

RE – GCSE – Judaism – Revision Questions

Topic	Question	Marks	Response
God	Explain two Jewish teachings about God	4	a) God is Creator & eternal (Genesis 1) b) God made the world 'ex nihilo' ('out of nothing') – Genesis 1 – shows God's omnipotence
	Explain two Jewish beliefs about God as Creator	5	a) God made the world in 6 days – rested on the 7 th day – only humans are created in the image of God b) God made the world 'ex nihilo' ('out of nothing') – Genesis 1 – shows God's omnipotence
Worship & Prayer	Explain two contrasting ways in which Jews worship	4	a) go to synagogue - Shekinah's presence is strongest there & will 'dwell among them' b) at home – Shabbat is time of prayer / worship – reminder of Genesis 1
	Explain two ways Jews obey the Shema	4	a) belief in One God (monotheism) prayer said twice a day – should also be the last thing a Jew says before death b) Shema is placed in mezuzah & found inside the tefillin
	Explain two contrasting ways in which worship is carried out in Orthodox and non-Orthodox synagogues	4	a) OJs: men & women sit separately – prayers said in Hebrew – prayer led by a male b) non-OJs: men & women sit together – prayers said in both Hebrew & English - prayer can be led by women
	Explain two ways Jewish women might worship differently to men	4	a) in OJ synagogue women sit separately from men – won't be allowed to lead the service b) women don't have to pray 3 times a day – don't have to wear Tefillin
Charity	Explain two Jewish teachings about charity	5	a) give an annual tithe (10% of earnings) b) giving to charity = a righteous act (Tzedakah) – will help heal the world (Tikkun olam) – helps others and prepares world for arrival of Messiah c) giving to charity = act of love / kindness (chesed) – Scripture says the world is built on this – hence give tithes
	'Jews should always care for others'	12	For: everyone has been made in the image of God (Genesis 1) – therefore everyone is equal – therefore everyone should be cared for For: justice = a Jewish key moral principle – therefore all people should be treated fairly For: giving to charity = a righteous act (Tzedakah) – will help heal the world (Tikkun olam) Against: other aspects of Judaism are more important – e.g.: celebrating Shabbat – is about your relationship with God Against: looking after your family is more important Against: prayer is more important – e.g.: Shema – belief in the One God
Key Moral Principles	Give two of the key moral principles of Judaism	2	a) justice b) charity
Mitzvots & Laws	Explain two ways in which the belief that the mitzvot are the commands of God influences Jews today	4	a) have to keep them as they're God's commands – e.g.: 10 Commandments (Exodus 20) b) laws unite Jews – gives Jews their identity – e.g.: dress code & style of worship
	Explain two ways in which the Ten Commandments influence Jews today	4	a) have to obey God's rules – obedience to Jewish religion – Exodus 19: "All that the Eternal has spoken, we will do" b) gives Jews their identity – e.g.: rest and reflect on God at Shabbat
	Explain two ways in which dietary laws are important to Jews	5	a) Torah states what Jews can eat (Leviticus 11) - eat meat from animals which chew cud & have split hooves + seafood must have fins & scales b) Torah states how food should be prepared (Leviticus 17) – no blood in meat
	Explain two Jewish dietary laws	4	a) ' Kosher ' = 'fit' (to eat) – food that Jews can eat – e.g.: animals with cloven hooves & eat the cud (cows & sheep!) – fish with fins & scales b) can't mix milk & meat – based on laws in the Torah – need to separate them in preparing food, cooking, eating, washing & storing utensils

	'Jews do not have to follow all of the mitzvot' (Jewish laws)	12	<p>For: RJs say mitzvots are outdated & unrealistic – need to be re-interpreted for 21st century – e.g.: don't drink wine not pressed (made) by a Jew</p> <p>For: can only keep some of the mitzvots in the Temple – Temple destroyed nearly 2000 year ago – so impossible to keep them</p> <p>For: healing the world is more important (Tikkun olam) - prepares world for arrival of Messiah</p> <p>For: may have to break a law in order to fulfil Pikuach Nefesh – e.g.: drive someone to the hospital on Shabbat – life more important than law</p> <p>Against: the 613 laws will help improve relationships between humans and between us & God</p> <p>Against: OJs believe they have laws for a reason – laws give guidance on how to live – e.g.: do not murder (Exodus 20) – help keep God's laws</p> <p>Against: keep laws & go to Gan Eden (paradise)</p> <p>Against: nothing more important than God – God's laws help Jews maintain this belief</p>
