FREE WILL & MITZVOT

Judaism Beliefs and Teachings

1. How many Mitzvot are there?

[1 mark]

A) 365

B) 248

C) 10

D) 613

2. Give two reasons why the Mitzvot are important to Jews.

[2 marks]

Part of the covenant made with Moses at Sinai/ As part of the covenant God promises the Jews freedom, their response is to follow the Mitzvot/ following them honours God/ they are part of their community and tradition/ they have been followed by Jews for thousands of years.

3. Explain two Jewish teachings about free will.

[4 marks]

It is a gift from God/ Jews have the ability and responsibility to make their own moral decisions/ Jews should use their free will to follow the Mitzvot/honour God/ there are consequences for how Jews use their free will

4. Explain the two different types of Mitzvot.

[5 marks]

Positive and negative: 248 Positive e.g. "Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it Holy"/ "Honour your father and mother. 365 Negative e.g. "do not kill", "do not commit adultery" **or** Ritual and moral. Ritual: between the Jews and God e.g. "Do not make idols" "Do not misuse The Lord's name". Moral: how Jews should treat others e.g. "Do not lie", and "do not kill"

5. 'Jews can do whatever they want.'

[12 marks]

Reasons to agree:

God had given them free will> this is a gift and should be used> it is disrespectful not to use a gift someone has given you and so Jews should use free will how they wish.

Adam and Eve in the Torah were given free reign in the Garden of Eden to eat from any tree except the one in the middle.

God sent Moses to free the Israelites from Pharaoh> they are free and no longer slaves> this is part of the Covenant made with Moses

Reasons to disagree:

Jews have to follow the mitzvot> this is part of the covenant made with Moses at Sinai/ As part of the covenant God promises the Jews freedom, their response is to follow the Mitzvot/

There are 613 Mitzvot that Jews must follow> this is the correct use of their free will. Jews should be obedient to God like Abraham Jews must ensure they follow the 10 Commandments, especially the one relating to the Sabbath, "remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy"