

Living the Faith: Understanding Judaism

Learning objective: To explain the significance of key beliefs and practices in Judaism, demonstrating a deep understanding of how faith influences daily life and community.

Use this scaffold to structure an insightful essay about Judaism. Ensure you use the word bank to link your ideas and provide evidence for your points where possible.

Judaism is a historic monotheistic faith that centres on the belief in one God and the importance of following the covenant through sacred traditions and ethical living.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in accordance with · significantly · symbolises · demonstrates · nevertheless · traditionally · commemorates · intertwined

1. How does the concept of 'Covenant' (Brit) shape the relationship between Jewish people and their faith? Start by saying: The concept of the Covenant is fundamental because... (3 marks)

2. Explain why the Shabbat is considered a vital period of rest and reflection. Start by saying: Shabbat serves as a crucial time for families to... (3 marks)

3. Describe the significance of the Torah within the Synagogue and personal life. Start by saying: The Torah is held in high esteem because it... (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how different Jewish traditions might observe Mitzvot (commandments) in modern life. Start by saying: While all Jewish communities value Mitzvot, the interpretation can vary as... (4 marks)

5. Justify why festivals like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are essential for spiritual renewal. Start by saying: These High Holy Days are essential because they provide... (4 marks)

6. What might happen if the community aspects of Judaism, such as gathering in the Synagogue, were removed? Start by saying: If community gatherings were absent, the impact on Jewish identity would be... (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are interviewing a member of the Jewish community. Write a list of five sophisticated questions you would ask to better understand how their faith influences their decisions in the modern world. Then, write a paragraph reflecting on why it is important for us to learn about the beliefs of others to foster a harmonious society.