## LIFE AFTER DEATH

# Judaism Beliefs and Teachings

- 1. Which one of the following is not a place that Jewish teaching says you [1 mark] will go after death?
  - A) Gan Eden

B) Sheol

- C) Olam Ha Ba
- D) Purgatory

2. State two Jewish customs following someone's death.

[2 marks]

Eyes are closed/ body place on floor/ body covered/ lights placed around the deceased's head/ mourner's closed are ripped/ levaya funeral occurs/ mourning rituals observed: shiva

3. Explain two beliefs about the resurrection.

[4 marks]

All Jews will be resurrected on the last day and Israel will be restored. Justice will be delivered by God and each Jew will be treated justly according to how he has lived. This is the start of the life to come. Other Jews do not believe in the resurrection and believe that death is finite or believe in some kind of reincarnation.

4. Explain two things than Jews can learn about God from the Shema. [5 marks]

All Jews will be resurrected on the last day and Israel will be restored. Justice will be delivered by God and each Jew will be treated justly according to how he has lived. This is the start of the life to come. "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt."

#### 5. 'Jews no not need to worry about the afterlife.'

[12 marks]

#### Reasons to agree:

There is very little teaching on the afterlife therefore it is not something Jews should worry about> most Jewish teaching is focussed on this life and following the Mitzvah> Jews should concern themselves with living justly now. Jews do not need to worry because they can think of Gan Eden, the paradise that is awaiting them after death. As God's chosen people, they can be confident of a pleasant time in the 'life to come.'

### Reasons to disagree:

Some Jews believe that the afterlife is eternal and that their eternal fate is decided by their actions on earth and so they should be mindful of the afterlife as they live their lives now. Rabbi Benjamin Blech on his teaching on 'Life after Death' tells the story of a wealthy man who tries to do good after his death to secure a place in paradise only to find that it is too late. God is just and will treat people as their actions deserve