

Note: This exam has special instructions.
Answer the questions according to these instructions.

שימו לב: בבחינה זו יש הנחיות מיוחדות.
יש לענות על השאלות על פי הנחיות אלה.

Tanakh For *Olim*

תנ"ך לעולים חדשים

Instructions

הוראות

- א. Duration of exam: Three hours
- ב. Exam structure and breakdown of points:
This exam consists of three parts.
Part One (**required**) — (2×34) — 68 points
Part Two **or** Part Three — (1×32) — 32 points
Total — 100 points
- ג. Material that may be used during the exam:
A full Hebrew Tanakh, without any commentary or additions.
A translated Tanakh.
A Tanakh with maps.
A Hebrew-other language / other language-Hebrew dictionary.
- ד. Special instructions:
(1) Do not copy the question, but do write the number of the question you are answering.
(2) Stay on topic. Pay attention to your handwriting, spelling, and punctuation.

- א. משך הבחינה: שלוש שעות.
- ב. מבנה השאלון ומפתח ההערכה:
בשאלון זה שלושה פרקים.
פרק ראשון (**חובה**) — (34×2) — 68 נקודות
פרק שני **או** פרק שלישי — (32×1) — 32 נקודות
סך הכול — 100 נקודות
- ג. חומר עזר מותר בשימוש:
תנ"ך עברי שלם בלי פירושים ובלי תוספות.
מותר להשתמש בתנ"ך מתורגם.
מותר להשתמש בתנ"ך שיש בו מפות.
מותר להשתמש במילון לועזי-עברי / עברי-לועזי.
- ד. הוראות מיוחדות:
(1) אין להעתיק את השאלה; יש לכתוב את מספרה בלבד.
(2) יש להתרכז ב**נושא**. יש לשים לב לכתב, לכתיב ולפיסוק.

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

יש לכתוב ב**מחברת 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 – Bereishit (required)

(68 points)

Answer two of the questions 1–4 (each question – 34 points).

For each question you choose, answer all the items (Item א – 14 points; Items ב and ג – 10 points each).

1. Read **בראשית**, Chapter י"ב (12), verses 'ט–'א (1-9).

א. Read verses 'ה–'א (1-5).

- (1) According to these verses, what does God command Avram, and what difficulty does Avram have in fulfilling this command? Explain your answer. (8 points)
- (2) In these verses, words from the root ב-ר-ך [bless] are used repeatedly. Explain how the repeated use of words with this root might encourage Avram to fulfill God's command. Base your answer on the text. (6 points)

ב. Read verses 'ב–'א (1-2), and then **בראשית**, Chapter כ"ב (22), verse 'ב (2).

- (1) List two similarities between God's command to Avram in Chapter י"ב (12), verses 'ב–'א (1-2) and God's command to Abraham in Chapter כ"ב (22), verse 'ב (2). Explain your answer. (4 points)
- (2) Explain the contradiction between God's promise to Avram in Chapter י"ב (12), verse 'ב (2) and the command in Chapter כ"ב (22), verse 'ב (2). (6 points)

ג. Read verses 'ט–'א (1-9).

- (1) How is Avram's obedience expressed in verses 'ד–'א (1-4) and how is his faith in God expressed in verses 'ט–'ה (6-9)? (6 points)
- (2) In your opinion, why is it important to present these characteristics of Avram at the beginning of the story about him? Explain your answer. (4 points)

2. Read **בראשית**, Chapter כ"ז (27).

א. Read verses א'-ד' (1-4).

(1) According to these verses, what were the two reasons why Yitzhak wanted to bless Eisav?
Explain your answer. (7 points)

(2) Some claim that these verses show Yitzhak's weakness.
Bring two proofs from these verses that support this claim, and explain how each of them demonstrates Yitzhak's weakness. (7 points)

ב. (1) Read verses כ"ח-כ"ט (28-29) and verses ל"ז-מ' (37-40).

