

**Answers that the Bar and Bat Mitzvah students should know:**

## **ANSWERS to the 125 Questions**

These questions and answers are part of the curriculum that Rimon – LJL has developed for the Bar and Bat Mitzvah classes at the Liberal Jewish Communities (LJG).

**‘de 125 vragen’ antwoorden**

**Eindtermen/bmklas © rimon lj-loc/[www.rimon-ljloc.nl](http://www.rimon-ljloc.nl)**

**Translated into English by Nancy A. Novick**

## ANSWERS: TORAH

1. Torah
  2. Torah in book form (the Written Law)
  3. Bereshit, Shemot, Vayikra, Ba Midbar, D'varim (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
  4. The creation of the world and mankind, the patriarchs, the history of the Jewish people, the exodus out of Egypt, Matan Torah, the entering of the holy land of Israel.
  5. The portion of the Torah that is read on the morning of Shabbat
  6. 54
  7. Shabbat: 7+1. Holidays: 5+1 (unless Shabbat, then 7+1). +1 is mafter
  8. Reading from one of the "nevi'im" (Prophetic Writings)
  9. Aron Hakodesh.
  10. The Oral Law
  11. The Written Law (5 Books of Moses)
  12. Mishna = the written redaction of the Jewish Oral Torah
  13. The commentary of the rabbis on the Mishna
  14. The book in which the Mishna and Gemara are printed together.
  15. Talmud Bavli is the commentary on the Mishna by the rabbis in Babylonia. Talmud Yerushalmi is the commentary on the Mishna by the rabbis in Israel.
  16. The Jewish law
  17. Educational and narrative interpretations of parts of the Tenach
  18. Aseret ha Dibrot
  19. A. I am the Lord your God; B. You shall have no other gods before me; C. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain; D. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy; E. Honour your father and your mother; F. You shall not murder; G. You shall not commit adultery; H. You shall not steal; I. You shall not lie; J. You shall not covet your neighbour's possessions.
  20. Monday, Thursday, Shabbat (2x), Rosh Chodesh, Pesach (every day), Yom Ha'atzmaut, Shavuot, Tisha B'Av (2x), Rosh Hashana, Yom Hakippurim (2x) Sukkot (every day), Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah, Chanukkah (every day), Purim, fasting days
  21. The reader of the Torah
  22. The reader of the Haftarah. Maftir is also the name of the portion of the Torah that is read.
  23. In the time of Ezra
  24. To show respect for the Torah text
- Ashkenazi Jews: Torah wrap (Mappa) or belt (Chagora). On top of that a cover (Me'il). On the wooden poles: 2 Rimonim (decorative towers) or 1 Keter (crown). A Yad (pointing stick). Sometimes a shield (Choshen).
- Sephardic Jews: Rolls in wooden round cupboard, trimmed with silver. With or without Rimonim.
25. The Prophetic Writings
  26. Holy Writings, including: Ruth, Esther, Job, Kohelet, Psalms, Shir hashirim
  27. Torah, Nevim, Ketuvim
  28. A commandment in Jewish tradition. Also the name for doing a good deed. Also honorary functions during the service.

## Extra:

- A. The Torah sustained and kept the Jewish people alive and the Jewish people sustained and kept the Torah alive.
- B. Rosh Chodesh: 3
- Yom Hakippurim: 6+1 shacharit (Shabbat 7+1) and mincha 3.

## ANSWERS: HOLIDAYS

*Some of the answers provided below are short, but the student may have to provide a bit more elaboration.*

Example: Question 29. What is Rosh Hashana?

*The answer should be more than simply "The Jewish New Year". It should include some information about Rosh Hashanah. "It is the beginning of a new year. This year is (5775). We hope that the new year brings health and happiness. We eat apples dipped in honey. The challah is sweet and round. In the shul the Torah is covered in white and we wear white kippot. It is a mitzvah to hear the shofar being blown."*

BUT Example: Question 34: What are the shofar tones called?

*You may give short answers: 1. tekiah 2. teruah 3. shevarim*

29. The start of a new month.

30. The Jewish calendar is based on the lunar cycle (movement of the moon) and is integrated into our secular sun calendar.

