1:1- "When God began to create heaven and earth..."
- Isaiah 45: 6-7- "I am the Lord and there is none else, I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe- I the Lord do all these things."

Questions:

1. What is the Sabbath?
2. Define omniscience, omnipotence and omnipresence.
3. Are there any similarities/differences to the Christian and Jewish views on God as creator?

God as Lawgiver and Judge; the divine presence

- Lawgiver- to help people properly used their free will God gave people laws to live by. These laws are based on the 10 commandments. There are 613 mitzvot (rules) and by following them people can do what God expects of them.
- Judge- God also gave the Jewish people judges to tell them how well they follow the laws. God judges everyone (even those who are not Jewish) based on their actions, behaviour and beliefs. Rosh Hashanah is where their actions over the year are judged and God decides what the coming year will bring them.
- The divine presence (Shekhinah)- This refers to God's presence on earth. Many writings refer to the tabernacle as the divine presence, others speak of a pillar of fire or a cloud. It symbolises God's presence among his people; a symbol of power and glory. After Solomon's temple was built in the promised land that is where the tabernacle was.

Questions:

1. Who did God give the 10 commandments to?
2. Name the 10 commandments.
3. How is Rosh Hashanah celebrated?

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Isaiah 6: 1-2- "I beheld my Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; and the skirts of His robe filled the Temple."

Life After Death

- Death is inevitable and part of God's plan. Jews believe a person should not die alone so family members make an effort to visit and look after the person who is ill.
- When they hear of the death of a loved one they will say. 'Belled are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, the True Judge."
- Intense mourning follows a person's death, especially while waiting for their burial, then for seven days after the burial, followed by a further 30 days of lesser mourning.
- There is little teaching in the holy books about life after death.
- Heaven and Sheol- it is implied that good people will ender paradise (Gan Eden) and others will go to Sheol. Sheol is a waiting room where souls are cleansed. It is not clear whether this is a physical or a spiritual place.
- Judgement- there are different opinions about when judgement happens.
 - Some believe it happens as soon as they die. Ecclesiastes 12:7- as dust returns to the ground (the body) life returns back to God.
 - Others believe judgement will happen on the Day of Judgement when the Messiah comes. Daniel 12:2- those that sleep in the ground will awake some will go to eternal life and others will go to eternal abhorrence.

- Resurrection- Daniel looks forward to a time of resurrection where people will rise out of their graves to live again. There are differing views on whether this is physical or spiritual.

Links to scripture and teaching.

- Daniel 12:2
- Ecclesiastes 12:7

Questions:

1. What is resurrection?
2. Why do many Jews believe that this life is more important than the after life?

Nature and Role of the Messiah

- Maimonides said the 12th principle of Judaism was the belief in the arrival of the Messiah.
- Originally, the term Messiah was used to talk of the Kings of Israel but today it is used to talk about the future leader of the Jews.
- The Messiah is expected to be a future King of Israel and related to King David.
- Orthodox Jews- every generation has someone who has the potential to be the Messiah. If Jews are worthy of redemption then God will tell them to rule over humanity with justice and kindness. This person will follow the laws perfectly and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.
- Reformed Jews- they reject the idea of the Messiah, everyone should work together to establish peace not just one person. The Messianic Age

will be established by a collective not just one person.

- Jesus is not thought to have fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah. He did not properly observe the laws of the Torah or establish the Messianic Age.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- 1 Samuel 10:1- The prophet Samuel is anoints Saul as King of Israel to show that he is chosen by God.
- Micah 4:3- The Messianic age is described as a time where there will be total peace.

Questions:

1. What does Messiah mean?
2. What is the Messianic age?
3. Why is King David so important to the Jewish faith?
4. According to Maimonides, what are the 13 fundamental principles of Judaism?
5. What do Christians believe about the Messiah?
6. Why doesn't the Jewish faith agree with the Christian beliefs?

Promised Land and Covenant with Abraham

- Abraham was convinced that there was only one God and tried to convert other people. This was a time where it was common for people to worship more than one God.
- Covenant 1- Abraham left his home for the land that God promised him (the land of Canaan). In return, God

said he would make him the father of many nations and would bless him.

- Covenant 2- Abraham is asked to sacrifice his livestock. God repeats the promise of a land for the Jewish people. He also promises Abraham many children and more descendants than there are stars.
- Covenant 3- God repeats all his promises. Abraham has to change his name from Abram, his descendants will be kings and these promises will last forever. In return, all the men had to be circumcised.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

Genesis 12: 1-3- the first covenant is made. God tell Abraham to go to his 'native land' and promises to bless him and all his descendants.

Deuteronomy 7:6- God says that all the Jewish people are God's chosen and blessed people.

Questions

1. What does covenant mean?
2. Why did Abraham and his family leave their home?
3. Where were they travelling?
4. What is circumcision
5. Why must the Jewish community still follow these covenants today?

Covenant at Sinai and 10 Commandments

- After fighting for the freedom of the Jewish people (and the 10 plagues), Moses managed to lead the Jewish people from slavery and back to the land of Canaan.
- The Jewish people wandered for many years in the desert. When they

reached Mount Sinai Moses went up the mountain where God gave him the 10 commandments.

- The Covenant- God promised to be the God of the Jews and protect them from harm. In return, they had to follow the commandments that would allow them to establish a society with rights and peace.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Exodus 20: 1-17 - The story of God giving Moses the commandments at Mount Sinai.

Questions

1. Retell the story of Moses.
2. What were the 10 plagues?
3. Why did the Jewish people have to escape from Egypt?
4. Identify the 4 laws that speak of the relationship between man and God and the 6 that speak about the relationship between man and man.

