



Questions

1. (a) What is meant by:
- (i) *Yahrzeit* [2]
 - (ii) *Kaddish*? [2]
- (b) Give a brief description of a Jewish funeral. [4]
- (c) Explain the Jewish beliefs about death and dying. [7]
- (d) ‘People should live their lives well and not worry about what happens when they die.’
- Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. You must refer to Judaism in your answer. [5]
2. (a) What are the origins of:
- (i) Orthodox Jews, [8]
 - (ii) Progressive Jews?
- (b) How might being **either** an Orthodox **or** a Progressive Jew affect the life of a believer? [7]
- (c) ‘It is a good idea to have different groups within a religion.’ [5]
3. Questions (a)–(d) can be answered in a single word, phrase or sentence. Question (e) requires a longer answer.
- (a) What is *Kashrut*? (1 mark)
 - (b) What is a covenant? (1 mark)
 - (c) Who received the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai? (1 mark)
 - (d) Write out the first sentence of the *Shema*. (2 marks)
 - (e) Explain the meaning and importance of Shabbat for Jews. (5 marks)
- (Total 10 marks)
- (SEG Paper 1480/1, Section A, 1998 Short Course Specimen Questions)
4. (a) (i) When does the Sabbath begin and end? (2 marks)
- (ii) How may Jews ‘keep the Sabbath’? (6 marks)

- (b) Explain the importance of *Bar Mitzvah* and *Bat Mitzvah* (or *Bat Chayil*) for the Jewish community. (8 marks)
- (c) 'Religions should treat both sexes equally.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer showing you have considered another point of view. (4 marks)

(Total 20 marks)

(London (1479) Specimen Papers for 1st examination May/June 1999)

5. (a) Name the **three** parts of the Tenakh. [3]
- (b) What do Jews believe about the Messiah? [5]
- (c) Explain why Jews believe that the Torah is so important. [7]
- (d) 'It is important for religions to have a statement of belief like the *Shema*.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view. [5]

(MEG, Summer 1998, Sample Paper)



Judaism: A glossary

Afikomen

‘Dessert’: half a *matzah* hidden for children to find during the *Seder*

Aggadah

Part of the Jewish oral law; it deals with Biblical interpretations, theology and ethics

Aleynu (Aleinu)

The closing prayer at each service

Amidah

‘Standing’: a prayer said standing at all services; a series of 18 Benedictions, forming the core of Jewish worship

Aron hakodesh

‘Holy ark’ containing Torah scrolls

Ashkenazim

Jews from central and Eastern Europe

Atonement

The purpose of the ritual of *Yom Kippur* – the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16): it refers to reconciliation between God and humanity (at-one-ment), the relationship, broken by sin, being restored

Bar Mitzvah

‘Son of Commandment’: initiation for 13-year-old boys marking the attainment of religious maturity

Bat Mitzvah

‘Daughter of Commandment’: initiation ceremony for 12-year-old girls

Bet Din

A Jewish court of three rabbis ruling on Jewish law

Bet t’filah

House of prayer

Bet hamidrash

House of study

Beytza

Roasted egg which is part of the seder plate and symbolises sacrifice

Bet ha Kneset

‘House of Assembly’: synagogue

Bimah

A desk or platform for reading the *Torah* and leading services

Brit(also **berit**)

Covenant

Brit milah

The ‘Covenant of Cutting’ (circumcision)

Challah

Yeast-leavened white bread made with egg, eaten on the Sabbath and ceremonial occasions

Hanukkah

The Feast of Dedication; also the Feast of Lights

Chazan

The leader of reading, singing and chanting in services. Also *Hazan* or *Cantor*

Cheder

A class in which Jewish children are taught Hebrew and Jewish religious history and principles

Circumcision

The rite of *Brit Milah*, involving the cutting off of the foreskin of boys on the eighth day after birth by a qualified *mohel*

Covenant

An agreement between God and men; for example, with Abraham

Day of Atonement

See *Yom Kippur*

Decalogue

The Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt Sinai

Derasha

Sermon during Bar Mitzvah ceremony

Deuteronomy

Fifth book in the Bible, and part of the *Torah*

Diaspora

The dispersion of the Jews throughout the world, particularly after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE, it is often referred to by the Hebrew word *Galut*

