

Shabbat and holidays

- 1) Why is the Sabbath considered a cornerstone of Jewish tradition? How is it observed traditionally? Why does it have meaning for our society?
- 2) What is the blessing recited over candles and when are they kindled?
- 3) What is Kiddush? On what occasions is wine used in Jewish ritual?
- 4) What is ha-motzi? Why are two challot used on Shabbat eve?
- 5) What is havdalla? What ceremonial objects are used?
- 6) What are the ways that a Jewish individual/family might observe the Shabbat in home and in synagogue?
- 7) How does the Jewish calendar differ from the civil calendar? What is the calendar called?
- 8) When does the day begin according to the Jewish calendar? Why?
- 9) Name the months of the year and the major holiday[s] that occur in those months.
- 10) What is the meaning of Rosh Chodesh? What are the prayers that are chanted for it?

Holidays

- 11) What is the Yizkor service and how often is Yizkor recited during the year?
- 12) What is the meaning of Rosh Hashannah and when does it occur?
- 13) When is the shofar blown and what does it symbolize?
- 14) What are some of the special prayers recited on Rosh Hashannah?
- 15) What are Yamin Noraim and when do they take place? How are they observed?
- 16) What is Shabbat Shuva?
- 17) What is the importance of Yom Kippur? Why do we fast? What else do we refrain from doing, and why?
- 18) What are some of the special prayers recited on Yom Kippur? What are the 5 special services observed?
- 19) Explain how Jews “confess” their personal transgressions and how do they “repent”? What is the nature of “sin” for Judaism?.
- 20) What is Kol Nidre?
- 21) What is Sukkot and its significance? How is it celebrated?
- 22) What are the four species and what do they represent?
- 23) What is Hol Ha-moed?
- 24) What is Shemini Atzeret and what prayers are associated with it?
- 25) What is Simchat Torah and what is its significance?

- 26) What is Purim? What is the Megillah and what are certain unique features about it?
- 27) What is the meaning of Pesach and the significance of the holiday? What is the Torah source of its observance?
- 28) What is a Seder and what are the symbols that are used to celebrate it?
- 29) What is the Haggadah?
- 30) What is Chametz and what are the requirements concerning it?
- 31) Why is the Biblical text, "The Song of Songs," read during Passover?
- 32) What does "Counting the Omer" mean?
- 33) What is the significance of Lag b'Omer?
- 34) What does Shavuot mean, and what is its significance? Why is the book of Ruth read during Shavuot?
- 35) Name the Ten Commandments; how do the first five differ from the second five?
- 36) What is the difference of the Kiddush on Shabbat and holidays?
- 37) What is Tisha b'Av and when does it occur?
- 38) What is Tu B'shevat?
- 39) What is Tisha B'av? What is its significance for us today?
- 40) How does Hannukah differ from the major holidays? How is it like Purim, and how does it differ?
- 41) In what order are the candles kindled on Hanukah?

Questions on the Lifetime of a Jew

- 42) What is the meaning of Brit Milah? Pidyon haBen?
- 43) When is a Jewish girl named? When is a boy named? What are the customs of naming children?
- 44) What does a Bar/Bat Mitzvah mean?
- 45) What is a mitzvah? How many are there? Give an example of a few.
- 46) Why is it essential to continue Jewish education throughout our lifetime?
- 47) What are Tefillin and when are they worn?
- 48) What is the Tallit and when is it worn?
- 49) What is a Chuppah? What is a Ketubah?
- 50) What is special about the Jewish ring ceremony and the ring itself?
- 51) Why is a glass broken at the conclusion of a marriage ceremony?
- 52) What is the position on divorce? What is a 'get'?
- 53) What is keriah?
- 54) What are Shivah and Shloshim? An unveiling?
- 55) What is a Yahrzeit and how is it observed?

- 56) What is Kaddish and its meaning? When is it recited?
- 57) What are the Jewish attitudes and beliefs about Heaven and Hell?
- 58) Name different forms of Kaddish.

The siddur/prayer book

- 59) What is a siddur? A machzor?
- 60) How is a service organized? What are the different sections of a service? What do each section of a service mean to do?
- 61) What is the amida? The shema? What are the components of a morning service?
- 62) What is a blessing? How does a prayer conclude?
- 63) What are the source materials for much of liturgy? give examples
- 64) What extra prayers are chanted on Shabbat?
- 65) What is the Hallel service?

The Hebrew Bible

- 66) What are the three main divisions of Bible text, and what are their names (in Hebrew)
- 67) Name the 5 books of Moses; what took place at Mt. Sinai?
- 68) Who were the prophets? Identify the major prophets and study some of their texts
- 69) Describe the monarchy in ancient Israel. Who were the first three kings? What happened to the monarchies?
- 70) What is a sidrah? A haftorah?
- 71) Why is the Hebrew Bible not referred to as 'the Old Testament'?
- 72) What is your understanding of the Hebrew Bible's authorship?
- 73) What is the Talmud? Why is it called the Oral Torah?

The Synagogue

- 74) What is the Ner Tamid?
- 75) What do you know about the Aron Kodesh?
- 76) What is an aliya?
- 77) What is a minyan, and why does it exist?
- 78) Who is a Kohen, a Levi, and Yisrael, and what are their roles in a traditional setting?
- 79) How is a Torah written?

The Home

- 80) What is halacha? What roles does it play in the Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform, and Renewal movements?
- 81) What does “keeping Kosher” mean? What parts of this do you already do? Which practice might you consider adopting? What role might ‘keeping Kosher’ play in a Jewish person’s life?
- 82) What are the characteristics that are required for an animal to be Kosher? What is the textual basis for these characteristics?
- 83) What are the characteristics of fish to be kosher?
- 84) What are the ritual objects that are basic to a Jewish home?
- 85) What is a Mezzuzah
- 86) What is Gemilut Chassidim?
- 87) What is hachnasat orchim? Who was the model in the Torah for this practice?
- 88) What is Birchat Hamazon?

Jewish ideas

- 89) What do Jews mean about being “the chosen people”?
- 90) What are Jewish views concerning Jesus? Christianity? What has been the history between Jews and other faith traditions?
- 91) What is Tzedukah? How does it fit into one’s life? Why is it important?
- 92) What is Zionism? How did it develop?