31. New Year

32. Yom Hazikaron, Yom Teruah, Yom Hadin (Rosh Hashanah)

33. During the services of Rosh Hashana, during Elul, at the end of the Yom Kippur service.

34. Tekiah, Teruah, Shevarim (Tekiah gedolah)

35. The days preceding Rosh Hashana during which special prayers are said.

Ashkenazi Jews: starting with Motze Shabbat before Rosh Hashana till Rosh Hashanah

Sephardic: the whole month of Elul

36. The 10 days of 1–10 Tishri, beginning with Rosh Hashanah & ending with Yom Kippur

37. Day of Atonement

38. Kol Nidre

39. Sukkot. We build a sukkah. We sit and eat in the sukkah. We wave the lulav+etrog.

40. Lulav (palm branch), Hadasim (myrtle branches), Aravot (willow branches), Etrag (fragrant smelling fruit that looks like a lemon). Combining the lulav, 3 hadasim and 2 aravot, a bundle is formed. Together with the etrog, this is "waved" in all directions.

41. Rejoicing over the Torah. This is when the last portion of the Torah is read followed immediately by reading from Bereshit, the first chapter of Genesis. The cycle of Torah reading begins immediately.

42. The Dedication Holiday, to remember the re-dedication of the temple (Bet Hamikdash) in the days of the Maccabees.

43. The Feast of Lots. Commemorates the miraculous saving of the Jewish people by Esther and Mordechai. Haman, the king of Persia, was planning on exterminating the Jews of Persia.

44. Spring holiday, harvest festival, holiday to remember the exodus out of Egypt

45. Charoset (cement/mortar), Paschal lamb bone (pesach lamb), parsley (spring), salted water (tears), egg (Chagigah, holiday, sacrifice), maror (the bitterness of slavery), matza – the bread of affliction / wine glass for Elijah.

46. Chametz: leavened foods that are forbidden on Passover. Matza: unleavened bread.

47. The number of days between Pesach and Shavuot (49 days)

48. The day of memorial for the 6 million Jews who were murdered during World War II

49. Israel's Independence Day

50. The 33rd day of Omer. The day that Rabbi Simeon bar Yochai died

51. Feast of Weeks, Chag Matan Torah (the handing down of the Torah on Mount Sinai), Chag Bikkurim (first fruits), Chag Ha'Katzir Chitim (harvesting of grains)

52. The ninth day of Av. 586 B.C. the First Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. Fast Day. 3-week period of mourning. Second Temple destroyed in 70 A.D.

