

MARRIAGE & MOURNING

Judaism Practices

1. Which of the following means “good luck” and is said at a Jewish marriage? [1 mark]

- A) Mezuzah B) Menorah C) Mitzvah D) Mazel Tov

2. Give two facts about betrothal. [2 marks]

Bride circles her husband to-be/ blessings over wine/ man places ring on bride to-be’s finger/ ring undecorated, unbroken circle/ Groom “with this ring you are wedding to me in accordance with the laws of Moses and Israel”/ ring on forefinger of right hand then she places it on ring finger of left hand/ happens under the huppah (wedding canopy)

3. Describe two aspects of a Jewish wedding ceremony. [4 marks]

Ketubah is read and signed> marriage contract> four witnesses> read aloud> covers death and divorce

Bride walks around the groom 7 times> 7 = completion/ In reform the circle each other (equality)

Rabbi makes a speech> about the responsibilities of marriage and the couple
7 blessings are said

Bride and groom share a glass of wine

Groom crushed glass underfoot> temple destroyed> joy can be fleeting

Happens under huppah> no sides> let community in> no strength without it

4. Explain two aspects of a Jewish funeral.

[5 mark]

Keri'ah – tearing clothes > these are worn to funeral

7 stops as coffin is carried to grave > shows they don't want to bury

Deceased buried > head facing East > Jerusalem

Those attending fill the grave > place the shovel in the ground so not to pass grief on

They make two lines between which the bereaved walk

5. 'The funeral is the most important part of the Jewish mourning process.'

[12 marks]

Reasons to agree:

- As above -

Reasons to disagree:

Aninut more important – period between death and burial > excused from all commandments > can't bathe etc

Shiv'ah – seven days from closing the grave. Shiv'ah house set up. Sit low to ground, visitors come from synagogue, don't speak until spoken too/ mirrors covered