

Revision- Judaism Practices

Importance of the Synagogue

- This is the place where Jewish people meet for prayer, worship and study. They believe that any prayer can only take place where there are at least 10 adults.
- Synagogues are usually rectangular shaped but there are no specific rules about its size and decoration.
- It is common for there to be a stained-glass window representing the Star of David.
- The synagogue is the central point for life as a Jewish community- it is where many rites of passages take place.
- It is important as a place of study e.g. it is where a young boy/girl will learn Hebrew and study the Torah in preparation for their bar/bat mitzvahs.

Questions:

1. What is a minyan?
2. Why is the Star of David important?
3. Why are there no images of God? What commandment would representing God break?
4. Why are the names 'shul' or temple' also used to refer to a synagogue?
5. Give examples of the rites of passages that happen in Judaism.

Interior Features of the Synagogue

- Prayer Hall- The seats usually face towards the bimah (where the Torah is read). One side has a focal point of the ark. There is a chair for the

rabbi and a pulpit where sermons are delivered.

- The Ark (Aron Hakodesh)- this is the holiest place in the Synagogue. They believed that the original ark contained stone tablets that God gave to Moses at Sinai. In Synagogues, Jews are reminded of the original ark. It is at the front of the Synagogue facing Jerusalem. There are usually steps up to the Ark to remind them that God and the Torah are more important and sacred. The ark is only opened during special prayers and when it's read during services.
- Ever-Burning Light (Ner Tamid)- This symbolises God's presence and a reminder of the Menorah that was lit every night in the Temple.
- Reading Platform (bimah)- This is a raised platform which is usually in the very centre- it is used for reading from the Torah and becomes the focus of worship.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Exodus 40: 21- Moses puts the ark into the tabernacle and seals it off with a curtain as God had commanded him.

Questions

1. What is kept in the ark?
2. What was written on the stones God gave to Moses?
3. Why is it important that the Synagogue face Jerusalem?

Worship in Orthodox and Reform Synagogues

- Orthodox-
 - The person leading the service will have their back to the congregation and face the ark.
 - The service is conducted in Hebrew and singing is unaccompanied.
 - Men and women sit separately so that a greater connection with God can be achieved.
 - Rabbis are all male.
 - Men cover their head with a kippah as a sign of respect to God.
- Reform-
 - They may not hold daily services but only celebrate Shabbat and festivals.
 - Men and women sit together.
 - Women can perform all rituals that a man can e.g. being a cantor or being part of the minyan.
 - Services are conducted in both Hebrew and the language of their country.



- The Tallit is a prayer shawl with long tassels at each corner to remind them that they are obeying God's word when they wear it.
- The tefillin are a pair of black leather boxes that hold passages of scripture. One is fastened to the centre of the forehead and the other is wound around the upper arm in line with the heart. This is to remind them that their concentration should be on God and their prayers come from the heart.
- Format of Services- prayer is important as it helps to build a relationship with God. In Orthodox Synagogues prayer is held every morning, afternoon, and evening. These prayers are taken from a book called the Siddur. The opening prayer is a series of psalms and prayers giving thanks to God. The Shema is also said.
- Amidah- this is the 'standing prayer' and is made up of 19 blessings.
 - The first 3 praise God and inspire the worshipper to ask for mercy.
 - The middle 13 blessings are prayers that ask for God's help-6 personal requests, 6 requests for the community and a final prayer that God accepts them.
 - The final 3 blessings thank God for the opportunity to serve him and prayer for peace, goodness, kindness and compassion.

Questions

1. What are Orthodox Jews? What do they believe?
2. What are Reformed Jews? What do they believe?
3. What is a cantor?
4. What is the minyan?

Daily Services and Prayer

- Tallit and Tefillin- During prayer Orthodox men will wear these items and in Reform Judaism some women will wear these as well.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

Exodus 13:9- it shall be a sign on your hand and forehead to remind you that the teaching of the Lord is in your mouth.