Explain one similarity and one difference between Yitzhak's blessing to Yaakov and his blessing to Eisav. (5 points)

(2) Read verses ל"-ל"ח (30-38).

Bring two proofs from these verses that Eisav attached great importance to his father's blessing. Explain your answer. (5 points)

ג. Read verse מ"א (41) and also **בראשית**, Chapter כ"ח (28), verses ו'-ט' (6-9).

From these texts we can learn that, despite the injustice he suffered, Eisav still honors his father according to the commandment of "כְּבֹד אֶת אָבִיךָ וְאֶת אִמְךָ" ["Honor your father and mother"] (שמות, Chapter כ' (20), verse י"ב (12)) from the Ten Commandments.

Bring one proof from one of these texts that Eisav fulfilled the commandment to honor his father. Explain the proof you brought. (10 points)

3. Read **בראשית**, Chapter ל"ז (37).

א. Read verses א'-ד' (1-4).

"וַיִּשְׂנְאוּ אוֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַבֵּר לְשָׁלָם" ["And they hated him and they could not speak peacefully with him"] (verse ד' (4)).

Yaakov's behavior and Yosef's behavior caused the brothers to hate Yosef.

Bring one example of Yaakov's behavior and one example of Yosef's behavior that caused the brothers to hate Yosef, and explain each example. (14 points)

ב. Read verses ה'-י"א (5-11).

(1) Yosef's feeling of superiority is evident in both dreams, but it is even greater in the second dream than in the first.

Bring two examples from these verses that support this claim, and explain them. (6 points)

(2) In your opinion, does Yaakov's reaction to the second dream express support for Yosef or support for the brothers? Explain your answer and base it on the text. (4 points)

ג. Read verses ט"ז-כ"ז (19-27).

(1) How was the brothers' cruelty towards Yosef evident in their speech, and how was it evident in their actions? Explain your answer and base it on the text. (6 points)

(2) In your opinion, was Yehuda's suggestion intended for Yosef's benefit? Explain your answer and base it on the text. (4 points)

4. Read **בראשית**, Chapter מ' (40).

א. Read **בראשית**, Chapter מ' (40), verses א'-ג' (1-3), and then read **בראשית**, Chapter ל"ט (39), verses י"ט-כ' (19-20).

- (1) List and explain one similarity between Yosef and Paro's [פרעה] two officials, relating to their imprisonment, (7 points)
- (2) Explain the difference between the reason why Yosef was sent to prison and the reason why these officials were sent to prison. (7 points)

ב. Read verses ו'-ח' (6-8), verses י"ד-ט"ו (14-15), and verses כ"א-כ"ג (21-23).

- (1) Verses ו'-ח' (6-8) show Yosef's sensitivity towards the cupbearer [שר המשקים] and the baker [שר האופים].

Bring two examples from these verses that illustrate his sensitivity toward them, and explain your examples. (5 points)

- (2) Read verses י"ד-ט"ו (14-15) and verses כ"א-כ"ג (21-23).

Based on these verses, some claim that the cupbearer was ungrateful to Yosef.

Explain how this ingratitude is demonstrated in the cupbearer's behavior. Base your answer on the text. (5 points)

ג. Read verses ט'-י"ג (9-13) and verses ט"ז-י"ט (16-19).

- (1) What was Yosef's interpretation of the cupbearer's dream, and on what two signs did he base his interpretation? Explain your answer. (5 points)

- (2) In the description of Yosef's interpretation of the baker's dream, Yosef demonstrates insensitivity towards the baker.

How is Yosef's insensitivity towards the baker demonstrated? Explain your answer and base it on one example from the text. (5 points)

Answer one question only from either Part 2 (Questions 5–6) or Part 3 (Questions 7–11).

Answer all of the items in the question you choose (Item א – 12 points; Items ב and ג – 10 points each).

Part Two – Shemot (32 points)

5. Read שמות, Chapter ב' (2).

א. Read verses א'–י (1-10).