Election

The belief that the Jews were selected by God for a special divine purpose

Erusin

Betrothal for marriage

Essenes

Jewish mystics and devotees of the *Torah* from the second century BCE to the second century CE. They often separated themselves in communities as at Qumran near the Dead Sea

Exodus

Second book in the Bible telling the story of the Hebrew's passage to freedom from slavery in Egypt

Gehenna

In Jewish apocryphal literature the equivalent of hell

Gemara (also **Gemarah**)

Commentary on *Mishnah*, included in the *Talmud*

Genesis

First book in the Bible, part of the *Torah*

Genizah

Storage place for disused scrolls

Haftarah

'Completion': a passage from the prophets read in the synagogue on the Sabbath

Hagadah

'Telling': the book used at the *Seder* ritual on the eve of the Passover to recount the liberation of the Jews from slavery. Also *Haggadah*

Hallot

Plait-shaped loaves shared on Sabbath

Halakhah

The legal system of Judaism

Harmetz

Ordinary food

Hallel

Chant of praise used in the Passover and some other holidays. Psalms 113–18

Hanukiah (also **Chanukiah**)

Eight-branched candelabrum used at the festival of *Hanukkah*

Hasidism (Chasidism)

A mystic pious movement dating from the eighteenth century

Hasidim

A movement of the second century BCE which opposed the Hellenizing of Jewish life; the *Essenes* and *Pharisees* were offshoots of this movement. Also: an eighteenth-century movement which favoured the power of simple, joyful piety rather than the intellectual requirements of talmudic learning

Haskalah

From a Jewish word meaning ‘Enlightenment’; applied to an eighteenth-century movement which resulted in a new emphasis on education and a resurgence of the study of Hebrew and the Jewish scriptures in a modern context

Havdalah

‘Distinction’: a service held in the home at the end of the Sabbath; it can also be held in the synagogue

Hebrew

A Semitic language in which the Jewish scriptures are written, also used by Jews for prayer and study

Holocaust

The extermination by the Nazis of millions of Jews during the Second World War

Hoshanah Raba

The Great Hosanna. It’s the last day of the festival of Sukkot

Huppah (or **Chuppah**)

Four-posted canopy used for wedding ceremony

Israel

‘One who struggles with God’; this was the new name for Jacob. It refers to the world-wide community of Jews, and the land and state of Israel

Kabbalet Shabbat

Evening service celebrating climax of creation when God had completed his work

Kabbalah (or **Cabala**)

(Lit: ‘that which is handed down’) Jewish mysticism

Kaddish

‘To make “holy”’: a prayer of sanctification used in mourning ceremonies and in the synagogue service

Karpas

Spring vegetable usually parsley eaten at the Passover. It’s dipped in salt and water to represent the sweat and tears of the Israelites

Kosher (Kasher)

Those categories of food that Jews are allowed to eat, it includes the preparation of such food according to the dietary laws

Kashrut

Jewish dietary laws

Kehilla

A community of people (referring to the synagogue)

Ketubah

The marriage document received by a Jewish bride from her husband, and signed by both, it sets out the duties which the bridegroom is to perform for her

Ketuvim

‘Writings’: the third section of the scriptures

Kibbutz

A voluntary, collective community These are found in Israel, and are mainly agricultural; there is no private wealth, the community being responsible for the needs of the members and their families. It began in 1909 in Deganyah, and there are now over 200 such communities with around 100 000 members

Kiddush

‘Holy’: a prayer of sanctification at the start of the Sabbath

Kittel

Long white smock worn in the synagogue

Kohen

Priests in the temple; the word survives in the surname Cohen

Kol nidrei

Prayer said for persecuted Jews

Leviticus

Third book in the Bible, part of the *Torah*

Maccabees

A Jewish noble family which led the revolt against the attempt by Antiochus IV Epiphanes to crush the Jewish faith in 168 BCE; under Judah Maccabaeus the Jews restored the Temple in 164 BCE

Machzor

The prayer book for festivals

Magen David

‘Shield of David’ (usually called the Star of David): a hexagram made up of two interwoven equilateral triangles

Masekhtot

Divisions of the Shisha Sedarim

Maror

Bitter herbs; one of 3 components of the seder

Matzah

Unleavened bread (plural **matzot**) used in the Passover Festival to commemorate the Exodus from Egypt

Memra

Aramaic term for ‘word’, it is used in the Jewish *Targums* to avoid any possibility of suggesting that God acted directly or in human form

