



Jewish Beliefs

Knowledge quizzes



Each page is a different topic and has ten questions listed down the left hand side. The answers are given on the right hand side.

Cover the answers and have a go at answering the questions on a separate piece of paper. Uncover the answers to mark and give yourself a score out of ten.

Record that score on the tracker which is on the next page. Every time you have a go at answering the questions, write your score on the tracker to see your improvements over time.

Quiz 21: The Almighty and the Shekhinah

ANSWER KEY

21.1	What four characteristics do Jews associate with God?	One, creator, law-giver and judge
21.2	What does monotheistic mean?	A belief in one God
21.3	Why do many Jews avoid writing or saying the word God?	They believe it is holy and must not be defaced
21.4	Which important prayer makes clear that God is one?	The Shema
21.5	Who did God give the law to on Mount Sinai?	Moses
21.6	What kind of judge do Jews believe God to be?	A kind and merciful one
21.7	What word refers to the divine presence of God 'settling or dwelling' in the world?	Shekhinah
21.8	What two books are the focus of much Jewish study?	The Torah and the Talmud
21.9	What did the Jewish people build as a result of these words? 'The people must make a sacred Tent for me, so that I may live among them' (Exodus 25:8)	The Tabernacle, a portable temple
21.10	What is the modern Jewish house of prayer called?	Synagogue
21.11	What is a group of ten men (Orthodox) or adults (Reform) praying together known as?	A minyan
21.12	What are the three key areas in which Jews experience the Shekhinah?	Study, worship and prayer

Quiz 25: Life after death, mourning and funerals

TRACKER

Quiz	Date	Score
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Quiz 25: Life after death, mourning and funerals

ANSWER KEY

25.1	What does Olam Ha-Ba mean?	'The world to come' – the afterlife
25.2	What does Olam Ha-Ba mean?	The Garden of Eden; paradise; a place for righteous people who have kept the Mitzvot
25.3	What is Gehinnom?	A place of punishment and the cleansing of souls before they move on to Gan Eden
25.4	Who said, 'I believe with perfect faith that there will be a revival of the dead at the time when it shall please the Creator'?	Rabbi Maimonides in his Thirteen Principles of Faith
25.5	What does Ecclesiastes (12:7) suggest happens after death?	Bodies remain on earth and the spirit or soul returns to God
25.6	What do Orthodox Jews believe will happen to the righteous who have previously died when the Messianic Age begins?	They will be resurrected and live in a restored Israel
25.7	What did Rabbi Maimonides suggest gentiles (non-Jews) would need to do to be rewarded with Gan Eden?	Follow the Seven Laws of Noah
25.8	Why is there much discussion and disagreement in Judaism about the afterlife?	Very little is written about it in the Torah
25.9	Do Jews believe in eternal punishment in the afterlife?	No. Exodus 31:14 suggests the 'soul shall be cut off' but most Jews do not believe this is eternal
25.10	What is the Jewish word for mourning that takes place when someone has died?	Avelut
25.11	What are the five periods of mourning?	Aninut (from death to burial), Shiva (seven days beyond burial), Sheloshim (30 days beyond burial), Yud-bet chodesh (year of mourning for a parent), Yahrzeit (the anniversary of death)
25.12	What are men usually buried with?	Their tallit, usually with the tassels that signify the Mitzvot cut off, as it is no longer necessary

Quiz 21: The Almighty and the Shekhinah

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Quiz 22: Messiahship

ANSWER KEY

22.1	What does Mashiach, or Messiah, literally mean?	Anointed one
22.2	Who would the Messiah be a descendant of?	King David
22.3	What would the Messiah be well-versed in and obedient of?	The law
22.4	What is Olam Ha-Ba?	The Messianic Age, a time of peace
22.5	Where do Orthodox Jews believe the Messiah will restore as their kingdom?	Israel, in particular Jerusalem
22.6	What will the Messiah rebuild?	The Temple
22.7	What is the Orthodox understanding of Olam Ha-Ba?	The Messiah will have come and will be ruling
22.8	What is the Reform/Liberal understanding of Olam Ha-Ba?	It will be a better time for the Jewish people, with peace and greater harmony in the world
22.9	When will the Messiah come?	Some believe it is possible in every generation; others say it will be at a time predetermined by God; some say it will be when most needed or most deserved
22.10	How do many Jews today work towards the Messianic Age?	They work to bring about a better world, socially, politically and environmentally
22.11	What is tikkun olam?	Doing good in the world – acts of kindness to repair the world
22.12	Why do Jews reject the idea that Jesus was the Messiah?	He did not fulfil their expectations of what the Messiah should be

Quiz 24: Mitzvot and the sanctity of life

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Quiz 24: Mitzvot and the sanctity of life

ANSWER KEY

24.1	What does the word Mitzvot mean?	Laws or commandments
24.2	How many Mitzvot are there in the Torah?	613
24.3	What do Jews believe will happen to those who use free will to follow the Mitzvot?	They will be rewarded
24.4	What do Jews believe will happen to those who use free will to go against the Mitzvot?	They will be punished
24.5	Why do Jews keep the Mitzvot?	God requires it; to show gratitude to God; to live life in the best way with God
24.6	What is the Mitzvah between humans?	'Good deeds' – acts of loving kindness (gemilut hasadim)
24.7	What does the Talmud compare the taking of one human life to?	Destroying the entire world, as all people are descended from a single person
24.8	Why do Jews consider life to be holy and sacred (Genesis 1:27)?	'So God created human beings, making them to be like himself' – they are created in the image and likeness of God
24.9	What is the principle of pikuach nefesh?	The preservation of human life overrides nearly all other Mitzvot (laws)
24.10	What examples does the Talmud give of permissible 'work' on the Sabbath?	Saving a drowning child, and breaking a door down, moving rubble and extinguishing a fire to save lives
24.11	How do the majority of Jews view euthanasia?	They are against it – they are not permitted to do anything to hasten death, even to prevent suffering
24.12	How do the majority of Jews view abortions to save the life of the mother?	They are mandatory – the foetus is only considered a human life when it emerges from the birth canal

Quiz 22: Messiahship

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Quiz 23: Covenant

ANSWER KEY

23.1	What does the word 'covenant' mean?	An agreement between two parties that benefits both and has certain conditions - i.e. between God and the Jewish people
23.2	Who is promised a great nation for leaving his home and family?	Abraham
23.3	What physical sign sealed the covenant?	The circumcision of Abraham and all the males
23.4	What is the name of the miraculous son (his parents were very old) born to Abraham and Sarah?	Isaac
23.5	How did Isaac nearly die?	God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice His son, but sent an angel at the last minute to stop it
23.6	Does the Promised Land exist today?	Not as such. Israel, in particular Jerusalem, remains troubled and contested, but Jews pray for a peaceful return of the kingdom one day
23.7	Who are the three main patriarchs of Judaism?	Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel)
23.8	What message did God give to Moses at the burning bush?	To return to Egypt and lead his people to freedom
23.9	What miracle allowed the Hebrew people to escape after the tenth plague?	The parting of the Red Sea
23.10	What was given to Moses on Mount Sinai?	The Mitzvot (law) starting with the Ten Commandments/Decalogue
23.11	Who was present with Moses on Mount Sinai?	Jews believe every Jewish soul was present, so all are bound by this covenant
23.12	When are the Ten Commandments read in the synagogue today?	Three times a year - during the reading of Exodus, Deuteronomy and on Shavuot

Quiz 23: Covenant

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