

Judaism – Practices

Intent

After exploring the beliefs and teachings connected with Judaism, we now move on to how these beliefs and teachings underpin Jewish practices and worship in 21st Century Britain.

We will focus on the importance of the worship of God in Judaism and how this happens in the synagogue and at home, while considering issues that are relevant to life in modern Britain. Within Judaism there are many different rituals as part of the lifecycle. We will investigate the importance and meaning of these practices. We will also focus on areas of daily life considering the impact of dietary laws and festivals.

It will become clear that there are many differing views, which reflect branches of Judaism like Orthodox and Reform.



Process

1. Functions of a Synagogue

In this first topic, we explore what a **synagogue** is and what it is used for in terms of worship and community functions. We also focus on the challenges faced by synagogues in Britain today.



2. Features of a Synagogue

Following on from the first topic, we now explore what is inside a synagogue, understanding the **features and their meanings**, as well as differences in design between Orthodox and Reform synagogues.



3. Items worn for Worship

Having studied the features of a synagogue, we now focus on what is worn for worship inside a synagogue. We will explore the symbolism behind each type of special clothing. The source of authority that can be used for this topic and the previous 2 topics is the Shema Prayer.



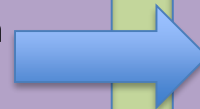
4. Synagogue Services

Now that we have studied the different aspects of a synagogue, we now focus on the types of service that take place there, including the **Shabbat service** and the different prayers that are said during worship like the **Amidah prayer**.



5. Worship in the Home

In the last topic we looked at worship in the synagogue. Now we focus on worship in the home, still focusing on **Shabbat** and how it is celebrated in the home. We will look at prayers said in the home like the Shema and Modeh Ani.



6. Rituals: Birth Ceremonies

Now that we have looked at worship in the home and synagogue, we now focus on rituals that take place in a Jewish person's life and involve the synagogue. The first one is the **Naming Ceremony and Brit Milah**. We will explore differences between Orthodox and Reform Judaism and the link with Covenant and identity.



Process

7. Rituals: Bar / Bat Mitzvah

The next ritual in a Jewish person's life is the coming of age ceremony known as **Bar / Bat Mitzvah**. We will focus on the meaning and importance of this and understand different Orthodox and Reform views on Bat Mitzvah.



8. Rituals: Marriage Ceremony

The next ritual in a Jewish person's life would be Marriage. Here, we look at what happens during a **Jewish wedding ceremony** and explore the points of contrast between Orthodox and Reform Jews.



9. Rituals: Mourning Rituals

The next ritual in a Jewish person's life is associated with **death and mourning**. Here we look at the Jewish customs at the moment of death, between death and burial, and the stages of mourning after this. We will explore points of contrast between Orthodox and Reform traditions.



10. Use of Tenakh and Talmud in Daily Life

Having focused on Jewish rituals in the last four topics which are important points in a Jewish person's life, we now move on to practices that affect daily life. Here, we will explore how the **Tenakh and Talmud** influence daily life.



11. Dietary Laws

Another practice that affects daily life involves dietary laws. In this topic we will investigate the importance of dietary laws for Jewish people, exploring the benefits and challenges of keeping **kosher**.



12. Jewish Festivals

The final set of practices are based around Jewish festivals. In this topic, we will explore the meaning of **Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Pesach and Sukkot**. We will investigate how they are celebrated in Orthodox and Reform Judaism.



Impact

This process will enable the understanding of:

- How synagogues are used for community and worship functions and the main features of a synagogue.
- The services that happen in a synagogue including the Shabbat service and Amidah prayer, and the differences in worship between Orthodox and Reform Jews.
- The importance of worship in the home.
- What happens at key Jewish rituals like Brit Milah, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the Marriage ceremony and mourning rituals and how they relate to the Covenant with God.
- How Jewish daily life is influenced by the Tenakh and Talmud, and dietary laws.
- The meaning and significance of Jewish festivals e.g. Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Pesach and Sukkot.

Progress will be shown by:

- Formative assessment of past-exam question answers completed in class and at home, and improvements made from feedback.
- Formative assessment through the re-capping of previous modules and knowledge checks.
- Summative assessment through mid-module and end of module assessments based on past exams.