

AQA GCSE Religious Studies: Judaism Beliefs

G-d as one.
Monotheistic: G-d is one. Jews believe there is only one G-d.
 G-d is an indivisible and eternal being, there is only one G-d worthy of worship and this G-d is the source of all Jewish morality, beliefs and values.
The Shema: an important Jewish prayer that is repeated three times daily. It is the declaration of Jewish faith.
Key quote: "the Lord is One." – The Shema



Creation
Ex Nihilo: the Latin phrase for "From Nothing"
 The creation story can be found in Genesis- the first book of the Torah. G-d had the power (omnipotence) to make the world from nothing, hence. He made the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th.
Key quotes: "Let there be light"
 "Let us make mankind in our image"




Evil and suffering
Moral evil- caused by humans. A result of free will. The free choice G-d gave us to make our own decisions. This was important so we could really choose to follow G-d. Adam and Eve misused their free will when they ate the forbidden fruit.
Natural evil- caused by nature. Part of G-d's bigger plan for the universe. G-d is transcendent (beyond human understanding and outside the universe), therefore, we cannot understand the complex world G-d has created. Shown in the Book of Job.



Lawgiver and judge
 Commandments in Judaism are called **mitzot**. G-d has given Jews 613 in total. An example are the 10 commandments.
 G-d will judge how good a person is based on how well they follow the mitzvot and their actions. For example G-judged humanity to be bad so sent the Flood to kill them all apart from Noah. Jews are all judged every New Year/ Rosh Hashanah.
Key quotes: " Do not worship any other G-ds" "Do not murder"
 "Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence".



Life after death
Olam Ha-ze: life in the here and now- worry about G-d's judgement in this life and not what might happen when you die!
Olam Ha-ba: the world to come. Many Jews believe in a life after death where our souls will be judged.
Gan Eden: paradise/ heaven.
 This is where you will go if you're judged well.
Sheol: a place of waiting where souls will be cleansed (NOT a place of eternal punishment)



Messiah
 A future leader of the Jews who will rule over humanity with kindness and justice. He will:

- Be a perfect teacher of God's law
- Be a great political leader - inspirational and a good judge
- Be the bringer of peace to the world, uniting humanity

Key quotes: "He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples." (Isaiah 2:4) "He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces" (Isaiah 25:8)



Abraham:
Covenant: an agreement between G-d and human kind.
 G-d promised Abraham a promised land and for him and future Jews. He also promised Abraham many descendants. Abraham had to trust G-d on this as he and his wife Sarah were really old...but they did have a baby called Isaac. Abraham promised to only follow one G-d.
 This agreement still changes behavior of Jews today:
 They circumcise baby boys (this was the physical sign of the covenant) Many Jews have a goal of living in Israel (the homeland).




Moses
 Moses was born in Egypt when Jews were being kept as slaves. They eventually escaped after G-d sent the 10 Plagues. G-d gave Moses rules to help the Jews live harmoniously. He received the 10 Commandments as part of the Covenant at Sinai, they are seen as the foundation of Jewish. They can be split into two groups:
How to have a good relationship with G-d- "Do not worship any other G-ds"
How to have a good relationship with other humans. - "Do not murder".



Key moral beliefs
Justice: bringing about what is right or fair/ making up for a wrong committed.
Tikkun Olam/ Healing the world: being involved in G-d's work to sustain the world. Charity work, helping the environment, praying.
Kindness to others: positive, caring actions which should be shown to all loving things.
 Jewish charities: GIFT or Jewish World Relief.



Sanctity of life : all life is holy as it is created by G-d. Human life should not be misused or abused.
"So God created mankind in his own image." (Genesis 1:27)
 We are all made in the image of G-d making us sacred, holy and worthy of protection.
"He who destroys one soul of a human being, the Scripture considers him as if he should destroy a whole world."
 Only G-d can decide when a life should end and any action that ends a life is considered sinful and as undermining G-d's authority and power. Eg. Murder and active euthanasia would be forbidden.



Pikuach Nefesh: the obligation to save a life, even if doing so breaks Jewish law.
"The Sabbath has been given to you, not you to the Sabbath" *Talmud*
 G-d gave us rules to help us have a better life, so if we have to break them to save a life that is okay. One of the rules you might break is working on the Sabbath (day of rest). Eg.

- ✓ A doctor could go to work.
- ✓ You could drive a car to take someone to the hospital.



Free will and the mitzvot
Free will: the belief that G-d gives people the opportunity to make decisions for themselves.
 "To Adam he said...' **'Cursed is the ground because of you;'**" This shows that because Adam and Eve misused their free will they would be punished/ cursed.

Using Free will for good actions	Using Free will to justify bad actions
A life of fulfillment Will bring you closer to G-d. G-d will judge you well	You will distance yourself from G-d. G-d will not judge you well in this life or in the afterlife.

