Exploring Traditions and Beliefs in Judaism

Learning objective: To understand and describe the key beliefs, practices, and traditions of Judaism, using accurate vocabulary.

Use the writing frame below to structure your explanation of Judaism. Ensure you include specific terminology and reflect on the importance of these practices to Jewish people today.

Judaism is one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions, founded on the belief in one God and a special covenant between God and the Jewish people.

Word bank: Monotheism · Torah · Synagogue · Shabbat · Covenant · Mitzvot · Furthermore · Consequently · Significantly · In addition

1. The Sacred Texts: Describe the role of the Torah in Judaism. You might begin with: The Torah is considered the most sacred text in Judaism because... (2 marks)

2. Places of Worship: Explain the significance of the synagogue. You might begin with: A synagogue serves as a central place for the community to gather for prayer and study; specifically, it contains... (2 marks)

3. Practicing Faith: Choose one festival or tradition (such as Shabbat or Hanukkah) and explain how it is observed. You might begin with: One important tradition in Judaism is Shabbat, which is observed by... (3 marks)

4. Living by Mitzvot: Why are Mitzvot important to Jewish life? You might begin with: Mitzvot are commandments or duties that guide Jewish people in their daily lives by... (3 marks)

5. Reflection: What have you learned about the importance of community in Judaism? You might begin with: From my research, I have discovered that community is vital to Judaism because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare the concept of a 'covenant' in Judaism to a promise or agreement in your own life. How do these agreements shape the way people behave towards one another?