

NAME: _____

RE TEACHER _____

AQA RELIGIOUS STUDIES

JEWISH PRACTICES

THE SYNAGOGUE

1. The synagogue is the Jewish **place of worship**. It resembles the **Jewish Temple in Jerusalem** which was destroyed by the Babylonians (587BCE) and again by the Romans (70CE). It is known as a '**House of Prayer**.'
2. The Synagogue is sometimes called a '**shul**' (meaning school or place of learning). Many young people study in the 'shul' attempting to learn the **613 mitzvot** in preparation for their coming of age (**bar/bat mitzvah**).
3. Most synagogues have a social hall in which Jews come together to celebrate important occasions or engage in fundraising and charity work. Many Jews support **World Jewish Relief** when natural disasters take place.
4. A **minyan** is needed for a Jewish prayer service. This is a group of **at least 10 adults**.
5. In Orthodox Synagogues the minyan must consist of 10 men over the age of 13. **Men and women sit separately** from one another in an Orthodox Synagogue in order to remove all distractions and focus on G-d.
6. The second of the Ten Commandments forbids idols of any kind so there are **no images** of people in Synagogues.

The '**Star of David**' reminds Jews of their past and their '**identity**'



The '**Menorah**' contains nine candlesticks relating to **Jewish Festivals**



INSIDE THE SYNAGOGUE

7. **Aron Hakodesh** – Represents the '**Ark of the Covenant**' where the Ten Commandments were originally kept by Moses. It is the most important part of a synagogue as the Torah scrolls are kept here
8. **Bimah** – The platform from which the Torah scrolls are read... It is raised to symbolise the authority of the law as it comes directly from G-d... This links to the **Covenant at Sinai** where Moses receives the law up a mountain.
9. **Parochet** – The curtain drawn across the Ark to keep the Torah scrolls hidden... This represents the original veil which existed in the Temple separating the people from the '**holy of holies**'... Where the Shekinah dwelled.
10. **Ner Tamid** – The **ever burning light**... This is a candle which is always kept burning in the synagogue. It is lit next to the Aron Hakodesh to remind all Jews that the Torah is the 'light of the world'.

WORSHIP

Orthodox Jews

Orthodox Jews pray three times a day (morning, afternoon and evening). This is often inside the synagogue and will be led by a rabbi, cantor or member of the congregation. The service is in Hebrew and prayers are read from the siddur.



Reform Jews

Reform Jews pray less frequently but will go to the synagogue for Sabbath and for festivals. Women can be as involved in men at all times (they can even be rabbis!) Services can be in their normal spoken languages as they sit together.

PRAYER

11. **The Shema** – Orthodox Jews recite the Shema every day. This prayer is also the Jewish statement of belief...
‘Hear O Israel, the LORD our G-d, the LORD is one...’ It reminds them of their identity and relationship with G-d.
12. Some of the words in the Shema are often contained in the **tefillin** as it is attached to the wearers arm and head.
13. **The Amidah** – The ‘standing prayer’ is the central prayer of Jewish worship at the centre of the prayer service.
The prayer consists of 19 blessings (three asking for mercy, 13 for personal intentions and three for giving praise)
14. **The Kaddish** – A prayer used at times of mourning that gives praise to G-d and asks for peace



The Tallit

A prayer shawl designed to clothe a person in holiness...
A tassel called a tzitzit is attached to each corner to represent the 613 mitzvot



The Kippah

A skull cap worn by all male Jews inside a synagogue.
Some Orthodox Jews wear them outside too. Women sometimes wear scarves



The Tefillin

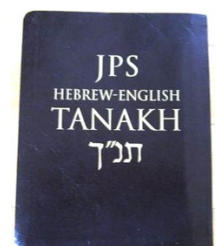
Leather boxes attached to the wearers arm and head containing scripture. It reminds Jews to concentrate and pray from the heart

THE TENAKH...

15. **The TeNaKh** - The Jewish Holy Book (TNK) comprised of the Torah (T), Nevi'im (N) and Ketuvim (K)
16. **Torah** – The five books of ‘**Law**’ containing 613 mitzvot (248 positive and 365 negative) received by Moses
17. **Nevi'im** – ‘**Prophets**’ speaking for G-d over the centuries, helping the Jewish people to turn back to YHWH
18. **Ketuvim** – ‘**Writings**’ are a collection of the Jewish peoples’ most special memories, poems, songs and sayings



The Jewish Scriptures (Tanakh)		
The Law	The Prophets	The Writings
Torah (Pentateuch) Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Former Prophets Joshua Judges Samuel (1 & 2) Kings (1 & 2) Latter Prophets Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel The Twelve (Minor Prophets)	Poetry Psalms Proverbs Job Five Rolls Song of Songs Ruth Lamentations Esther Ecclesiastes Historical Daniel Ezra-Nehemiah Chronicles (1 & 2)



