

125 Questions

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



‘de 100 vragen’

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Translated into English by Nancy A. Novick

TORAH

1. What is the most important core of Judaism?
2. What is Chumash?
3. What are the Five Books of Moses called in Hebrew?
4. What are the Five Books about?
5. What is a Sidra?
6. How many Sidrot are there?
7. How many Aliyot are there on Shabbat and how many are there on the High Holidays?
8. What is the Haftorah?
9. What is the cupboard called where the Sifrei Torah are kept?
10. What is the Torah-shebaal-peh?
11. What is the Torah-shebichtav?
12. What is Mishna?
13. What is Gemara?
14. What is the Talmud?
15. Why is there a Talmud Bavli and a Talmud Yerushalmi?
16. What is Halacha?
17. What is the Midrash?
18. What is the Hebrew name for the "10 Commandments"?
19. Name the 10 Commandments (at least 8 of them).
20. On which days do we read from the Torah?
21. What is the Ba'al koreh/Ba'alat Kria?
22. What is the Maftir / Maftira?
23. When did we read – in public – from the Torah?
24. Why and with what do we dress the Torah?
25. What is Nevi'im?
26. What is Ketuvim?
27. What is Tenakh?
28. What is a Mitzva?

Extra:

A. What does this mean? "There is no Torah without the Jewish people and there are no Jewish people without the Torah."

B. How many aliyot are there on Rosh Chodesh? on Yom Kippur? at the Micha service?

HOLIDAYS

29. What is Rosh Chodesh?
30. Why do our holidays occur on different dates every year?
31. What is Rosh Hashana?
32. State 3 different names for Rosh Hashana?
33. When is the shofar blown?
34. What are the shofar tones called?
35. What are the Selichot days?
36. What are the Aseret Yemei Teshuva?
37. What is Yom Kippur?
38. What is the name of the evening that Yom Kippur starts?
39. What is the name of the third holiday in the month of Tishri and what do we do then?
40. What are the four plant species that we use during Sukkot and what do we do with them?
41. What is Simcha Torah?
42. What is Chanukah?
43. What is Purim?
44. What is Pesach?
45. What is on the seder plate and what do these items symbolize?
46. What is chametz and what is matza?
47. What is Counting of the Omer (Sefirat Ha'Omer)?
48. What is Yom Hashoa?
49. What is Yom Ha'atsmayut?
50. What is Lag Ba'Omer?
51. What is Shavuot?
52. What is Tisha B'Av?
53. What are the Shalosh Regalim?
54. What are the Yamim Nora'im?

Extra:

C. Name the five Megilot and state on which holidays they are read.

D. Which Book of Prophets do we read during the Mincha service on Yom Kippur?

AND

What is the Torah portion on Rosh Hashana?

SYNAGOGUE / SYNAGOGUE SERVICE

55. What is the tabernacle? (Mishkan)
56. What was the most important part of the service in the Mishkan and later in the temple?
57. What replaced the sacrifice?
58. Why does the Ner Tamid (eternal light) burn in the synagogue?
59. What is there in every synagogue?
60. What are the two most important parts of the service?
61. How many times a day do you have to say (and are you allowed to say) these parts?
62. What is the Amida and how many brachot are in the Amida?
63. Which 3 kinds of brachot are there in the Amida?
64. Name at least 2 other kinds of brachot.
65. How is the Shema structured in the evening and in the morning?
66. How is the Friday evening service structured?
67. How is the Shabbat morning service structured?
68. What is Kaddish?
69. What is the prayer book called that we use for Shabbat and days of the week?
70. What is a Machzor?
71. What is a Drashah?
72. What is a Minyan?
73. What is a Aliyah?
74. Who is often first called up in the synagogue and who is then called up as second?
75. What are the three services of a day called?
76. Why does the Shabbat morning service begin with Adon Olam?

Extra:

- E. What is Kavanah?
- F. How many brachot are in an Amida on Shabbat? on Yom Kippur?

TRADITIONS

77. What is Kabala Shabbat and what do we do then?
78. What is the conclusion of Shabbat called and what do we then do?
79. What is the bracha (blessing) over the Shabbat candles?
80. What is the bracha over the Shabbat wine?
81. What is the bracha over the washing of the hands?
82. What is the bracha over bread?
83. What is Shehecheyanu and when do we say it?
84. What is the Birkat Hamazon and what do we often call it?
85. What is a Brit mila?
86. What is a Zeved habat?
87. What is a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?
88. What is a chuppa?
89. What is a levaya?
90. What is a mezuzah?
91. What are tefillin?
92. What is a talit?
93. Why should you wear a kippah?
94. What is kashrut?
95. Why do you say a berakhah?
96. What is tzedakah?
97. What is Gemilut Hassadim? What are other related mitzvot?

Extra:

G. What is the 'Messianic Age'?

H. What are:

Hachnasat Orchim, Bikur Cholim, Nichum Avelim, Derech Eretz, Pikuach Nefesh, Bal Tashchit?

HISTORY

98. Who started the belief in "one God"?
99. Name the 3 patriarchs (Avot).
100. Name the 3 matriarchs (Imahot).
101. When did the Jews become a "people"?
102. Who led the Jews into Eretz Yisrael?
103. Who were the first 3 kings of Israel?
104. Where and by whom was the first Beth Hamikdash (temple) built?
105. What are Prophets?
106. What is the Babylonian exile and how did it begin?
107. Who were Ezra en Nehemiah?
108. Who were the Maccabees?
109. Under whose leadership and when was the second temple (Beth Hamikdash) destroyed?
110. What replaced the temple (Bet Hamikdash)?
111. Who was Hillel?
112. Who was Yochanan ben Zakai – and – What did he do?
113. Who were Bar Kochba and Rabbi Akiva
114. Who was Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi and what did he do?
115. Who was Rashi?
116. Who was Maimonides?
117. Who was Yosef Caro?
118. Who was Moses Mendelssohn?
119. Who was Abraham Geiger?
120. Who was Theodor Herzl?
121. Who was David Ben Gurion?
122. What are Ashkenazi Jews?
123. What are Sephardic Jews?
124. What is a pogrom?
125. What are the two most important events of the Jewish people in the 20th century?

Extra:

- I. Name at least FOUR prophets.
- J. Tell something about the history of modern day Israel.