53. The Three Pilgrimage Festivals: Pesach, Shavuot & Sukkot. Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

54. Rosh Hashana and Yom Hakippurim

### Extra:

C. Shir hashirim – Pesach; Ruth – Shavuot; Echa – Tisha B'av; Kohelet – Sukkot; Esther – Purim.

D. Jonah + 1st day: The banishment of Yishma'el. 2<sup>nd</sup> day: Akedat Yitzhak (The Binding of Isaac)

## **ANSWERS: SYNAGOGUE / SYNAGOGUE SERVICE**

55. The altar in the desert
56. Sacrificial service
57. Tefila (Amidah), prayer
58. As a memorial to the Menorah in the temple and to symbolize God's presence
59. Aron hakodesh, Bima, Ner Tamid, seats
60. Shema, Amidah.
61. Shema – twice during the services (shacharit + arvit) and evening prayer. Amidah – three times: arvit, shacharit and mincha on week days. Four times when musaf is said. Five times on Yom Hakipurrim.
62. Amidah = Silent Devotion. Shemoneh Esrei (Eighteen Benedictions) are said while standing. 19, on Shabbat 7.
63. Praise, Plea, Thanks
64. Mitzva, before and after eating/ drinking, hearing / smelling / seeing things
65. Two brachot in the evening and in the morning: 1st Creation; 2nd Love/mitzvot: 3rd parashot of the Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Deuteronomy 11:13-21; Numbers 15:37-41: 3<sup>rd</sup> Redemption: only in the evening 4<sup>th</sup> sleep peacefully.
66. 1. Ma tovu, Shalom Aleichem; Kabbalat shabbat (six psalms: 95-99, 29, lecha dodi, two psalms: 92, 93); 2. Shema and the brachot that go with it; 3. Amidah;
67. 1. Adon olam; Birkot Hashachar (prayers of praise for the morning), Pesukei d'zimra (Songs of Praise); 2. Shema and the brachot that go with it; 3. Amidah (Shacharit);
68. 1. Adon olam; Birkot Hashachar (prayers of praise for the morning), Pesukei d'zimra (Songs of Praise); 2. Shema and the brachot that go with it; 3. Amidah (Shacharit);
69. 1. Adon olam; Birkot Hashachar (prayers of praise for the morning), Pesukei d'zimra (Songs of Praise); 2. Shema and the brachot that go with it; 3. Amidah (Shacharit);
70. 1. Adon olam; Birkot Hashachar (prayers of praise for the morning), Pesukei d'zimra (Songs of Praise); 2. Shema and the brachot that go with it; 3. Amidah (Shacharit);
71. A sermon based on the Torah and rabbinical literature.
72. The required number of 10 adult Jews to be able to hold a service.
73. To be called up to the Torah.
74. Kohan (plural Kohanim) and Levi.
75. Arvit, shacharit and mincha.
76. To connect the end of the arvit service of the evening before: The morning service begins where the evening service left off.

### **Extra:**

- E. The extra intention that one puts into prayer to reach a higher level. It is the difference between reading a text and praying.
- F. Shabbat: 7. (Rosh Hashana Musaf: 9). Yom Kippur: 7 (+ widowei).

## ANSWERS: TRADITIONS

77. The welcoming of the Shabbat. Cleaning up the house. Baking / buying Challot. Setting the table. Putting on nice clothes. Going to shul. Lighting the Shabbat candles. Making kiddush. Eating a special dinner with hamotzi and benching and singing zemirot.
78. Making Havdalah. Blessings over wine, aromatic spices, a braided candle and over the distinction between Shabbat and the days of the week. We drink the wine, we smell the spices, we look at the burning candle, we put out the candle with the wine. This also happens at the end of the High Holidays.
79. Baruch atah Adonoi Elohaynu melech ha'olom, asher kidesjanu bemitsvotav wetziwanu lehadlik ner shel Shabbat.
80. Baruch atah Adonoi Elohaynu melech ha'olom, boré pree hagafèn.
81. Baruch atah Adonoi Elohaynu melech ha'olom, asher kideshanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu al netilat yadayim.
82. Baruch atah Adonoi Elohaynu melech ha'olam, hamotzi lechem min ha'arets.
83. The bracha that is said the evening before every holiday; when you use or wear something for the first time; when a new fruit is eaten for the first time in its season; when there is a happy celebration (such as a bar / bat mitzvah).
84. The blessing after the meal. Benching.
85. Ritual circumcision, entering into the covenant with God and the naming of boys.
86. Entering into the covenant with God and the naming of girls.
87. Attaining Jewish accountability. Girls – 12 years old. Boys – 13 years old.
88. The Jewish marriage ceremony. Also the name of the "canopy" under which the ceremony takes place. The Chuppah symbolizes the new family that the couple will be building.
89. A burial ceremony. In Hebrew: halvayat hamayt: accompanying the deceased.
90. A piece of parchment with the first two parashot of the Shema written on it (see question 65) (in a case called the Bet Mezuzah) placed on the right of the door.
91. Boxes that are attached with leather straps to the arm (Tefila shel yad) and to the head (Tefila shel rosh). There is parchment in the boxes with four parashot from the Torah (Exodus (Shemot) 13, 1-10; Exodus (Shemot) 13, 11-16; Deuteronomy 6, 4-9; Deuteronomy 11, 13-21). The four parashot are written on one piece of parchment in the tefila. They are written on four separate pieces of parchment in shel rosh. Tefilin are worn on weekdays during the shacharit prayers (see page 28 of the siddur).
92. A prayer shawl with tzitzit (fringes) on the four corners. It is worn during the morning service. It is worn by the rabbi during other services.
93. Out of respect for God.
94. Dietary laws.
95. To acknowledge God as the source of all things.
96. Giving money to good causes.
97. Doing good deeds without expecting / getting anything in return. Examples: preparing a deceased person for burial, but also reading for a blind person or doing the shopping for an ill neighbour.