	'Jews need a rabbi to guide and lead them'	12	<p>For: Rabbi supports spiritual welfare of the congregation</p> <p>For: Rabbi prepares children for Bar & Bat Mitzvah</p> <p>For: Rabbi will settle arguments / disputes regarding Jewish law</p> <p>Against: Jewish people can lead synagogue worship</p> <p>Against: Cantor / Chazzan will often lead synagogue services</p> <p>Against: Cantor / Chazzan will often assist the Rabbi with their duties anyway</p>
	'Keeping the 10 Commandments is the most important part of Judaism'	12	<p>For: the 10 Commandments & 603 other laws will help improve relationships between humans and between us & God</p> <p>For: OJs believe they have laws for a reason – laws give guidance on how to live – e.g.: do not murder (Exodus 20) – are a covenant from God</p> <p>For: keep laws & go to Gan Eden (paradise)</p> <p>For: nothing more important than God – God's laws help Jews maintain this belief</p> <p>Against: healing the world is more important (Tikkun olam) - prepares world for arrival of Messiah</p> <p>Against: may have to break a law in order to fulfil Pikuach Nefesh – e.g.: drive someone to the hospital on Shabbat – life more important than Commandments</p> <p>Against: Shema is more important – basic belief about the oneness of God – hence kept in Mezuzah & Tefillin</p>
Messiah	Explain two Jewish teachings about the Messiah	5	<p>a) is the 'Anointed one' / 'Chosen One' – descendent of King David (Isaiah 11) – he'll have no fear</p> <p>b) will restore Israel – gather Jews back to Israel – restore the religious court & Jewish law</p>
Death & Life After Death	'The resurrection is not an important Jewish belief.'	12	<p>For: little mention in Scripture – if that important then would appear more</p> <p>For: RJs don't think resurrection is important – many Jews can't agree on what will happen – some say only the good will be resurrected – others say both good & bad will be resurrected</p> <p>For: main focus for Jews is how to lead a good life – the 613 mitzvots</p> <p>Against: need resurrection to reward the good and punish the bad – justice!</p> <p>Against: Daniel 12 says its important – "<i>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake</i>"</p> <p>Against: OJs believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead – Gan Eden, Sheol & Gehenna</p>
	Explain two different Jewish beliefs about resurrection	5	<p>a) some OJs believe in resurrection of soul – not resurrection of the body – other OJs believe body will also be resurrected (therefore no cremations!)</p> <p>b) other Jews think we'll never really know therefore should just focus on how we live this life</p>
	Explain two Jewish beliefs about Judgement	5	<p>a) will be judged on how they have lived their life – everyone has freewill – must take responsibility for your actions</p> <p>b) reward = Gan Eden – punishment = Gehenna (Daniel 12)</p>

	Explain two Jewish rituals that occur after a Jew has died	4	a) body is washed & prepared by a Jewish 'specialist' (Chevre Kaddisha) – body buried in simple wooden coffin b) mourning begins with reciting the Kaddish - mourning takes place for 30 days after funeral – known as ' Sheloshim '
	Explain two Jewish beliefs about the afterlife	5	a) death is not the end – soul will continue to exist (soul = immortal) – both OJs and RJs believe this b) God will judge everyone on how they have lived their life – good people rewarded with heaven (Gan Eden) – possibly similar to the world in Genesis 1 – evil people will be punished (RJs believe hell is for cleansing & being made ready for heaven)
Festivals	Give two reasons why Jews celebrate Brit Milah	2	a) circumcision = sign of belonging to Jewish faith b) break the covenant if Jews don't do this
	Explain two ways that Jews celebrate Pesach	4	a) home is prepared / cleaned – all yeast is removed – special cutlery used b) Seder table is set – Haggadah (Jewish text that states order of the meal), 2 x candles, spare cup for Elijah, salt water, red wine
	Explain two ways that Jews celebrate Shabbat in the home	4	a) mother lights 2 x candles to welcome start of Shabbat – father / man of the house recites Kiddush over the wine to sanctify (make holy) Shabbat b) special meal on the Friday night & study the Torah
	Explain two ways that Jews celebrate Brit Milah	4	a) Mohel (trained circumciser) performs the circumcision – foreskin of baby boy is removed – done 8 days after birth b) Women not present during ceremony – godmother takes baby from its mother & carries baby on a cushion to the room where it takes place
	'Taking part is the best way to learn about festivals'	12	For: helps young children focus on the festival – could be considered more fun & engaging For: children learn better by 'doing' / taking part than just reading about the it For: feel like they have an important role to play in the festival Against: some people are shy and may feel intimidated by taking part Against: celebrating the festivals may be considered tedious for a child Against: could result in some children turning their back on their religion