Questions:

1. Why is prayer so important?

Shabbat in the Synagogue

- Shabbat is the day of rest and is seen as a gift from God. Celebrating the Sabbath is a reminder of the Covenant made between God and the Jewish people.
- Services- On the Friday night there is a brief service. At the end of the service the prayer leader will take a cup of wine and recite a blessing (Kiddush) to thank God for the Sabbath. There is a longer service on the Saturday morning where the Torah is read.
- Torah- On Saturday morning the ark is opened and the congregation stand to remember how the Jewish people stood at the bottom of Mount Sinai when Moses returned with the 10 commandments.

Links to scripture and teaching

- Exodus 20: 8-10- 10 commandments teaches to keep the Sabbath holy.

Questions

1. How does the Sabbath link to the creation story?
2. What is the ark?

Shabbat in the Home

- Shabbat is seen as a special event- the best cutlery is used and at least two candles to represent the two

commandments to remember and observe the Sabbath.

- Two loaves of challah bread and grape juice are placed on the table. The wine is to symbolise joy and celebration. The bread symbolises the portions of manna that God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness.
- Lighting the Candles- a female family member lights the candles. Once they are lit she welcomes the Sabbath by waving her hands around the candles.
- Friday Meal- after the Friday evening service the head of the household blesses the children and recites the Kiddush. Each family member must wash their hands before eating. The bread is cut and dipped in salt and passed around. Stories from the scripture are told to the children after each course.
- Saturday- After the morning service the family enjoy a meal in their home. The end of Shabbat is marked by the Havdalah service.

Questions:

1. Which commandments deal with the Sabbath?
2. What is said as the Sabbath is welcomed?
3. What is the Kiddush?

Worship in the Home

- Everyday brings the opportunity to worship God. Prayers are said three times a day either at home or in the Synagogue. The mezuzah is a small

box by the door- this contains a small part of the Torah.

- Tenakh- this is the written law. It contains the Torah (the five books of Moses), Nevi'im (writings from the Prophets that trace Jewish history and expand on the laws in the Torah and Ketuvim (these are a collection of poetry, stories, advice and historical accounts).
- Talmud- this is the oral law. These are the teachings on how to interpret the Torah and was passed down verbally through the generations. This was then put into one document in 200BC and is called the Mishnah. The Mishnah has 6 sections; dietary laws, marriage and divorce and the laws of Shabbat.

Questions

1. Why are these writings so important to Jewish people?
2. How are these writings used differently by Reform and Orthodox Jews?
3. What does the mezuzah remind Jewish people of?

Ceremonies Associated with Birth

- Naming Ceremony- Boys are named 8 days after their birth when they are circumcised. A girl's name is announced by her father to the Synagogue one month after her birth. In Orthodox families it is common for both girls and boys to be blessed in the Synagogue on their first Sabbath and the father will recite from the Torah.

- Brit Milah- this is the ceremony of circumcision. Usually a close friend places the baby on an empty chair to symbolise the Prophet Elijah. The baby will be placed on the knee of the person who is chosen to be the 'companion of the child'.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Genesis 1:28- God blessed the Adam and Eve and told them to multiply.
- Genesis 17: 11-14- God commands Abraham and his descendants to circumcise all the men as a sign of their covenant.

Questions

1. Why are rituals important in Jewish family life?
2. What are the covenants that God and Abraham made?

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

- This happens when a Jewish girl reaches 12 and a Jewish boy reaches 13.
- Bar Mitzvah- the boy is called to read from the Torah. Many Synagogues will hold classes to help prepare boys for the occasion. He will wear a tallit for the first time, lead part of the prayer/service and make a short speech. It is common to have celebrations after this.
- Bat Mitzvah- Only reform Jews will have this celebration. Just like in the Bar Mitzvah she will read from the Torah, give a short speech and lead part of the prayer service.

Questions

1. What does Bar/Bat Mitzvah mean?
2. What is a tallit?
3. Why do bat mitzvahs not take place in an orthodox synagogue?

Marriage

- It is traditional for Jewish couples to use a matchmaker. Orthodox Jews believe that the matchmaker is working on God's behalf.
- Marriage is seen as a spiritual bond where two souls are fused to become one.
- Betrothal- This takes place before the wedding. The Hebrew for this word is 'kiddushin' which means 'made holy' or 'set aside'. The couple are set aside for each other and in Jewish law it cannot be broken except by death or divorce.
- During the betrothal a wedding contract is drawn up.
- The Wedding- this takes place in the Synagogue; it is led by the Rabbi and the couple stand under a canopy called a chuppah. It can happen on any day except the Sabbath.