Key Moral Principles

- Judaism is seen as a complete way of life that helps believers to act in a way that is pleasing to God.
- Justice- bringing about what is right and fair according to the law or making up for a wrong that has been committed. The Torah and the Prophets were sent to help people understand and bring about justice. Creating a just society requires all

individuals to live their lives correctly.

- Healing the World- this is action that brings people closer to God e.g. volunteering for a charity. Some think this is too limited about that prayer and obeying the mitzvot is important to becoming closer to God.
- Kindness to Others- Many laws in the Torah spell out ways to be kind to others. The Torah does not just prohibit bad acts but also encourages acts of kindness.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Leviticus 19:18- Love your fellow as yourself.

Questions

1. What is the World Jewish Relief?
2. How do they help to heal the world?

Sanctity of Life

- Life belongs to God so it is their duty to preserve life in all circumstances.
- Changes in technology has meant making decisions around life and death more difficult. E.g. when do you turn off a person's life support?
- Some believe that life should be preserved at all costs whereas, others would argue that life should be ended when a person is in great pain.
- Jews have an obligation to save a human life. This is more important than any other Jewish laws.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Sandhedrin 4:5- if someone destroys a human life the scripture considers it the same as destroying a whole world.
- Leviticus 19:16- you should never profit from the blood of another person.

Questions

1. What does sanctity of life mean?
2. How does this belief link to Genesis?
3. Would a Jewish person agree with euthanasia? Explain your answer.
4. Why would donating an organ be considered a great honour to some Jews?
5. What does pikuach nefesh mean?

Free Will and Mitzvot

- Jews believe that they are given free will to choose to act in a way that is pleasing to God and will be rewarded on the day of judgement.
- To use your free will for actions that are wrong will weaken a person's relationship with god.
- To help people use their free will correctly Jewish people have 613 mitzvot (248 positive and 365 negative); they give guidance on worship, family issues and conduct in society.
- Men and God- Many mitzvot are based on the first four commandments; don't worship images or false Gods, not to misuse his name and to dedicate the Sabbath to honouring God. These mitzvot give

advice on how to deepen your relationship with God.

- Man and Man- Loving God and your neighbour cannot be separated. Positive relationships with others are pleasing to God. These mitzvot cover how to settle disputes, treatment of workers and the types of food they can eat.

Questions

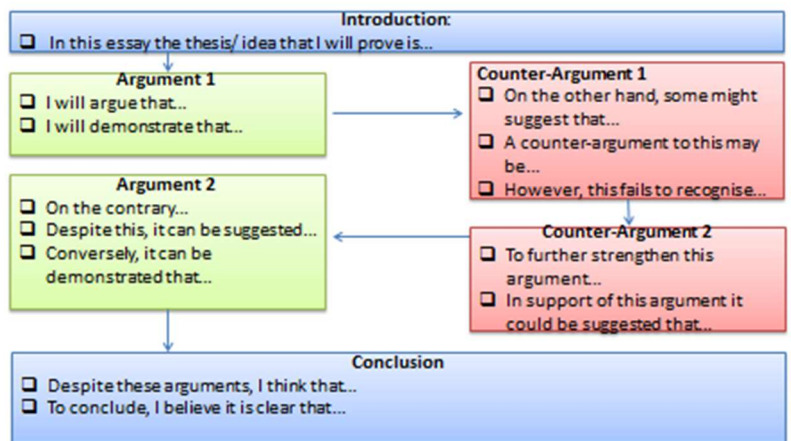
1. How does following the mitzvot affect a person's relationship with God?
2. Give two examples of mitzvot between men and God.
3. Give two examples of mitzvot between men and men.

Exam Practice

1. Define charity. (1)
2. Define covenant. (1)
3. Define free will. (1)
4. Define healing the world. (1)
5. Define judge. (1)
6. Define merciful.(1)
7. Define resurrection. (1)
8. Define sanctity of life. (1)
9. Give two of the Ten Commandments. (2)
10. Name two people that had covenants with God in the Tenakh. (2)
11. Explain **two** contrasting beliefs of Judaism and the main religious tradition of Great Britain about the Messiah. (4)
12. Explain two contrasting beliefs of Judaism and the main religious

tradition of Great Britain about the nature of God. (4)

13. Explain two similar beliefs of Judaism and the main religious tradition of Great Britain about the nature of God. (4)
14. Explain two ways in which Jewish beliefs about life after death influence Jews today. (4)
15. Explain two ways the covenants made by Abraham influence a Jewish person today. (4)
16. Explain two Jewish teachings about God the creator. (5)
17. Explain **two** Jewish beliefs about 'saving a life' (pikuach nefesh).(5)
18. Explain two beliefs about the divine presence (Shekhinah). (5)
19. Explain two reasons why it is important for Jewish people to follow the mitzvot. (5)
- 20.'For Jews, the most important belief about God is that God is the law-giver.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
- 21.'Free Will means you can do what you like.' Evaluate this statement.
- 22.'The story of Moses is not important for people today.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
- 23.'If Jews believe in God then they must believe in life after death.'



Evaluate this statement.

12 mark question skills

OR

Intro: In this essay I am going to agree/disagree with the statement...

ACR 1

The first argument to support my thesis is...

Others would argue against this by saying...

I don't accept this counter-argument because...

ACR 2

Furthermore, I would argue that...

Again, others would disagree because...

However, their arguments are not good arguments because...

Conclusion: Overall, I think that...