

# Judaism Beliefs & Teachings Knowledge Organiser

## The Almighty

Jewish people refer to God as the Almighty or Hashem- you might see this word used on your exam paper!

### 4 ways of describing the Almighty.

1. **God as One:** There is only One God, cannot be split into parts. **SOWA: "Hashem is the One & only" (Shema)**
2. **God as Judge:** Jews believe that God will judge them on their following of the Mitzvot when they die. **SOWA: "Hashem is our Judge" (Isaiah)**
3. **God as Law-Giver:** Jews believe that God gave them rules to follow. Decalogue (10 Commandments.) **SOWA: "Mosaic Covenant-receiving of the Decalogue"**
4. **God as Creator:** Jews believe that God created the world & everything in it. **SOWA: "God saw what he had made" (Genesis)**

## The Messiah

The Messianic Age is when the Messiah returns & rules the earth.

### Nature of the Messiah.

1. Descendant of King David
2. He will know the Jewish law.
3. He will be a great warrior

### Purpose of the Messiah

1. He will rebuild the temple.
2. He will return the Jews to the Promised Land.
3. He will bring world peace.

**SOWA: "A king will reign....& be righteous" (Jeremiah)**

## The Shekinah

When the Almighty has been present in the modern world.

1. **Moses & Burning Bush:** Almighty told Moses to set the Israelites free from Egypt.
2. **Ner Tamid:** Everlasting light lit in the synagogue showing that Almighty is present.
3. **Israelites in the desert:** Almighty appears as a cloud & fire providing shelter & heat.

## The Covenant at Sinai (Moses)

This is a promise between God & his people. God makes a covenant with Moses.

God promises:

1. Punishment will be given for those who don't follow the Decalogue (10 Commandments)
2. Jews are people of God.
3. Decalogue (10 Commandments) are given to Moses for Jews to follow and obey (link to Law Give & Judge)

**SOWA: "Decalogue given to Moses" (Exodus)**

## Pikuach Nefesh (Sanctity of Life)

The idea that life is sacred & belongs to God.

1. Jews must preserve life at all cost- this is the most important commandment.
2. If someone's life is in danger you can break a mitzvot. (meaning you could knock down a wall on the Sabbath to save a life)

**SOWA: "Do not kill" (Exodus)**

## Life after Death

Jewish people have differing views on life after death but most believe that death is not the end.

1. **Gan Eden:** Jews believe that this is a place for the righteous.
2. **Gehinnom:** Jews believe that this is a place of punishment for those who have not followed the Almighty's laws. Souls go to be cleansed, then they move to Gan Eden.

**SOWA: "The spirit returns to the God who gave it." (Ecclesiastes)**

**TOP TIP:** You could be asked to compare similarities or differences between Christian & Jewish beliefs about life after death.

## The Covenant with Abraham

God made a promise to Abraham.

1. God tells Abraham that he will have more descendants than stars in the sky.
2. God gives Abraham the Promised Land for Jews.
3. God instructs Abraham to circumcise Jewish boys (links to Brit Milah)

**SOWA: "You will have more descendants than stars in the sky" (Genesis)**

## Moral Principles & Mitzvot

Mitzvot are 613 rules that Jewish people have follow.

- Given to Moses by God- there will be punishment (Gehinnom) for those who don't follow them.

**Mitzvot between humans & Almighty:** Some see these as a gift from Almighty to get to Gan Eden, Jewish people follow them as a way of showing gratitude to God for saving them, helps them build a relationship with Almighty.

**Mitzvot between humans:** there are mitzvot that instruct Jewish people how to behave towards one another such as visit the sick, help those in need.

**Mitzvot & Free Will:** Jewish people believe that God has given them free will. They chose whether or not to follow the mitzvot.

**SOWA: "Decalogue given to Moses" (Exodus)**