

Oral Torah
Home, Education, and Family
— for *Olim*

תורה שבעל פה
בית, חינוך ומשפחה לעולים

Instructions

הוראות

א. Duration of exam: one and a half hours

א. משך הבחינה: שעה וחצי.

ב. Exam structure and breakdown of points:

ב. מבנה השאלון ומפתח ההערכה:

This exam has three parts.

Part One — (4 × 16) — 64 points

פרק ראשון — (16×4) — 64 נקודות

Part Two } — (3 × 12) — 36 points

פרק שני }
או: — (12×3) — 36 נקודות

Part Three } — —

פרק שלישי }
סה"כ — 100 נקודות

Total — 100 points

ג. Material that may be used during the exam:

ג. חומר עזר מותר בשימוש:

Hebrew-other language / other language-Hebrew
dictionary

מילון עברי-לועזי / לועזי-עברי.

ד. Special instructions: none

ד. הוראות מיוחדות: אין.

Write in the answer booklet only. Write "טיוטה" at the top of each draft page. If you use draft paper that is not in the answer booklet, your exam may be disqualified.

יש לכתוב במחברת הבחינה בלבד. יש לרשום "טיוטה" בראש כל עמוד המשמש טיוטה.
כתיבת טיוטה בדפים שאינם במחברת הבחינה עלולה לגרום לפסילת הבחינה.

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!

Questions

Part One (64 points)

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

1. "Two are better than one" ["טובים השניים מן האחד"]

- א. The creation of man and woman is described twice in the book of Bereishit, once in Chapter 1 and once in Chapter 2.

According to Rav Soloveitchik, what does the Torah emphasize in **Chapter 1** about the relationship between a man and a woman, and what does it emphasize in **Chapter 2**?
(6 points)

- ב. List two things that a man and woman should check before getting married, to see if they are a good match.
(4 points)

- ג. (1) According to Rav Tzvi Yehudah Hakohen Kook, in what way are a man and woman equal?
(2) According to Rav Tzvi Yehudah Hakohen Kook, in what way do a man and woman complement each other?
(6 points)

2. Human Inclinations and Creation [יצר ויצירה]

- א. Based on the Midrash, explain why the evil inclination [יצר הרע] is a very good thing.
(4 points)
- ב. The Gemara tells of an attempt to abolish the sexual instinct [יצר העריות].
(1) What was the result of this attempt?
(2) Explain how this result proves that "the evil inclination is a very good thing".
(6 points)
- ג. According to the Rambam, looking at immodest sights [עריות] is a great sin.
(1) Why is it a great sin to look at immodest sights?
(2) Why might one think it is not a sin to look at immodest sights?
(6 points)

3. When Should a Person Get Married [מתי להינשא]?

- א. The Sages taught that the correct order of priorities is that first a man should plant a vineyard and then get married.

Explain why this is the correct order of priorities.

(4 points)

- ב. Why are thoughts of transgression [הרהורי עבירה] worse than transgression?

Give two explanations.

(6 points)

- ג. (1) Give one reason why it is preferable to get married at a young age.

(2) Give one reason why it is preferable not to get married at a young age.

(6 points)

4. Kiddushin and Nissuin [קידושין ונישואין]

- א. In most Jewish communities it is customary for the rabbi to say the blessings for the *erusin* [ברכות האירוסין] rather than the bridegroom. Why? Give two reasons.

(5 points)

- ב. It is customary to use a ring to 'consecrate' a woman in marriage [לקדש אישה]. Why?

Give two reasons.

(6 points)

- ג. List two customs performed at the *huppah* [חופה] in remembrance of Yerushalayim.

(5 points)

5. Obligations in the Parent-Child Relationship [חובות ביחסי הורים וילדים]

- א. (1) The Torah commands us to honor our parents [כבוד הורים]. What other commandment is a child obliged to perform toward his/her parents?

(2) Give one reason for the commandment to honor one's parents.

(5 points)

- ב. (1) How can you educate children to observe Torah and *mitzvot*? Give one way.

(2) Explain the importance of parents behaving respectfully toward their teenage children.

(7 points)

- ג. A person is obliged to report any suspicion of family violence to the police or welfare services, and this is not considered *lashon hara*.

(1) Why is one obliged to report this to the police?

(2) Why is this not a transgression of the prohibition against *lashon hara*?

(4 points)

Answer questions in either Part Two or Part Three, according to the material you studied.

Part Two (36 points)

If you studied Chapters 1-11 of the booklet, answer three of the questions 6-10 (each question – 12 points).

6. Obligations between Man and Wife [מחויבויות בין איש לאשתו]

א. (1) Explain what a *ketubah* is.

(2) "אסור לו לאדם שישאה את אשתו אפילו שעה אחת בלא כתובה" [It is prohibited for a man to remain living with his wife for even one hour without her having a marriage contract] (Bava Kama 89a)

What is the reason for this law?

(5 points)

ב. (1) At what stage of the *huppah* ceremony is the *ketubah* read?

(2) Why is the *ketubah* read at that particular stage?

(7 points)

7. Building the Home [בניית הבית]

א. "אמר רבי חלבו לעולם יהא אדם זהיר בכבוד אשתו" [Rabbi Helbo said: A person must always be careful with the honor of his wife] (Bava Metzia 59a)

Why must a person be careful with the honor of his wife?