### Extra:

G. A world of global peace and harmony, an era without war between people and nations. We have the task of working on "Tikun Olam": improving and perfecting the world.

H. Welcoming guests. Visiting those who are ill. Consoling the bereaved. Preserving human life. Forbidding the destruction of nature.

## **ANSWERS: HISTORY**

98. Abraham
99. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
100. Sara, Rivka, Rachel and Leah
101. Exodus out of Egypt, Matan Torah (the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai)
102. Joshua bin Nun
103. King Saul, King David, and King Solomon
104. Solomon, Jerusalem
105. Spokesmen for God. Some of them had visions, dreams, revelations. The prophets conveyed these messages from God to the people.
106. In 586 B.C. the Jews were taken captive by the Babylonians. They were exiled to Babylonia and stayed there for 70 years. When the Persian King Cyrus conquered Babylonia, he gave permission to the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and re-build the temple (Bet Hamikdash).
107. The leaders of the Jewish people during the reconstruction of Jerusalem and the temple after the Babylonian exile period.
108. The leaders of the revolt against the Syrian Hellenists. They defeated the Syrians and dedicated the temple anew. Chanukah is the commemoration of this dedication.
109. Titus. 70 A.D.
110. Synagogue, "shul"
111. Major authoritative rabbi from the 1st century. His explanation of Halacha is the foundation of our tradition.
112. Teacher from the 1st century during the war against the Romans and the destruction of the temple. Was allowed to set up a school in Yavney. Shaped Judaism from temple rituals to synagogue rituals.
113. Military leader of a revolt against the Roman occupation. Rabbi Akiva was the spiritual leader. He was an important scholar of the Mishnah, the earliest written form of the Oral Torah. He was a founder of rabbinic Judaism.
114. Scholar at the end of the 2nd century. Compiled the Mishnah.
115. Rabbi in Worms 11th century. Important commentator on Tenach and Talmud.
116. Rabbi (and doctor) in Egypt 1135-1204. Born in Cordoba (Spain). Also called Rambam. Re-codified the Jewish law in the Mishnah Torah.
117. Rabbi in Tsefat 16th century. Re-codified the Jewish law in his work Shulchan Aruch based on the Mishnah. Shulchan Aruch is until now the standard work for Halacha.
118. Founder of the Haskala movement (Jewish Enlightenment). Translated the Tenach into German.
119. Leading rabbi in German for the Liberal Jewish movement. Edited many siddurim. The liberal Jewish tradition in the Netherlands is based on his work.
120. Author of "The Jewish State", founder of the World Zionist Movement. Proponent and "prophet" for the creation of the state of Israel.
121. The one who declared Israel as an independent nation and the first prime minister
122. Jews who came from parts of Europe north of the Pyrenees and from eastern Europe (Ashkenazi = Jewish name for Germany)
123. Jews who originated from Spain / Portugal (Hebrew = Sephardim) and from the Mediterranean area.
124. Attacks aimed specifically at persecuting the Jews.
125. The Holocaust (Shoa) and the declaration of the state of Israel

### **Extra:**

- I. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- J. 1897 First Zionist Congress. 1909 Foundation Tel Aviv and first kibbutz Degania.
- 1939 Partitioning of Israel. 29 November 1947 partitioning accepted at the UN. 15 May 1948/5 ijar 5708 Declaration of the State of Israel by David ben Gurion. Start of the war of independence. 1949 Truce. 1956 Sinai campaign. 1967 Six Day War. 1973 Yom Kippur War. 1982 War with Lebanon. 1979 Peace Treaty with Egypt. 1987 Intifada. 1993 Oslo treaties met Palestine. 1994 Peace Treaty with Jordan. 1999-2000 Peace negotiations with Syria.