Menorah

Seven-branched candelabrum, originally there was a golden one in the Temple in Jerusalem; it now refers to the candelabrum used in the Feast of *chanukkah*

Mezuzah

A small metal container holding sections of the *Torah*; these are fastened to the right doorpost of the house and of rooms in Jewish homes

Midrash

(‘to search out, expound’): the teaching and commentaries of the rabbis on scripture; *Halakhic Midrash* deals with the Law and *Aggadic Midrash* deals with the narrative of scripture

Mikveh

A ritual bath for spiritual cleansing

Minyan

Quorum of ten men needed for a service; progressive communities include women but do not always need a *minyan*

Mishnah

The authoritative collection of oral law in Hebrew. It is the basis of the Palestinian and Babylonian Talmuds and dates from around 200 CE

Mishteh

A feast

Mitzvah (Plural: **Mitzvot**)

Literally means ‘commandment’; also means obligation or duty required by God of the Jews

Mohel

Someone who performs circumcision

Moses

The leader and lawgiver at the time of Exodus

Nephesh

Hebrew ‘soul’, but also indicating emotions or physical appetites, this word occurs over 700 times in the Bible

Ner tamid

Eternal light above the Ark

Nevi'im (**Nebi'im**)

‘Prophets’, the second section of the scriptures

Numbers

The fourth book of the Bible, and part of the *Torah*

Omar

Ameasure, e.g. of grain

Onan

Mourner

Parev (Also **Pareve**)

‘Neutral’: food which is neither milk nor meat – for example, plants, eggs, fish

Pentateuch

First books of the Bible. Also called the *Torah*

Pesah

Bone; one of the 3 components of the seder

Pesach

Passover: festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt

Pharisees

Aramaic: ‘separated ones’, the successors of the Hasidim, they were the founders of Rabbinic Judaism. They stressed the oral tradition and strictly observed the *Torah*

Phylacteries

see *Tephilin*

Pidyan naben

Redemption of the First-born son ceremony. The first rite of passage

Pirke Aboth ‘Ethics of the Fathers’: Law worship and kindness

Pogrom

Organised massacre, or exile, particularly in Russia and Romania in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

Priest

A person called by God for the delivery of a special message, particularly those who have given their names to books of the Bible

Purim

The festival celebrated on *Adar* 14 with the reading of the book of Esther to commemorate her success in preventing the massacre of Jews by Haman

Rabbi (Also **Rebbe** – Hasidic)

Lit: ‘My master’, an authorised Jewish teacher

Rosh Hashanah

Literally ‘Head of the Year’: Jewish New Year autumn festival

Sadducees

Conservative Jewish priests, important in the first centuries BCE and CE, they recognized only the written Law, and denied resurrection and the after life. They died out after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE

Sanctification

In the Jewish Bible this means purity and separateness. The Israelites were told to sanctify the Lord of Hosts (Isaiah 8:13), to recognize his sovereign claims, and to sanctify themselves (Leviticus 11:44)

Sanhedrin

The highest Jewish tribunal, it had 71 members which met in Jerusalem. The term derives from the 70 elders who advised Moses. It ceased to exist around 425 CE

Satan

Hebrew: ‘the accuser’

Seder

Lit: ‘order’: the ritual followed at the Passover supper

Sefer Torah

Torah scroll kept in the synagogue Ark

Sefiroth

In Jewish mysticism (*Kabbalah*), these are the ten attributes of God which link the celestial to the earthly world.

Sendah

Meal eaten after Bar Mitzvah ceremony

Sephardim

Jews from the western Mediterranean, especially Spain, Portugal and North Africa

Septuagint

The Greek version of the Jewish Bible

Shabbat (Plural: **Shabatot**)

Day of rest, the seventh day when God rested after the six days of creation (Exodus 20:11), it also celebrates Israel's delivery from slavery in Egypt (Deuteronomy 5:15)

Shavuot

The Feast of Weeks, celebrated 50 days after the Passover. This marks the start of the wheat harvest, and remembers the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt Sinai

Shechita

Ritual killing of animals according to the rules for *Kosher* food by an authorized slaughterer

Shekhina

A term used in the *Targums* to signify God. It stands for the radiance, glory or presence of God