	'Shabbat is the most important Jewish festival'	12	For: 10 Commandments (Exodus 20) says to 'Keep the Shabbat holy' – direct instruction from God For: Shabbat important as God rested on the 7 th day after creating the world (Genesis 1) – is important to rest from work & spend time with family & God For: a time to concentrate on God through prayer & study of Torah – Shabbat is part of the Jewish identity Against: Pesach is more important - it celebrates escape from Egypt & their freedom - allows Jews to remember their past - how their ancestors were slaves in Egypt Against: are more important festivals – e.g.: Yom Kippur & Rosh Hashanah – these focus on repentance / forgiveness / judgement Against: Yom Hashoah provides opportunity to remember & honour the death of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust
	'Pesach is the most important festival'		For: it celebrates escape from Egypt & their freedom - allows Jews to remember their past - how their ancestors were slaves in Egypt For: celebrates 'birth of a nation' – celebration of God's power For: brings Jewish community together – unites them for the 7/8 days of the festival Against: Pesach recalls a past event – no real relevance for today Against: are more important festivals – e.g.: Yom Kippur & Rosh Hashanah – these focus on repentance / forgiveness / judgement Against: Shabbat is more important – is a weekly festival
Explain two reasons why Shabbat is important in Judaism	5	a) is 7 th day of week – God commanded us to rest / reflect on that day (Genesis 1) b) is one of the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20) - is important to rest from work & spend time with family & God	

Synagogue	Explain two ways in which the ark (Aron Hakodesh) is important in the synagogue	5	a) Torah scrolls kept in it – contains Scripture text – used to hold 10 Commandments given by God to Moses b) Ark makes synagogue a holy place – don't sit with your back to the Ark – in UK, Ark placed on eastern wall of synagogue so Jews can face Jerusalem
	Explain two ways that Jews use the synagogue	4	a) celebrate rites of passage / rituals / festivals – e.g.: Shabbat & Yom Kippur b) learn & study – attend lessons in the synagogue – normally taught by the Rabbi – also have meetings & lectures / talks there
	Explain two reasons why the synagogue is important to Jews	4	a) can hear the Torah read here - & listen to Rabbi preach & teach b) place to celebrate festivals – e.g.: Yom Kippur
	Explain two internal features of a synagogue	4	a) Ark (Aron Hakodesh) – east-facing cupboard at front of synagogue – contains Torah scrolls – covered with decorative curtain b) Ner Tamid – eternal light – located above Ark – small lamp kept on all night & day – symbolises God's presence
	Give two reasons why Jews might prefer to worship in a synagogue rather than at home	2	a) 'Synagogue' replaced the Temple (destroyed 2000 years ago) as place of worship b) some Jewish prayers have to be said by at least 10 males
	'You have to go to the synagogue in order to be a Jew'	12	For: some rituals (e.g. Bar Mitzvah) only done in a synagogue For: some festivals require a Jew to attend the synagogue (e.g. Yom Kippur) For: synagogue provides a range of activities and support for Jews from life to death Against: is more to being a Jew than going to the synagogue (e.g. your relationship with God & other people) – are Secular Jews who don't go to it Against: home is important for Jews – many prayers & educating the young done here Against: might live too far from a synagogue – not practical to attend
Sanctity of Life	Explain two Jewish teachings about the sanctity of human life	5	a) all human life is sacred – as comes from God - Genesis 2:7 God " <i>breathed into his nostrils the breath of life</i> " – anyone who takes human life destroys the whole world b) humans made in image of God – Genesis 1: 27 – all humans are equal
Freewill	'Free will means that Jews can behave however they like.'	12	For: freewill = gift from God – need freewill to obey 613 laws – need to take responsibility for our free choices For: without freewill we could not make important decision – Deuteronomy 30: 19 " <i>obeying him ... for that means life to you</i> " For: can't reward / punish people if no freewill – so can behave as they like – but justice will be done Against: are 613 laws – obeying laws restricts choices / freewill - God has expectations of Jews – can't just do what they want Against: Jews are responsible for actions – but have key moral principles to live by – these principles restrict their actions if they are obeyed Against: Noachide laws also restrict freewill – restrict actions of all humans, not just Jews