- Some may fast in preparation for their wedding to cleanse themselves of sin.
- The bride circles the groom, they recite two blessings over wine, and the groom will place a ring the wife's finger while saying: "Behold, you are consecrated to me by means of this ring, according to the rituals of Moses and Israel."

- A marriage contract is signed in front of witnesses, read out and given to the bride.
- The groom will break a glass under his foot to show regret for the destruction of the Temple; it symbolises that in life there is a hardship as well as joy.
- The congregation will shout 'Mazel Tov' which means 'good luck'.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Genesis 2:24- when a man leaves his mother and father he becomes one flesh with his wife.

Questions

1. What sort of things would orthodox and reform Jews expect the wedding contract to cover?
2. Which way would the chuppah face?
3. How is the Jewish community involved in a couple's wedding rituals?

Mourning for the Dead

- Many will tear their clothes (following Jacob's example).
- Mourning- Before the person is buried their family can mourn without any set rules. After burial a meal of bread and eggs is held to symbolise new life.
- Shiva- 7 days of intense mourning. The mourners will stay at home and sit on low stools, they do not wear makeup or shave. Mirrors are covered so that they do not focus on their appearance. Prayer services

are held three times a day in the home.

- Lesser mourning- this lasts 30 days. Normal life resumes but they will not listen to music, go to parties or shave/cut their hair.
- The final period of mourning lasts 11 months. They will not attend parties. Formal mourning ends once this period is over but children will continue to make the anniversary of their parent's death.
- Funeral- Some reform Jews will accept cremation but most Jews will be buried. The body is washed and wrapped in a plain linen cloth. The service does not take place in the Synagogue- the body is transported directly to the cemetery. Jewish law states that a tombstone must be placed on the grave of the person.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Genesis 37:34- Jacob tore his clothes when mourning for his son.

Questions

1. Why might they place the tear on their left hand side when a close relative dies?
2. What else is a man's body wrapped in at burial?
3. What does a stone placed on the tombstone symbolise?

Dietary Laws

- Food that is permitted is called Kosher. The food laws are found in the Torah and advice on how to put this into practice are in the Talmud.

- Orthodox Jews will follow these laws closely. They believe the laws are sent by God to test their obedience and help develop self-control.
- Reform Jews- some believe that these laws are outdated and each person should decide if they want to follow them.
- Kosher Butchers- the knife must be very sharp and they are cut by the throat so they do not suffer. All the blood is drained as it is forbidden for Jews.
- Jewish Kitchen- certain foods, e.g. dairy and meat, are not allowed to be eaten at the same time.
 - Orthodox Jews- some will have two sinks and two preparation areas so that meat and milk can be kept separate.



Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Deuteronomy 12:23- states that blood must not be consumed as this is the life.
- Exodus 23:19- Do not boil a kid in its mother's milk.

Questions

1. What is food that is not permitted called?
2. What is the Talmud?
3. Which animals cannot be eaten?
4. Give examples of Kosher food.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

- Origins of Rosh Hashanah- recalls the Genesis creation and is the anniversary of the day God created

humans. Some believe that God keeps a record of all the good and bad deeds; God will judge them and decide their fortune for the coming year.

- Celebration-
 - Everyday in the month leading up to Rosh Hashanah a ram's horn (shofar) is blown in the Synagogue.
 - Prayers for forgiveness are said during this time. The day before similar preparations are made as on the Sabbath. Candles are lit before sunset and there is a service at the Synagogue where prayers focus on asking God to be the King in the coming year.
 - During the meal apples are dipped in honey to symbolise hope for a sweet new year.
 - The next morning the shofar is blown 100 times and there is a longer service at the Synagogue.
- Origins of Yom Kippur- this is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. It is the day of atonement when the Book of Judgement is closed- it is expected that they will have mended any relationships in the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- Celebration-
 - No work is done; fasting for 25 hours; bathing, wearing leather and sex is forbidden; and white is worn.
- Many spend the day in the Synagogue where services are held



throughout the day. During the final service the doors of the Ark are opened and all must stand. This is the last chance to make a confession before the door of the ark is closed.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon- the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are a good time to seek forgiveness.
- Leviticus 16: 29-31- The day of atonement is made to be cleansed of all sins. No work should be done.