SHABBAT



- Shabbat begins when the sun sets on **Friday evening** each week
- It is welcomed into the home **like a bride meeting her husband**
- The mother lights **two candles** 1) ‘Remember the Sabbath’ 2) ‘Keep it holy’
- Challah bread (made with eggs) is shared to remember that G-d provides
- A Kiddush Blessing is said over wine (giving thanks to G-d for Shabbat)
- No work is done over Shabbat... A **day of rest** just for family and friends
- Shabbat ends with the **Havdalah service** as the sun sets on Saturday evening

Shabbat is sometimes welcomed into the Synagogue on Friday evening (like a bride meets her husband) with a short prayer service. Most Jews attend morning service in the Synagogue on a Saturday. The Torah is taken from the Aron Hakodesh and held up from the Bimah as the congregation stand to greet it. The Torah is paraded around the synagogue as Jews brush it with their tzitzit because the law ‘**is sweet like honey**’ (Ezekiel 3: 3). The daily reading (**sidra**) is read from the bimah and then Jews depart wishing one another ‘**Shabbat Shalom**’ (a peaceful Sabbath)

BRIT MILAH



- Brit Milah means 'covenant cutting'... This is an ancient Jewish ritual performed on new-born boys (8 days of age) enabling them to share in the covenant with Abraham
- Brit Milah involves 1) naming ceremony 2) circumcision 3) redemption of first born son
- A trained circumciser (**mohel**) performs the circumcision
- 'Every male among you shall be circumcised at the age of 8 days' (Genesis)**
- 'Any male who is uncircumcised shall be cut off he has broken my covenant' (Genesis)**
- New-born babies are brought to the synagogue on their first Shabbat for a blessing
- Brit Milah is an important ceremony... It welcomes a child into the Jewish community

BAR MITZVAH



- A **Bar Mitzvah** is a celebration which marks the coming of age for a Jewish boy at 13yrs
- A **Bat Mitzvah** is a celebration for a girls coming of age at 12yrs old (quicker maturity)
- These terms literally mean **'Son/Daughter of the Commandment'**
- An Orthodox Jewish boy will have the honour of **reading from the Torah in public** for the first time. The boy may also lead prayers, make a speech and wear a tallit for the first time. This is done inside the Synagogue and is usually followed by a big celebration
- In Reform Jewish synagogues girls are also able to read from the Torah and lead prayer services. In the Orthodox tradition girls would not be permitted to lead in the synagogue

MARRIAGE



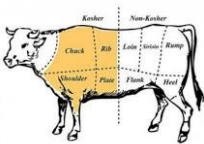
- Jews believe that when **'two become one flesh' (Genesis)** their **souls fuse** together
- Kiddushin** lasts for 12 months before the wedding. It means 'made holy' (the couple prepare for marriage but do not live together or have intercourse in this time)
- A wedding agreement (**Ketubah**) is drawn up during this time in case of divorce
- During the wedding ceremony the man stands underneath the **Chuppah** (symbolising the family house) facing Jerusalem... The bride circles him three times... A ring is exchanged and a rabbi says seven blessings... The husband smashes a glass under his foot to acknowledge the destruction of the Temple... Witnesses shout **'Mazel Tov'!**

MOURNING THE DEAD



- Jews believe that nobody should die on their own. A Jew will always attempt to make a final confession and recite the **Shema** before they die
- When a family member has died Jews will tear a part of their clothes as Jacob once did Saying **'Blessed are you LORD our G-d, King of the Universe, the True Judge'** accepting the death... When a child dies a **tear in the clothes** is made over the parent's heart
- Jews believe the soul remains in the body until burial... There are no rules at this time
- Shiva** is a **seven day period of intense mourning** following the burial... **Mirrors** are covered... Sit on **low stools**... **Prayer services** are said three times a day (minyan)
- 30 days of lesser mourning** follows... Normal life resumes... Daily prayer said in the synagogue (**Kaddish**)... No parties, music or cutting of hair
- The **mourning period lasts for a 12 months**... A **headstone** MUST be used for the grave so that the person is remembered... Visitors leave **stones** to show they have been

DIETARY LAWS



- Kosher** food is 'clean' food that meets the requirements of Jewish Laws.
- Trefah** food is food that is forbidden to eat. The word trefah means 'torn'.
- Certain parts of animals are **ALWAYS** considered to be trefah (bladders, intestines etc.)
- 'You must not boil a kid in its mother's milk' (Exodus 23)**
- 'The blood is the life... Do not eat the life with the flesh' (Deuteronomy 12)**
- Orthodox Jews believe all dietary laws should be followed and take care preparing food, separate cooking utensils etc. The body is a temple and must be respected
- Many Reform Jews believe that the eco-Kashrum movement for the ethical treatment of animals is within the spirit of the mitzvot and all that is required

ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR



19. **Rosh Hashanah** marks the start of the **Jewish New Year**. It is a **time of judgement** and for **renewal**.
20. **Yom Kippur** is **ten days after** the first day of Rosh Hashanah... This is known as the '**Day of Atonement**'... It is the holiest day of the year in the Jewish calendar.
21. During Yom Kippur **no work is done**... Jews **fast for 25 hours**... Leather shoes, bathing and sexual intercourse are all forbidden... Jews **wear white** as a symbol of purity.
22. On Yom Kippur G-d seals the book of judgement and people are left to face the consequences of their actions in the coming year.
23. The days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are called '**Days of Awe**'... During this time many Jews do acts of charity and spend time in prayer seeking forgiveness for sins committed that year.

