

0 1

Judaism: Beliefs

0 1 . 1

Which one of the following is the Jewish teaching of ‘saving a life’?

[1 mark]

- A Messiah**
- B Mitzvot**
- C Pikuach Nefesh**
- D Torah**

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

Answer: C: Pikuach Nefesh

0 1 . 2

Give two Jewish beliefs about the nature of God.

[2 marks]

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

One mark for each of two correct points.

Students may include two of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited:

God is one / the creator / law-giver / judge / loving / merciful / eternal / absolute / omnipotent / omnibenevolent / omniscient / omnipresent / transcendent / Shekhinah / holy / redeemer, etc.

0 1 . 3 Explain two ways in which belief in healing the world influences Jews today. **[4 marks]**

Target: AO1:2 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including influence on individuals, communities and societies.

First way

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 2 marks

Second way

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 1 mark
Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate influence – 2 marks

To be a ‘detailed explanation’ the ‘influence’ of the way must be included.

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited.

- Tikkun Olam is healing the world / world repair / role of stewardship given as duty by God / Genesis 1:26 / responsibility to heal, restore, change bringing it closer to the harmonious state for which it was created / ie fix the world.
- Concept found in Mishnah / doing something because it helps create social harmony and a better community / not because it is a law to do so / gave extra protection to the disadvantaged.
- Ethical Mitzvah / Jews have a duty to make the world better for everyone / not just self.
- Aleinu prayer includes hope for the whole world believing in one God / interpreted to mean healing the world / as it is telling humans to physically heal the world, help others and allow goodness of God to shine through.
- Links to belief in Messianic Age / one interpretation of that is that when world is repaired, Messianic Age begins / encouraging healing the world to bring that day nearer.
- Healing the world implies that whilst the world is innately good / God deliberately left room for humans to improve upon his work / Midrash – All that God created, he made to be improved / believing this might make a person more determined to heal the world.
- Leads to social action programmes / tzedakah and acts of kindness.
- Given there are huge issues in the world, eg climate change / belief in healing the world might give motivation that a person should work to fix this problem / as individual or as group / eg by managing own lifestyle / or by raising awareness in others / joining campaigns.
- Might encourage a person to work to right injustices in the world / ie focusing on people not nature / hoping to unite people / bring harmony.
- Some Kabbalistic Jews believe the world is profoundly broken / can only be fixed by human activity which is entirely focused on religious devotion / eg study of scriptures, etc.

0 1 . 4 Explain two Jewish beliefs about the divine presence (Shekhinah).

Refer to sacred writings or another source of Jewish belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

Target: AO1:1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and belief, including beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

First belief

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark
 Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Second belief

Simple explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 1 mark
 Detailed explanation of a relevant and accurate belief – 2 marks

Relevant and accurate reference to sacred writing or another source of Jewish belief and teaching – 1 mark

Students may include some of the following points, but all other relevant points must be credited.

- Belief in presence of God shows God’s immanence / hence Jewish people encouraged to believe God is within the world and active.
- Translates as dwelling or setting found in rabbinic literature / interpretations of scriptural references / so Shekhinah is dwelling or settling of divine presence.
- Represents feminine attributes of presence of God / Shekhinah a feminine word in Hebrew.
- Shekhinah was present as part of the Tabernacle after it had been completed and consecrated / Exodus describes cloud covering the Tent of the Meeting / taken into battle to protect Israelites / dwelling in Holy of Holies in temple in Jerusalem.
- Thought to be shown via a pillar of dust or fire ahead of the Israelites whilst they wandered in the wilderness / guide to Promised Land.
- Shekhinah considered present when people meet in worship or discussion of Torah / if two sit together and the words between them are of the Torah, then the Shekhinah is in their midst (Rabbi Hananiah ben Teradion) / if ten men sit together and occupy themselves with the Law, the Shekhinah rests amongst them (Rabbi Halafta ben Dosa) / whenever ten are gathered in prayer, there the Shekhinah rests – Talmud Sanhedrim 39a.
- Amidah prayer – Blessed are you, God, who returns His presence to Zion.
- Genesis – the Spirit of God moved across the face of the waters / Shekhinah as spirit of God is involved at creation.
- Ezekiel – ‘there was the glory of God before me, as in the vision I had seen in the plain’ / Shekhinah is the glory of God.
- Many Jews believe that Shekinah is present in physical spaces such as the synagogue, temple and places of pilgrimage, etc.

0 1 . 5 ‘The Ten Commandments are the most important part of the Sinai Covenant with Moses.’

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you should:

- refer to Jewish teaching
- give reasoned arguments to support this statement
- give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]
[SPaG 3 marks]

Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

Level	Criteria	Marks
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. References to religion applied to the issue.	10–12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Clear reference to religion.	7–9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons / evidence. Maximum of Level 2 if there is not references to religion.	4–6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1–3
0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0

Students may include some of the following evidence and arguments, but all relevant evidence and arguments must be credited.

Arguments in support

- Decalogue / first ten of all the mitzvot / form the foundation of Jewish ethics, religious and civil law / so must be most important as without proper foundations, nothing else lasts or is strong.
- Many of the Ten Commandments underpin laws in society, for instance do not steal or kill are laws in most societies.
- Ten Commandments have prominence in every synagogue / shows importance of these ten mitzvot / provide a summary of all other mitzvot combined.
- Ten Commandments were the only part of the covenant which God inscribed / more than once / done in stone, which implies their fixed and rigid nature/ and their eternal nature / shows they must not be forgotten or ignored, etc.

Arguments in support of other views

- The laws only have value because the Israelites agreed to keep them / so the most important part of the covenant was the assent of the Israelites / their faith made the Ten Commandments more than just words / brought Ten Commandments to life.
- God promised the Israelites would be God's chosen people / gain special status amongst all nations / thus giving a role to them / this role included them having to keep the commandments, but the role precedes the action.
- God gave Moses all of the mitzvot / not just the Ten Commandments / all are binding so are more important / the Ten Commandments are just the overview rather than the detail / Jewish people need to know the detail.
- The covenant blessed the Israelites / Judaism places great emphasis on receiving God's blessing / eg Amidah (standing prayer) / so this is the most important part of the covenant / as it is the outcome of observing the commandments, etc.

[Plus SPaG 3 marks]