



## Highsted Knowledge Organiser

### Religious Studies

#### Year 8: Term 1 & 2

What I need to know

What do Jewish people believe about God?

What are the Jewish sources of authority?

What Jewish laws relate to food?

What do Jewish people believe about prayer?

How and why have Jews been persecuted due to anti-Semitism?

*Key Vocabulary*

*Torah – Jewish Holy Book*

*Mitzvot/mitzvah (singular) – laws or commandments*

*Kosher – food which is acceptable for Jews to eat*

*Synagogue – Jewish place of worship*

*Kippah – skull cap which is a sign of Jewish identity*

*Tallith – prayer shawl*

*Anti-Semitism- hostility or prejudice to the Jewish people*

*The Holocaust – The killing of at least 6 million Jewish people by the Nazis during World War two.*

*Zionism – belief in the state of Israel of a homeland for Jews*

Student reference points

- **What do Jewish people believe about God?**
- There is only one God (they are monotheists)
- God is all powerful (e.g. Created the universe) but they can also have an individual and personal relationship with him
- God made an agreement (a covenant) with Abraham: God would bless his people if they worshipped and were faithful to him
- Jews believe that they are God's 'chosen people' to set an example through their behaviour
- **What are the Jewish sources of authority?**
- The laws that they follow come from the Torah, the Jewish holy book
- God gave the Jews a set of rules that they should live by.
- There are 613 commandments covering all aspects of life but the most famous of these are the 10 commandments.
- There are many other laws that are important to Jewish people
- In total there are 613 Jewish laws or commandments ('**mitzvot**' – singular 'mitzvah') in the **Torah** (the Jewish Holy Book).
- **Jewish laws relating to food**
- Some of these laws relate to the preparation and eating of food. These are known as the **kashrut**.
- Food that is acceptable for Jews to eat is described as **kosher**.
- Food that should not be eaten by Jews is described as **trefah**.
- **Orthodox Jews**, as we have seen, follow kashrut (food laws) very closely because they believe the Torah contains the literal word of God.
- **Reform and Liberal Jews** believe that not all laws, which come from ancient times, are relevant today. They are selective about which laws they follow (e.g. following the laws at home but not when eating out)

- **Prayer**
- Prayer builds the relationship between God and humans. When people pray, they are spending time with God.
- Jews pray for many reasons:
  - So that their hearts can reach out to God
  - To express and exercise their beliefs
  - To share in the life of a worshipping community
  - To obey God's commandments
  - It should be done with total concentration on God.
- The prayer should be from the heart
- **Many practising Jews pray three times a day: morning, afternoon and evening.**
- **Some attend a synagogue for all of these prayers, believing that public worship is important to create a bond: a sense of local, global and historical community.**
- For prayers to be recited and the Torah read in public, at least ten adults aged 13 or over must be present (a 'minyan').
- This is not always practical. This means that Jews pray at home instead.
  
- **Much Jewish prayer consists of reciting written services aloud in the synagogue**
- **This strengthens their identity as part of the Jewish community and is an act of togetherness with Jewish people all around the world**

Challenge question

What similarities are there between Judaism and other religions that you have studied?

What are the challenges of being a Jew in the modern world?

How far does anti-Semitism still affect Jewish people across the world?