PESACH



24. **Pesach** is more commonly known as **Passover**. It recalls the night that G-d sent the tenth and final plague of Egypt to Pharaoh. The Jewish people used lamb's blood to mark their doorframes so that G-d '**passed over**' them but G-d took the lives of the firstborn Egyptian children.
25. Passover led to the Jewish people's freedom from slavery in Egypt. Moses led them across the Reed Sea in the Exodus. They became one people, united under one leader and one G-d.
26. Passover is a celebration of **Jewish identity**. It is the festival celebrating their **freedom from slavery** and their becoming a **chosen people** in a **promised land**.
27. The festival lasts for seven days... During this time all Jews eat **unleavened bread** to remember that their ancestors in Egypt did not have time for the bread to rise... Preparation for Passover involves removing all leaven from the house.
28. Passover is celebrated with the **Seder Plate**... The **Lamb's bone** reminds them of sacrifice... **Red wine** reminds them of the lamb's blood above their doors... **Bitter herbs** reminds them of time in slavery... **Salt water** of tears
29. During this meal the youngest child will ask scripted questions to learn about the faith... The oldest Jewish male at the table will respond from a special book (**the Haggadah**)... Four blessings are said over wine to represent the four freedoms promised by G-d to the Jewish people
30. The Passover Festival is an opportunity for older generations to share the history of their faith and pass on their religious traditions.

Key words

Synagogue	A building for Jewish public prayer, study and gathering
Minyan	A group of at least ten adults; the minimum number of Jews required for a Jewish religious service
Menorah	A many-branched candle stick that holds either seven or nine candles
Star of David	Symbol of Judaism said to represent the shield of King David who ruled Israel in the 10 th Century BCE
Bimah	A platform in a synagogue from which the Torah is read
Aron Hakodesh	The Ark – The holiest part of the synagogue which contains the Torah scrolls
Rabbi	A Jewish religious leader and teacher
Ner Tamid	Eternal light; a light which is kept burning in the synagogue above the Ark
Orthodox Jews	Jews who emphasise the importance of following the laws and guidance from the Torah; they believe the Torah was given directly from God to Moses, so should be followed as closely as possible
Reform Jews	Jews who believe the laws and guidance in the Torah can be adapted for modern times; they believe the Torah was inspired by God but written by humans, so can be interpreted according to the times
Cantor	A person who leads or chants prayers in the synagogue
Tallit	A prayer shawl
Tefillin	Small leather boxes containing extracts from the Torah, strapped to the wearers arm and forehead for morning prayers
Amidah	Also known as the standing prayer, it is the central prayer of Jewish worship
Shabbat	The Jewish hold day of the week; a day of spiritual renewal starting shortly before sunset on Friday and continuing until sunset on Saturday
Tenakh (TNK)	The 24 books of Jewish scripture
Torah	1) The five books revealed by G-d to Moses 2) The first section of the Tenakh (the Jewish Holy Book) and the Jewish written law
Nevi'im	The second section of the Tenakh; the prophets
Ketuvim	The third section of the Tenakh; the writings
Mishnah	The first written version of Jewish verbal law; part of the Talmud
Gemara	A commentary on the Mishnah; part of the Talmud
Talmud	A commentary by the Rabbis on the Torah – it consists of the Mishnah and the Gemara together in one collection
Rituals	Religious ceremonies which are performed according to a set pattern
Brit Milah	Ceremony of male circumcision; the removal of the foreskin for religious reasons
Bar Mitzvah	Celebration of a boy coming of age at 13; literally 'son of the commandment'
Bat Mitzvah	Celebration of a girl coming of age of 12 in reform synagogues; literally 'daughter of the commandment'
Marriage	A legal union between a man and a woman (or in some countries, including the UK, two people of the same sex) as partners in a relationship
Mourning	A period of time spent remembering a person who has died
Shiva	An intense period of mourning that lasts for seven days
Kaddish	A prayer said by Jewish mourners which praises God and asks for peace
Dietary Laws	Rules that deal with foods permitted to be eaten, food preparation, food combinations and the utensils and dishes coming into contact with food
Kosher	Food that meets the requirements of Jewish laws
Trefah	Food that Jews are forbidden to eat; means 'torn'
Rosh Hashanah	The Jewish New Year
Yom Kippur	The Day of Atonement; a day of fasting on the tenth day after Rosh Hashanah
Pesach	Festival in remembrance of the Jewish Exodus which is celebrated in Spring