

Exploring Traditions: A Journey into Judaism

Learning objective: To describe and explain the significance of key beliefs and practices within the Jewish faith.

Use the prompts below to structure your report on Judaism. Remember to use formal, respectful language and provide reasons for the traditions you describe.

Judaism is one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions, with a rich history that has shaped many traditions celebrated today.

Word bank: synagogue · Torah · Shabbat · sacred · community · tradition · covenant · significance · furthermore · consequently · in contrast · symbolises

1. The Synagogue: Describe the role of a synagogue in the Jewish community. You could start by saying: A synagogue is a place of worship where... (2 marks)

2. The Torah: Explain why the Torah is considered sacred. Why might the way it is handled be significant? Start with: The Torah is the most holy book in Judaism because... (3 marks)

3. Shabbat: Compare and contrast the activities of a typical weekday with the practices observed during Shabbat. Start with: Shabbat is a special time of rest that begins on... (3 marks)

4. Beliefs: Justify why Jewish people follow specific laws or commandments (mitzvot). Start with: Following the mitzvot is important to Jewish people because... (2 marks)

5. Reflection: Explain why it is important for different communities to have their own unique traditions. Start with: Traditions are valuable because they... (2 marks)

6. Evaluation: What might happen if a community stopped passing down its ancient stories and practices to the next generation? Start with: If these traditions were forgotten, then... (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, who loves history and stories. Write a short diary entry from her perspective explaining why she finds the history of the Jewish faith so fascinating. Use at least three words from the word bank in your writing.