

1. Which one of the following definitions fits the word 'Messiah'? [1 mark]
A) The Special One B) God's Son C) The Golden Child D) The anointed one
2. State two beliefs about the Messianic Age. [2 marks]
There will be world peace/ The Jews will be resurrected/ The Torah will be upheld/ the temple will be rebuilt/ All Jews will be gathered back to Israel
3. Explain two ways that belief in the Messiah helps Jews today. [4 marks]
It gives hope for the future> the world can be an unpleasant place and most news is negative> The Messiah gives hope that God is sending someone to make the world right again. The actions of the Messiah are in line with Tikkun Olam – the Jewish belief that it is morally right for them to heal the world. The belief in the Messiah can motivate them to do this
4. Explain two beliefs about the Messiah. [5 marks]
He will be male> the Tenakh teaches that he will be male 'descendent of King David'
He will bring world peace> *"and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. nation shall not take up sword against nation; they shall never again know war"*

5. 'Belief in the Messiah is just wishful thinking.'

[12 marks]

Reasons to agree:

It has been thousands of years and the Messiah is not here> He would be here by now> he would have come and stopped the Holocaust in WW2. People want to believe in something to give them hope> the idea of a rescuer from God does this> it helps Jews deal with difficult times. Reform Jews would agree with this> reform Jews do not believe in a Messiah> they believe instead that all Jews should be responsible for Tikkun Olam>healing the world.

Reasons to disagree:

The Tenakh states that he will come> Jews believe the Tenakh to be from God so the Messiah must be real> Jews have faith that God is sending him because it says so in his word. The world needs a Messiah> there is such war and poverty and Jews are being persecuted around the world> especially in Europe where reported antisemitic attacks are on the rise> the Messiah must come to make things right. Jews should trust in God and in God's word that the Messiah is a reality and live their lives accordingly.