Questions

1. What preparations are made for the Sabbath?
2. What does the colour white symbolise?
3. Why is the word 'we' used rather than 'I'?

Pesach

- Preparations- God commanded the Jews to celebrate their escape from Egypt by eating unleavened bread. This is to remember that when the Jewish people left Egypt they did not have time for their bread to rise.
- Passover Sedar- This lasts for 7/8 days. The mother will light candles to welcome the festival. On the Sedar plate there is;
 - A green vegetable to dip in salt water.
 - Bitter herbs made from horseradish.
 - A second bitter herb e.g. lettuce.

- A roasted egg.
- A lamb bone.
- The salt water represents the tears shed in slavery.
- The Red wine is a reminded of the lambs blood smeared over every door.
- The green vegetables represent the new life in the Promised Land.
- Bitter herbs represent the bitterness of slavery and are dipped in sweet charoset that represents the mortar used by the slaves.
- The roasted egg and lamb bone represent of the sacrifices made in the Temple of Jerusalem.
- Four glasses of wine are poured and represent the four freedoms God promised. A fifth cup of wine is poured and the door left open for the Prophet Elijah.

Links to Scripture and Teaching

- Exodus 6: 6-7- The Lord proclaims that he will free the Jewish people from slavery under the Egyptians.

Questions

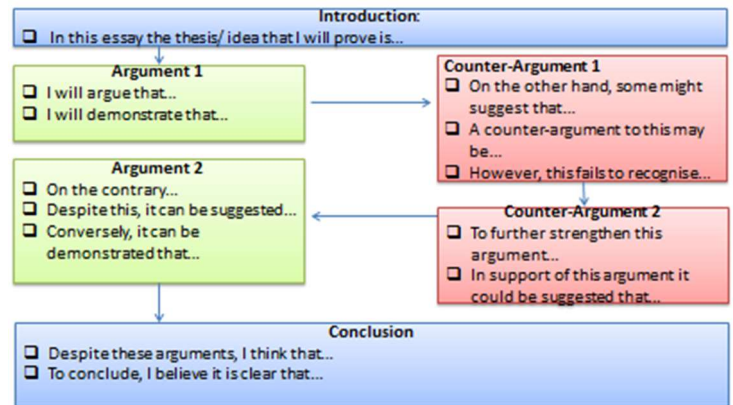
1. What does Pesach mean?
2. How does it link to the story of Moses?
3. Who is the Prophet Elijah? Why is he important?
4. Why is this festival so important to Jewish people?

Exam Questions

1. Define Bar Mitzvah. (1)
2. Define Bat Mitzvah. (1)
3. Define Brit Milah. (1)
4. Define Kosher. (1)

5. Define Pesach. (1)

6. Define Rosh Hashanah. (1)



7. Define Shabbat. (1)

8. Define Yom Kippur. (1)

9. Give two features of an Orthodox Synagogue. (2)
10. Give two features of a Reform Synagogue. (2)
11. Give **two** of the religious features of a synagogue.(2)
12. Explain two similarities between a reform and orthodox synagogue. (4)
13. Explain two contrasting features of a reform and orthodox synagogue. (4)
14. Explain two ways the Sabbath is celebrated in the home. (4)
15. Explain **two** ways in which beliefs about life after death influence Jewish mourning rituals.(4)
16. Explain two ways Rosh Hashanah is celebrated. (4)
17. Explain **two** purposes of the Amidah prayer.(5)
18. Explain two differences between the Tenakh and the Talmud. (5)
19. Explain two ways the Jewish faith celebrates the birth of a child. (5)
20. 'The festivals of Judaism have no religious importance today.' Evaluate this statement. (12)
21. 'The most important duty is to attend the Synagogue.' Evaluate this statement. (12)

22.'The most important religious festival is Yom Kippur.' Evaluate this statement. (12)

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...