

Oral Torah

Laws and Introduction
— Exam for *Olim*

תורה שבעל פה

דינים ומבוא — שאלון לעולים חדשים

Instructions for examinees

- א. Duration of exam: One and a half hours
ב. Exam structure and breakdown of points:

This exam has two parts.

Part One — (4×16)– 64 points

Part Two — (3×12)– 36 points

Total – 100 points

- ג. Material that may be used during the exam:
A Hebrew-other language / other language-Hebrew dictionary

- ד. Special instructions: none

Write in the answer booklet only, on separate pages, everything you wish to write as a draft (outlines, calculations, etc). Write "טיוטה" at the head of each draft page. If you use draft paper other than the pages in the answer booklet, your exam may be disqualified!

הוראות לנבחן

א. משך הבחינה: שעה וחצי.

ב. מבנה השאלון ומפתח ההערכה:

בשאלון זה שני פרקים.

פרק ראשון — (16×4) — 64 נקודות

פרק שני — (12×3) — 36 נקודות

סה"כ — 100 נקודות

ג. חומר עזר מותר בשימוש:
מילון עברי-לועזי / לועזי-עברי.

ד. הוראות מיוחדות: אין.

כתוב במחברת הבחינה בלבד, בעמודים נפרדים, כל מה שברצונך לכתוב בטיוטה (ראשי פרקים, חישובים וכדומה).
רשום "טיוטה" בראש כל עמוד טיוטה. רישום טיוטות כלשהן על דפים מחוץ למחברת הבחינה עלול לגרום לפסילת הבחינה!

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!

Questions

Part One (64 points)

Answer four of the questions 1-5 (each question – 16 points).

1. Introduction to the Oral Torah

- א. Give one edict [תקנה] issued by Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai. What was the purpose of this edict? (8 points)
- ב. What is the responsa literature [ספרות השו"ת], and why is it necessary? (8 points)

2. Laws of Kashrut [הלכות כשרות]

- א. (1) When ordering a meal at a restaurant, we must make sure that the restaurant has a kashrut certificate [תעודת כשרות]. However, when buying a bottle of drink in a store, we must make sure that a kashrut certification [חותמת כשרות] appears on the bottle. Explain the reason for this difference.
- (2) Give one difference between 'regular' kashrut [כשרות "רגילה"] and 'special' kashrut [כשרות "מהודרת"]. (8 points)
- ב. (1) Explain the halachic principle of "עד אחד נאמן באיסורים" [literally: 'one witness is trustworthy regarding prohibitions'].
- (2) Based on this principle, we can rely on a kashrut certificate. Explain this statement. (8 points)

3. Prayer [תפילה]

- א. Why did the Sages institute a fixed format for prayer? Give two reasons. (8 points)
- ב. Why is it preferable to pray in a public forum [תפילה בציבור] rather than privately [תפילה יחיד]? Give two reasons. (8 points)

4. Festivals – Yamim Nora'im [מועדים – ימים נוראים]

- א. What are the three stages of repentance [חזרה בתשובה]? (7 points)
- ב. "מלכויות", "זיכרונות", and "שופרות" are blessings in the Mussaf service of Rosh Hashana. What is the theme of each of these blessings? (9 points)

5. Festivals – Pesach and Shavuot [מועדים – פסח ושבועות]

א. Before Pesach we have to perform "בדיקת חמץ" and "ביעור חמץ".

(1) What is *bedikat hametz*? When is *bedikat hametz* performed?

(2) What is *bi'ur hametz*? When is *bi'ur hametz* performed?

(8 points)

ב. List three customs observed on Shavuot.

(8 points)

Part Two (36 points)

Answer three of the questions 6-9 (each question – 12 points).

6. Interpersonal Conduct [בין אדם לחברו]

- א. (1) Why is it forbidden "לגנוב על מנת להחזיר" [literally: 'to steal with the intention of returning']?
(2) Explain why it is forbidden to buy an object from a person who stole it from someone else.
(8 points)
- ב. "וְעָשִׂיתָ מַעֲקָה לְגִגְךָ" (דברים, כ"ב, ח')
According to the Sages' interpretation, this commandment does not apply exclusively to a roof or a railing ["מעקה"].
Based on the Sages' interpretation, give one example of the application of this commandment.
(4 points)

7. Blessings [ברכות]

- א. Explain why we recite a blessing before eating. (4 points)
- ב. (1) List three types of food after which we recite the single blessing known as "מעין שלוש".
(2) Why is this blessing called "מעין שלוש"?
(8 points)

8. Shabbat [שבת]

- א. (1) Shabbat observance reminds us of two important past events. List both of these events.
(2) Explain how we fulfill the principle of "מוסיפים מחול על הקודש" [literally: 'adding from the non-sacred to the sacred'].
(8 points)
- ב. On Shabbat we recite the blessing of *hamotzi* [ברכת המוציא] on two loaves of bread.
What is the reason for reciting the blessing on two loaves of bread rather than one? (4 points)

9. Commandments [מצוות]

- א. The commandment of visiting the sick [ביקור חולים] includes two actions.
What are these two actions? (5 points)
- ב. (1) What tithe [מעשר] must be taken in the first and second year of the *shmitta* cycle (in addition to *ma'aser rishon*)?
(2) What tithe must be taken in the third year of the *shmitta* cycle (in addition to *ma'aser rishon*)?
(4 points)
- ג. Explain what the prohibition of *orla* ["איסור עורלה"] is. (3 points)

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!