

Judaism Quiz Answers

1. What is Shabbat? (1m)

Day of rest and spiritual renewal

2. Why is Shabbat celebrated? Link your answer to the Torah (1m)

Genesis – 7th day God rested, time to be grateful for God's creation, worship God, learn from the Torah and spend with loved ones

3. Name two things that happen in a Shabbat service? (2m)

A. Reading from the Torah

B. Prayer (Amehida)

4. How do Orthodox and Reform Jews differ in their celebration of Shabbat? (1m)

Orthodox will not use electronic or perform any work following the mitzvot literally, reform may adapt their faith to modern life and thus not do these things....

5. Why is a synagogue an important place for Jews? Bullet-point 3 reasons (3m)

A. Worship

B. School

C. Assembly/Community

6. What are three important items in a synagogue and why are they important? (3m)

A. Torah – God's teachings to Moses including mitzvot

B. Ner tamid – eternal flame symbolising God's presence (as it was in the temple)

C. Ark that holds the Torah scrolls protecting

7. Why are minyans important? (1m)

Prayer group of 10 people, important as some prayers must be said in a Minyan (in Orthodox synagogue)

8. What is a Tallith and why is it worn for worship? (1m)

A shawl used during prayer, it has fringes hanging off it representing the many mitzvot

9. What is a Tefillin and why is it worn for worship? (1m)

Two leather boxes containing parts of the Shema worn because Deuteronomy 6 tells them to (mitzvot) as a reminder to serve God through acts of compassion

10. What is a Kippah and why is it worn for worship? (1m)

A head covering worn during prayer or when in the synagogue worn usually by men (and sometimes reform women) as a sign of respect for God as the highest part of the head is covered. Also helps people identify themselves as Jewish

11. What is the Amidah and why is it important? (1m)

A prayer said in all Jewish worship services signifying God's presence and helping Jews praise, thank and request things from God.

12. What is the Brit Milah and why is it important? (1m)

Circumcision ceremony happens to boys eight days after birth – it represents a relationship with God as it was part of the covenant he made with Abraham and thus fulfils the mitzvots. It is also where the Jewish boy is given his Hebrew name and thus Jewish identity.

13. Why do Jew engage in Bar or Bat Mitzvahs? (1m)

To enter into relationship with God, so they can accept they are now responsible for their actions. Because it is tradition.

14. What are two differences between a Bar and Bat Mitzvah? (2m)

A. Boys at 12 and Girls at 13

B. Orthodox boys read from the Torah in Hebrew and whilst girls do not – Orthodox girls cannot join the minyan after their Bat Mitzvah either

15. What are three parts of a Jewish marriage ceremony? (3m)

A. Ketubah – signing of the marriage contract following Jewish tradition including the promise to have children as is God's plan (Genesis 2 – "Be fruitful and multiply"~)

B. Exchanging of rings – symbolising the eternal promises made for one another

C. Standing under the chuppah symbolising the importance of the Jewish home

16. What happens in Jewish communities after someone passes away (mourning rituals) Explain 3 things (3m)

A. Chevra Kadisha (burial society) prepares the body and shows respect to it (as the container of the soul created by God) by not leaving it alone until burial

B. Kaddish (prayer declaring God's greatness) is said and psalms are read during the funeral

C. Shiva – 7 days of mourning after the funeral where family are visited by their community, supporting them in their grief. Mirrors are covered because they shouldn't focus on their appearance, a candle is lit and prayers are said

17. Why are mourning rituals important? (1m)

They are tradition, help the family remember God's greatness during this time of sadness and help the mourners show great respect to the person that has passed away. They also help them move on (7 days of Shiva ends and people usually go back to work)

18. What is the Nevim? (1m)

Books of the prophets

19. What is the Ketuvim? (1m)

Teachings of how Jews have behaved towards God in the past including Psalms

20. Together the Torah, Nevim and Ketuvim make up what? (1m)

Tenakh

21. What does it mean to “keep kosher”? (1m)

Kosher means “proper”- keeping kosher means to eat in accordance with the Mitzvots written in the Torah (Leviticus)

22. What are three reasons why Jews may follow the Kosher laws? (3m)

- A. Leviticus tells them to
- B. Following the mitzvots helps them fulfil the covenant
- C. Part of Jewish tradition and identity passed down through generations

23. What are three reasons why a Jew may not keep kosher? (3m)

- A. There are very few shops in Britain that keep Kosher food
- B. Kosher food is often expensive and they may not be able to afford it
- C. It would be difficult to eat out socially and keep kosher in modern society

24. Put these festivals in the order they occur in the Jewish calendar... Yom Kippur, Pesach, Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot (1m)

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Pesach, Sukkot,

25. What is the meaning of Rosh Hashana (1m)

Head of the year – New Year

26. How is it celebrated (2m)

- A. Attending special service in a synagogue, at the end the shofar horn is sounded 100 times representing the crying of the soul asking to be reunited with God reminding Jews to spend the next 10 days seeking God’s forgiveness
- B. Eating pomegranates (seeds represent mitzvots), apple dipped in honey (symbolising a sweet new year)
- C. Throwing bread crumbs away symbolising casting out sins

27. Why is it celebrated? (1m)

Part of the process of judgment, to seek forgiveness and have one’s name written in the book of life
Remember how the world was made by God and how He acts as judge

28. What is the meaning of Sukkot (1m)

Harvest festival

29. How is it celebrated (2m)

- A. Building, eating in, living in a sukkah (following the mitzvot’s instructions) This represents the temporary shelters used by the Jews walking to the promised land for 40 years as written in the Torah

- B. Using a citrus fruit (etrog) and a lulav (palms) during a blessing – waving them around to bring in God's blessing

30. Why is it celebrated? (1m)

For 7 days it is celebrated to remind them of the sacrifice previous Jews have gone through and to follow the mitzvot

31. What is the meaning of Yom Kippur (1m)

Day of atonement

32. How is it celebrated (2m)

- A. For 24 hours Jews will pray, attend special synagogue services and fast
- B. Story of Jonah is read to remind Jews they cannot hide from God and that God is merciful and will give forgiveness to those that seek it
- C. Shofar horn is sounded at the end of the 25 hours

33. Why is it celebrated? (1m)

Final day of repentance during the judgement period aim is to get their name in the book of life

34. What is the meaning of Pesach (1m)

Passover

How is it celebrated (2m)

- A. Seder meal is containing symbolic food e.g. bitter herbs representing the horrible experience they went through - Unrisen bread is eaten just as the Jews ate theirs in the desert (they didn't have time for it to rise before escaping from Egypt).
- B. A door will be left open and a glass of wine left out for the prophet Elijah who some Jews believe will announce the coming of the Messiah after Pesach

35. Why is it celebrated? (1m)

Celebrates the freedom of Jews from slavery in Egypt led by Moses as written in the Torah (Exodus)

36. The Amidah is a prayer said at every Jewish worship service - how is it said & why is it important? (2m)

Amidah means standing and said first independently then by the rabbi. During the prayer Jews take three steps forward and backwards and bow to each side representing the symbolic presence of God. It allows them to praise God, request God for something they need and thank God.