






# Judaism





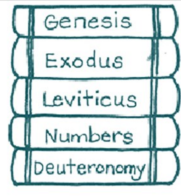


## Key Words

<b>covenant</b>	A binding , two way agreement.	<b>kosher</b>	Something that is permitted / allowed/ fit. Often used to refer to permitted food but can be used to refer to other things.	<b>Orthodox</b>	A term to refer to the traditional branches of Judaism. Mainly defined by strict adherence to the Torah and commandments from God.	<b>synagogue / shul</b>	House of prayer/assembly. Place of congregational worship.
<b>diaspora</b>	The Jewish community living outside the Jewish home land of Israel.	<b>Messiah</b>	A saviour of the Jewish people, from the line of King David who will come at the end of days and restore the world to peace and harmony.	<b>Pesach</b>	The festival of the Passover. Celebrating and remembering the Exodus and liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.	<b>tallit</b>	A prayer shawl with fringes (tzitzit) at the four corners to remind of the mitzvot. worn during prayer and services.
<b>Israel</b>	The Jewish home land. Also used to refer to the people of the covenant themselves. The name given to Jacob (son of Isaac)	<b>mezuzah</b>	A small box placed on the right doorpost of Jewish homes containing verses from the Torah including the Shema.	<b>rabbi</b>	teacher	<b>tefillin</b>	Small leather boxes containing scrolls of parchment inscribed with verses from the Torah.
<b>Kiddush</b>	Blessing said over a cup of wine. Literally means ‘sanctification’.	<b>mitzvah</b>	A commandment from God (mitzvot—plural)	<b>Reform</b>	A term to refer to the branches within Judaism who believe that evolution and adaptation are preferable to strict adherence to law (sometimes called Liberal / Progressive Judaism)	<b>Torah</b>	The teaching or law. The term can be used to refer to the first five books of Moses as well as the entirety of Jewish law.
<b>kippah</b>	A small cap worn to cover the head. Sometimes called a yarmulke.	<b>monotheism</b>	Belief in one God	<b>Shema</b>	The Jewish prayer recited daily by Jews. Literally meaning ‘Hear / listen’.	<b>treifah</b>	Forbidden/. Literally means ‘torn’ and is used to refer to food and other things that are not allowed under Jewish law.

<b>Jewish history</b> 	<p>An understanding of Jewish history from the original covenant with Abraham, the building and destruction of the temple, and the Holocaust (Shoah), is necessary to understand Judaism today.</p> <p>Jewish traditions in the twenty-first century are inextricably linked to the long history of the Jewish people for thousands of years. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the events of the Exodus when Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt is the central theme of the annual festival of Pesach (Passover).</li><li>At a Jewish wedding a wine glass is broken to represent the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.</li></ul>
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<b>Keeping the Law</b>  	<p>The <b>covenants</b> made by Abraham and Moses continue to be kept by Jews today. These laws can be complex and cover all aspects of Jewish life including food and festivals.</p> <p>Keeping the law has bound Jewish community together in times of trouble—for example, in concentration camps and ghettos during WW2 many Jews kept the Shabbat and recited the Shema wherever they could to show that their Jewish identity would not be erased by others.</p>
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<b>Variations within Judaism</b> 	<b>Judaism as a race:</b> Jewish identity is recognised through birth. A Jewish mother means Jewish identity. Being born Jewish means that many Jews may not share religious faith or keep the laws. These Jews are referred to as <b>secular Jews</b> .	<b>Orthodox Judaism:</b> Orthodox Jews keep strictly to the laws given to Moses by God and contained in the Torah. There are many different groups of Orthodox Jews.	<b>Reform (Liberal) Judaism:</b> A relatively modern form of Judaism allows for the laws to be kept in accordance with modern situations. Focus is more on the individual connection with God than keeping the laws. Reform Jews accept conversion into Judaism.
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<b>Torah</b> 	<p>The Torah is a term used to refer to both the entire Jewish scriptures (Hebrew Bible) or the first 5 books of Moses.</p> <p>The entire scriptures are sometimes called the</p> <p><b>TaNaKh:</b>    <b>Torah</b>            [teaching]                   <b>Nevim</b>            [Prophets]                   <b>Ketuvim</b>        [writings]</p> <p><b>The 5 books of Moses:</b>  Contain the story of creation, Abraham; Moses and the freedom from slavery; the laws.</p> <p>As well as the written law, Moses was given the oral law.; a commentary on the written law.</p> <p>This has been passed down, discussed and interpreted over time by rabbis. These commentaries are known as the <b>Talmud</b>.</p> 	<p>In total the Torah contains 613 mitzvot. The most well known are the 10 commandments:</p> <p><b>The 10 Commandments (Exodus)</b> </p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. You shall worship no other God</li><li>2. You shall not make images of God</li><li>3. You shall not take the name of God in vain</li><li>4. You shall keep the sabbath day holy</li><li>5. You shall honour your mother and father</li><li>6. You shall not kill</li><li>7. You shall not steal</li><li>8. You shall not lie</li><li>9. You shall not commit adultery</li><li>10. You shall not desire what others have</li></ol>
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<b>Challenges</b>	<p>Throughout history the Jewish <b>diaspora</b> has faced challenges to its way of life. One of the biggest challenges has been the anti-Semitism (anti Jewish prejudice) that has influenced laws and actions against Jews.</p> <p>You will be learning more about this in History and in RPSE in the spring term.</p>
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