Shema

(Lit: 'Hear!') (Deuteronomy 6:4) 'Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One'. This is said twice a day as an affirmation of belief in the doctrines of *Election* and Monotheism

Sheol

Old Testament place of the dead, equivalent to the Greek Hades; later it became the place where the wicked are punished after death

Shishah Sedarim

The 6 orders in the Mishnah (part of the Talmud or 'teaching')

Shiva/Shivah

Seven days 'sitting' by the bereaved in their homes

Shofar

Ram's horn blown in the synagogue at the festival of *Rosh Hashanah*, and at the end of *Yom Kippur*; it remembers Abraham's sacrifice of the ram instead of Isaac

Shulchan Aruch

Lit: 'The set table', refers to the book compiled by Joseph Caro (1488–1575 CE), an authoritative code of Jewish law

Siddur

'Order' or 'arrangement': the prayer book for daily use, and for the Sabbath and occasional use

Simhat Torah

Lit: 'Rejoicing in the *Torah*', it is a day at the end of the festival of *Sukkoth* that marks the start of the annual cycle of readings from the *Torah*

Soul

Hebrew thought saw human beings as bodies vitalized by the soul

Spirit

The Spirit of God is seen as the agent of Creation (Genesis 1), of Prophecy (Ezekiel 37), and of special powers in humankind (Numbers 11)

Sukkah (Plural: *Sukkot*)

'Tabernacle' or 'Booth': temporary shelter used for meals and sleeping during the Feast of Tabernacles

Sukkot(h)

Feast of Tabernacles celebrated in the Autumn, *Tishri* 15–21

Synagogue

Meeting place for worship

Tallit(h)

Prayer shawl, white and blue in colour, worn by males at morning services and at all services on the day of Atonement

Talmud

The major source of Jewish Law, it contains the *Mishnah* (oral law), and the *Gemara* (rabbinic commentaries on the *Mishnah*)

Targum

Aramaic interpretative translation of parts of the Hebrew Bible

Tashlikh ceremony

Afternoon ritual in which prayers are said at a source of water (running if possible)

Taryag

A word formed from the initials of the words six hundred and thirteen. It refers to the 613 mitzvot (laws) given by the *Torah*

Temple

Built by Solomon around 950 BCE, it was destroyed in 586 BCE. The second temple was dedicated in 516 BCE. Herod began a rebuilding in 19 BCE. This, the last temple, was destroyed in 70 CE

Tenakh

The Jewish Bible with three sections: *Torah*, *Nevi'im* and *Ketuvim*

Tefillin (also **T'filin**, **Tephilin**)

Phylacteries (two small cubic boxes of leather, fastened by straps to the forehead and arm for morning prayers on weekdays. They contain four Biblical texts written on parchment. Jewish men wear them

Tobit

The central figure in a book of the same name in Jewish Apocryphal writings

Torah

Hebrew 'Law', which applies particularly to the Law of Moses (the first five books of the Bible); in a general sense it can be translated as 'teaching'

Tractate

A section of the *Mishnah*

Trefa

Non-kosher food

Tzitzit

Fringes on the corners of the *tallit* and on the undergarment worn by Orthodox Jewish men and boys

Yad

The hand-shaped pointer used in *Torah* reading

Yad vashem

'Eternal memorial' to the Holocaust. A bare room lit by a candle with names of concentration camps on the floor

Yadrzeit

'Year time': the anniversary of a death

Yahweh

The name of the Israelite God

Yamulkah

Skull cap worn during prayers and Torah study, which some Orthodox men wear continually (Sometimes also Capel and *Kippah*)

Yeshiva

College for Talmudic and Rabbinic studies

Yiddish

Mixed dialect of German, Slavonic (for example, Polish) and Hebrew

Yom Kippur

The Day of *Atonement*: A fast observed on *Tishri* 10, bringing to an end the ten days of penitence which start with *Rosh Hashanah*

Zaddikim

Lit: 'righteous ones', the leaders of the eighteenth-century Hasidim movement

Zeroa

Piece of lamb which is part of the seder plate to commemorate the Temple sacrifice

Zionists

Those who sought to set up a Jewish state in Palestine (Israel) and who support its continued existence

Zohar

The major work of Jewish mysticism, it was written by Moses de León in the thirteenth century, and is in the form of a commentary on the *Pentateuch*

Zemirot

Songs sung between the courses of the Sabbath meal