

Jewish Thought

For religious schools

For *Olim*

מחשבת ישראל

לבתי ספר דתיים

לעולים חדשים

Instructions to examinees

- א. Duration of the exam: One and a half hours
- ב. Exam structure and breakdown of points:
This exam consists of one part.
Each question – 25 points; $(4 \times 25) = 100$ points
- ג. Material that may be used during the exam:
A Hebrew-other language / other language-Hebrew dictionary.
- ד. Special instructions:
Write brief, clear answers.
Base your answers on the sources you studied.

Write in the answer booklet only. Write "טיוטה" at top of each draft page. If you use draft paper outside the answer booklet, your exam may be disqualified.

הוראות לנבחן

- א. משך הבחינה: שעה וחצי.
- ב. מבנה השאלון ומפתח ההערכה:
בשאלון זה פרק אחד.
לכל שאלה – 25 נקודות: $(25 \times 4) = 100$ נקודות
- ג. חומר עזר מותר בשימוש:
מילון עברי-לועזי / לועזי-עברי.
- ד. הוראות מיוחדות:
כתוב תשובות קצרות ובהירות.
בסס את דבריך על המקורות שלמדת.

כתוב במחברת הבחינה בלבד. רשום "טיוטה" בראש כל עמוד המשמש טיוטה.
כתיבת טיוטה בדפים שאינם במחברת הבחינה עלולה לגרום לפסילת הבחינה.

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!

Questions

Answer four of the questions 1-5 (each question – 25 points).

1. א. Rabbi Yehuda Halevi [ריה"ל], ספר הכוזרי, מאמר ראשון

According to Rabbi Yehuda Halevi, there are several differences between the way the Jewish religion was formed and the way the other religions were formed.

List two differences.

(12 points)

ב. Rav Kook [הראי"ה קוק], אורות, למהלך האידאות בישראל

(1) According to Rav Kook, why does the Jewish people need a state?

Explain your answer.

(2) In your opinion, is the State of Israel of today actualizing Rav Kook's vision?

Explain your answer using an example of your own.

(13 points)

2. א. Rav Saadia Gaon [רס"ג], אמונות ודעות, הקדמה

(1) A student at a religious high school discussed faith-related topics [ענייני אמונה] with her cousin, who does not believe in G-d. These discussions gave rise to doubts in the student's mind regarding her faith.

Rav Saadia Gaon notes two reasons for studying faith-related topics.

In your opinion, which reason applies in the case described above? Explain your answer.

(2) What other reason does Rav Saadia Gaon give for studying faith-related topics?

(13 points)

ב. Rabbi Nahman of Breslav [רבי נחמן מברסלב], ליקוטי מוהר"ן

(1) According to Rabbi Nachman of Breslav, what is the right way to achieve the ultimate goal and perfection, and what is the wrong way? Explain your answer.

(2) Which way do you identify with? Explain your answer.

(12 points)

3. א. Rav Moshe Haim Luzzatto (Ramhal) [רמח"ל], מסילת ישרים, הקדמה

(1) According to Ramhal, why do intelligent people spend more time studying nature, geometry and Jewish law, and less on studying the fear and love of G-d, and devotion to G-d [היראה, האהבה והדבקות בה']?

(2) Ramhal quotes the following verses:

"אם תבקשנה ככסף וכמטמונים תחפשנה, אז תבין יראת ה' " [If you seek it like silver, and hunt for it like treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord].

Explain the verses. What does Ramhal prove from these verses?

(12 points)

ב. Rav Dessler, מכתב מאליהו

Rav Dessler wrote that "ישנן חמש דרכים בקיום מצוות האמונה" [There are five ways to fulfill the commandment of faith].

Explain three of these ways.

(13 points)

4. א. Rabbi Yehuda Halevi [ריה"ל], ספר הכוזרי, מאמר שלישי

Based on Rabbi Yehuda Halevi, explain the similarity between prayer and rain falling onto the earth.

(12 points)

ב. Rav Soloveitchik [הרב סולוביצ'יק], קול דודי דופק, הרב סולוביצ'יק

(1) According to Rav Soloveitchik, Iyov [איוב] needed to correct two aspects of his trait of kindness [מידת החסד], as a result of the suffering he endured.

Give one of these aspects.

(2) What act did Iyov perform to correct his trait of kindness? Explain your answer.

(13 points)

5. א. Rabbeinu Behaye, חובות הלבבות, הקדמה

(1) Explain what *mitzvot sichliot* [מצוות שכליות] are and what *mitzvot shimiote* [מצוות שמעיות] are.

(2) Rabbeinu Behaye proves by means of logic [על פי השכל] that there are duties of the heart. Give one proof.

(12 points)

ב. Rav Kook [הראי"ה קוק], אגרות הראי"ה

"שני דברים עיקריים ישנם שהם יחד בונים קדושת ישראל" [There are two main features that together form the holiness of Israel]

(1) Write what these two features are, and explain each of them.

(2) The Sages used the image of a donkey to describe the time of the Redemption ("חמורו של משיח").

According to Rav Kook, what is the connection between the image of a donkey and both of the features you noted in Sub-item (1)?

(13 points)

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!