

## Judaism Practices 2.1-2.3 The importance of and features of a synagogue and different worship styles

1. Which of following is the name of the group of 10 men in the synagogue needed for the daily worship?

[1 mark] A) menorah            B) Mitzvot            C) *minyan*            D) mazel tov

2. Give two reasons why the ark is important to Jews. [2 marks]

It has the Torah scrolls in it. It is on the wall facing Jerusalem/ it represents the Holy of Holies/ The Lions of Judah holding the 10 Commandments are painted above it

3. Explain two different styles of synagogue worship. [4 marks]

Key differences in Orthodox and reform: Men and women have separate sections in orthodox, sit together in reform/ In reform, all face the aron hakodesh, in Orthodox they face the Bimah. In Orthodox the Bimah is central, in reform it is at the front where the aron hakodesh is. In Orthodox no musical instruments, in reform common to have instruments e.g. a organ

4. Explain why two reasons why the synagogue is an important place for Jews today. [5 marks]

Community> all coming together to worship God/ space for saying specific prayers which require a minyan e.g. the Kaddish/ It is a house of worship Bet Tefilah/ It is a place of study/ Jewish children can learn about their religion and history/ space for weddings etc/ it is where the Torah is kept “meditate on the law”

5. ‘Prayers in the synagogue are the most important prayers for Jews.’ [12 marks]

Reasons to agree

Some prayers can only be done in the synagogue with a minyan>e.g. the Kaddish/ It is where the community come together to worship God> Community very important to Jews/ Those in the synagogue will be dressed and ready for prayer/ The rabbi will be present who can guide the prayers/ The cantor will also sing and lead prayers/ Jews can learn prayers at the synagogue so that they can then be done privately or with family

Reasons to disagree

Tefilah literally means to “judge oneself” this is a private matter and can be done anywhere so long as it is done with integrity/ The Shema is done first thing in the morning> to show God is important and be set up to follow the Mitzvot throughout the day + last thing at night so that God is the last thing on their mind before sleep – these cannot be done at the synagogue/ Judaism is a way of life and so practicing it in the home with family is more important than at the synagogue because it shows its importance and how integral it is to life