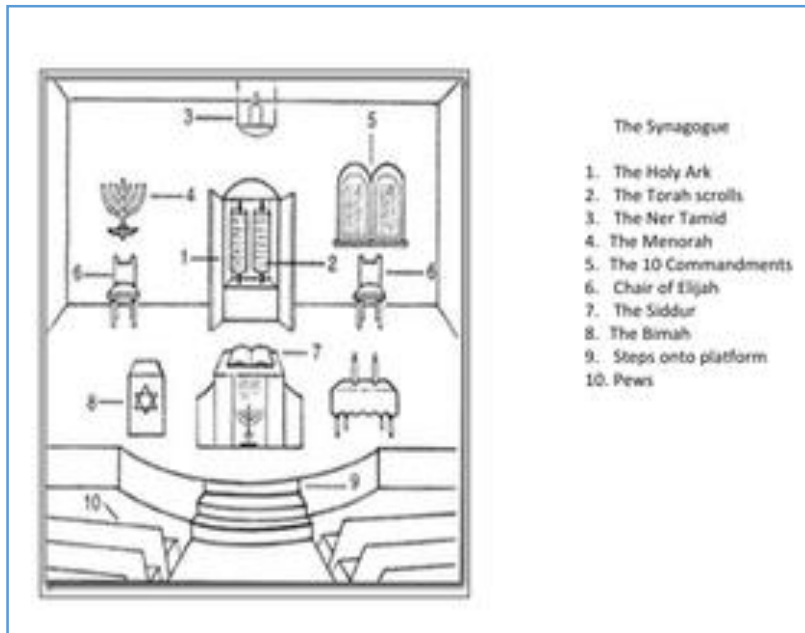


Year 10 Homeworking RE Tasks 7 : Features of a Synagogue

Please ensure you collate all work either in your RE book or together in a plastic wallet/folder for it to be checked and marked by your teacher

Title: Homeworking Tasks 7 Features of a Synagogue

1. Recap: What are two different views on the Messiah? What four terms describe the nature of God in Judaism and why?
2. Watch the Youtube video and write down five facts about a Synagogue
3. Using the video and your research answer these questions...
 - A. What is a synagogue?
 - B. What are three things it is used for?
 - C. What is the difference between a Reform and an Orthodox synagogue?
4. Draw or print & stick a synagogue layout (the one below was found by googling 'synagogue layout'). Label and explain each feature of a synagogue.
5. On your diagram explain why each feature is in the synagogue.



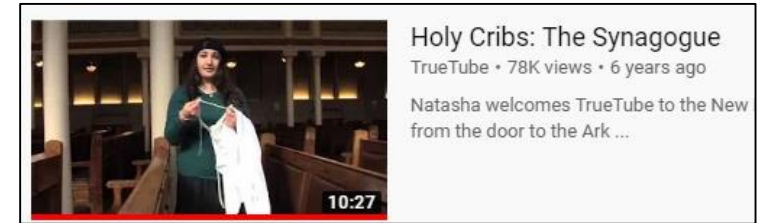
6. See if you can use Youtube or other sites to find out the purpose of those items in the list on the right that are not explained on this sheet.

7. Exam Question: B. Describe the importance of a synagogue (5m)

Tip: Define the term synagogue and use the word 'important' and 'because' both at least twice in your answer



Youtube "Holy Crib's Synagogue" and select the video below...



Features of a Synagogue:

1. **Bimah:** The raised platform in the centre of the Synagogue from which the Torah and the Prophets are read. **WHY?** This is an important part of the synagogue because the book of Deuteronomy tells us that Moses instructed the Israelites to "teach it (the commandments) to your children"
2. **Aron kodesh:** This is also known as the 'Ark' and it is the most important part of the sanctuary (the part of the synagogue where prayers are said). It holds the Torah scrolls. **WHY?** Exodus 25 tells us that God instructed Moses to "build me a tabernacle", this tradition of having an ark (similar to the tabernacle) lives on today.
3. **Torah scrolls:** These are the Hebrew Bible, written on scrolls. It contains Jewish law and teachings.
4. **Ner tamid:** This is a light above the Ark. It symbolises the light, truth and presence of God. **WHY?** In the book of Exodus it says 'God went with them in a pillar of fire and smoke', through this Jews believe God is omnipresent as the Shekinah and the Ner Tamid reminds them of this.
5. **Seating:** This is where the congregation sits during the service. In Orthodox synagogues, men and women sit separately so as to focus on prayers and God. Usually there is a balcony for the women to sit on. In Reform synagogues, however, men and women can sit together.
6. **Minyan:** a prayer group consisting of ten or more members over the age of 13. It is required for Jewish worship. In Orthodox Judaism, the minyan must be male. In Reform, the minyan could also be female.

There are three purposes and benefits to a synagogue; a school (a place to learn about Judaism), workshop (a place to practice worship and prayer), community (a place to celebrate faith together and look after one another).

- > Synagogues function as a school ('schul') as it has an important role as a place of study
- > 'Synagogue' translates as, 'House of Assembly', meaning it is where the Jewish community come together – not just for prayer but also for ceremonies such as weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs
- > Reform Jews can call the synagogue a 'temple' as it is a meeting place equivalent to (or a replacement for) the temple in Jerusalem
- > Most synagogues also have a hall for religious and non-religious activities. It often functions as a 'town hall' where matters of importance to the community can be discussed
- > The synagogue can also be a social welfare agency, collecting and giving out money and other charity for those within the community who need it