(3 points)

ב. Explain how lighting Shabbat candles helps maintain peace in the home [שלום בית].

(3 points)

ג. "כי יקח איש אשה חדשה ... יָקִי יְהִיהָ לְבֵיתוֹ שָׁנָה אֶחָת וְשִׂמַּח אֶת אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר לָקַח" [When a man has newly taken a wife...he shall remain free for his home for one year and delight his wife whom he has taken] (Devarim 24:5)

What difficulty does Rav Neriah see in this verse and what is his answer to this difficulty?

(6 points)

8. Onah [מצוות עונה]; Hair Covering [כיסוי ראש]

- א. (1) In what situation is a man commanded to have intimate relations with his wife (at a permitted time) even if it is not the time of her *onah*?
(2) Give one example of a situation in which a couple should not have intimate relations, even though they are permitted to do so.
(6 points)
- ב. (1) What is "דת משה", and what is "דת יהודית"?
(2) What hair covering is required according to "דת יהודית"?
(6 points)

9. Tumah and Taharah [טומאה וטהרה]

- א. What are the three commandments that women in particular should perform?
(3 points)
- ב. What two conditions must be met for immersion in a kosher *mikveh* to be valid?
(6 points)
- ג. What might happen if a couple make their own halachic decisions about intimate relations, without asking a halachic authority?
(3 points)

10. Short Questions

Answer two of the items א–ג in brief (each item – 6 points).

- א. According to the Halachah, it is forbidden to harass and shame another person.
(1) Why is it forbidden to shame a person?
(2) To what grave transgression did Rabbi Yehuda the Hassid compare the act of publicly shaming another person?
- ב. To what two things must witnesses pay attention at the *kiddushin* ceremony?
- ג. (1) Explain what the prohibition of *yihud* [יחוד] is.
(2) Give one case in which the prohibition of *yihud* does not apply.

Answer questions in either Part Two or Part Three, according to the material you studied.

Part Three (36 points)

If you studied Chapters 1-6 and 10-14 of the booklet, answer three of the questions 11-15 (each question – 12 points).

11. Obligations between Man and Wife [מחוייבויות בין איש לאשתו]

- א. (1) Explain what a *ketubah* is.
(2) "אסור לו לאדם שישהא את אשתו אפילו שעה אחת בלא כתובה" [It is prohibited for a man to remain living with his wife for even one hour without her having a marriage contract] (Bava Kama 89a)
What is the reason for this law?
(5 points)
- ב. (1) At what stage of the *huppah* ceremony is the *ketubah* read?
(2) Why is the *ketubah* read at that particular stage?
(7 points)

12. Building the Home [בניית הבית]

- א. "אמר רבי חלבו לעולם יהא אדם זהיר בכבוד אשתו" [Rabbi Helbo said: A person must always be careful with the honor of his wife] (Bava Metzia 59a)
Why must a person be careful with the honor of his wife?
(3 points)
- ב. Explain how lighting Shabbat candles helps maintain peace in the home [שלום בית].
(3 points)
- ג. "כי יקח איש אשה חדשה ... נָקִי יְהִיָּה לְבֵיתוֹ שָׁנָה אֶחָת וְשָׂמַח אֶת אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר לָקָח" [When a man newly takes a wife...he shall remain free for his household free for his home for one year and delight his wife whom he has taken] (Devarim 24:5)
What difficulty does Rav Neriah see in this verse and what is his answer to this difficulty?
(6 points)

13. Family Conduct [התנהלותה של משפחה]

- א. What did Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah reply to the Sages when they offered him the position of *Nasi*? Why did he give this reply?
(6 points)
- ב. "בן סורר ומורה לא היה ולא עתיד להיות. ולמה נכתב? דרוש וקבל שכר." [There has never been a stubborn and rebellious son and there will never be one in the future. And why was it written? So you may inquire into it and receive reward.] (Sanhedrin 71a)
- (1) Explain why "There has never been a stubborn and rebellious son and there will never be one in the future" ["בן סורר ומורה לא היה ולא עתיד להיות"].
- (2) Explain the expression "So you may inquire into it and receive reward" ["דרוש וקבל שכר"] according to Rav S.R. Hirsch.
(6 points)

14. Onah [מצוות עונה]; Immersion in a Mikveh [טבילה במקוה]

- א. (1) In what situation is a man commanded to have intimate relations with his wife (at a permitted time) even if it is not the time of her *onah*?
- (2) Give one example of a situation in which a couple should not have intimate relations, even though they are permitted to do so.
(6 points)
- ב. What two conditions must be met for immersion in a kosher *mikveh* to be valid?
(6 points)

15. Short Questions

Answer two of the items א–ג in brief (each item – 6 points).

- א. According to the halachah, it is forbidden to harass and shame another person.
- (1) Why is it forbidden to shame a person?
- (2) To what grave transgression did Rabbi Yehuda the Hassid compare the act of publicly shaming another person?
- ב. To what two things must witnesses pay attention at the *kiddushin* ceremony?
- ג. (1) Explain what the prohibition of *yihud* is.
- (2) Give one case when the prohibition of *yihud* does not apply.

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!