Covenant	Give two reasons why the promised land is important to Jews	2	a) God gave it to Abraham as part of the covenant b) is one of the 613 mitzvot to live in it
	Explain two reasons why Abraham is important to the Jews	5	a) he is the first patriarch (father) of the Jews (Genesis 12) – Jews can be linked back to him as all Jewish males are circumcised at 8 days old b) God made 3 x covenants with Abraham – the Promised Land – he taught others about the covenants & the One God
	Explain two reasons why Moses is important in Judaism	5	a) only person God spoke to 'face to face' (Deuteronomy 34) – God gave Moses the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20) b) entered into covenant with God – continued on from God's covenant with Abraham
Home & Family	'Observing Jewish rituals in the home is the best way for	12	For: Jewish parents are the main teachers of their children – set the standards & expectations – mum & dad will have different, but complimentary, roles

	a Jewish child to learn about Judaism.'		<p>For: many Jewish rituals / practices are centred in the home – e.g.: Shabbat, Kosher laws</p> <p>For: many Jewish artefacts / objects are in the home – best place to understand their meaning & importance – e.g.: Shabbat candles</p> <p>Against: kids attend Shul to learn about their faith – these sessions are led by Jewish experts – kids therefore have access to higher knowledge & understanding</p> <p>Against: many Jewish rituals / practices are centred in the synagogue – e.g.: Bar / Bat Mitzvah, Yom Kippur</p> <p>Against: Focus of a Jew is on how you live your life – much of this is done outside the home – ethical dilemmas / issues – e.g.: Tzedaka – helping those outside you immediate family</p>
	Explain the role of the father in a Jewish family	4	<p>a) teach his children about the Jewish faith – introduce them to synagogue worship & encourage them to take part in synagogue activities</p> <p>b) teach his son how to wear the Tallit and Tefillin correctly – teach him about the Torah</p>
	'Jewish children should always follow their parents' religion'	12	<p>For: shows respect to the parents by doing so (Exodus 20 – 10 Commandments - 'Honour your parents')</p> <p>For: religion passed down through the mother – for Judaism to survive / continue then children are needed to continue the faith</p> <p>For: won't cause conflict when following Jewish laws – everyone will be in agreement</p> <p>Against: child may not agree with certain aspects of Judaism – may wish to take a more RJ approach than the parents' OJ approach</p> <p>Against: child may fall in love with & wish to marry a non-Jew – should be allowed to decide who they marry</p> <p>Against: have the right & freewill: to choose their own religion</p>
	'The best way for Jews to understand what God is like is by taking part in Jewish family life.'	12	<p>For: Shema prayer on all doors (except toilet) in a family household – reminds them of the oneness of God</p> <p>For: Kosher laws kept (obeyed) in family home remind Jews of God's laws and how God is connected to all aspects of their life</p> <p>For: Shabbat celebration shows that God protects His people (freed Moses / Jews from slavery – Exodus 12)</p> <p>Against: worship & prayer in synagogue teaches Jews about God</p> <p>Against: Jewish scripture makes it clear what God is like – is all a Jew needs</p> <p>Against: worshipping & sharing faith with other Jews will deepen their understanding of God</p>
Torah	'The Torah is out of date'	12	<p>For: written a long time ago – things different back then – many issues / instructions no longer relevant today – e.g.: Leviticus says you can sell your eldest daughter into slavery</p> <p>For: too many laws – people want more freedom today – laws designed to keep things tight / on track – times are different</p> <p>For: only the 10 Commandments are really relevant for today</p> <p>Against: it provides instructions on how to lead a good life – will therefore help Jews get to Gan Eden</p> <p>Against: Jews still live by the laws today – can't be that out of date – as Torah is the Word of God this makes it relevant for all times</p> <p>Against: teaches Jews about their history, the laws & covenants – is what gives Jews their identity</p>
	'The Talmud is the most important sacred text for Jews'	12	<p>For: some OJs study a page of it everyday (Daf Yom) – it's the Word of God</p> <p>For: contributes to the Jewish identity</p> <p>For: explains the laws not covered in the Torah or are a bit vague in the Torah</p> <p>Against: Torah = Word of God – is just as important – given to Moses by God Himself</p> <p>Against: Torah contains information on the covenants, the 613 laws, 10 Commandments, Jewish history</p> <p>Against: Torah teaches Jews how to live a worthy life – helps them feel closer to God</p>