(1) Moshe's mother and sister save him, thanks to their wisdom.

Bring an example from these verses of one action his mother carried out and one action his sister carried out, and explain how each of these actions saved his life. (6 points)

(2) Paro's daughter also acts to save Moshe.

According to these verses, were Paro's daughter's motives in saving Moshe based on moral considerations or on personal interest? Explain your answer and base it on the text. (6 points)

ב. Read verses י"א–י"ז (11-17).

These verses describe three incidents in which Moshe's qualities are evident.

(1) In these three incidents, Moshe is seen to be a courageous man and justice seeker.

Bring two examples from these verses, one for each quality, and explain each example. (5 points)

(2) There is implied criticism of Moshe in these three incidents. Explain what this criticism is and write whether it is justified in your opinion. Explain your answer and base it on the text. (5 points)

ג. Read verses כ"ג–כ"ה (23-25).

(1) These verses describe the people's distance from God and God's wish to draw close to the people and rescue them.

Bring support from the verses for both parts of this statement. Explain your answer. (5 points)

(2) Now read בראשית, Chapter ט"ו (15), verses י"ד–ט"ז (14-16).

God's covenant with Avram includes God's future promises to rescue the people from Egypt. List two such promises, and explain them. (5 points)

6. Read שמות, Chapter ל"ב (32).

א. Read verses א'-ה' (1-6).

Some claim that the incident of the Golden Calf shows that the people did not want to worship the God of Israel, and others claim that the incident of the Golden Calf shows that the people did intend to worship the God of Israel.

Bring proof from the text for each of these claims, and explain your proofs. (12 points)

ב. Read verses א'-ה' (1-5) and verses כ"א-כ"ה (21-25).

The account of the incident of the Golden Calf as related by Aaron in verses כ"א-כ"ה (21-25) is different from the account of the incident in verses א'-ה' (1-5).

Give one detail in Aaron's account of the incident of the Golden Calf that is different, and explain why Aaron describes the incident differently.

Base your answer on the text. (10 points)

ג. Read verses ו'-ט"ז (7-16).

We can learn from these verses that the incident of the Golden Calf led God to distance Himself from the people, and led Moshe to take responsibility for the people.

(1) Bring one proof from these verses that shows that God distanced Himself from the people, and one proof from Moshe's response that shows his responsibility for the people. Explain your answer. (6 points)

(2) Bring one proof from these verses that Moshe's response convinced God, and explain this proof. (4 points)

If you did not answer a question from Part 2, answer a question from Part 3.

Answer all of the items in the question you choose (Item א – 12 points; Items ב and ג – 10 points each).

Part Three – Chosen Topics (32 points)

The Return to Zion [שיבת ציון]

7. Read עזרא, Chapter א' (1).

א. Read verses א'-ג' (1-3).

(1) A new era of Jewish history begins after the decree issued by Koresh [הצהרת כורש].

What is this era called, and in which civil year [שנה לועזית] did it begin? (5 points)

(2) Some claim that after rising to power, kings of the ancient near east [המזרח הקדום] would allow religious freedom for the peoples under their rule, in order to prevent uprisings and to strengthen their position and regime.

Bring one proof from these verses for each of the underlined parts of this statement, and explain your answer. (7 points)

ב. Read verses א'-ג' (1-3).

(1) Explain how we can learn from these verses that Koresh viewed his decree as a command from God. (4 points)

(2) These verses reveal a contradiction in the way Koresh perceived God. Explain what this contradiction is. Base your answer on the text. (6 points)

ג. (1) Read verses א'-ב' (1-2), and verses ז'-ח' (7-8).

These verses seem to indicate that Koresh truly intended to carry out his decree.

Bring two proofs that Koresh began to fulfill the promise he made in his decree, and explain your proofs. (6 points)

(2) Read verses ג'-ד' (3-4).

These verses describe two groups of people.

Describe the role of each of these groups in carrying out Koresh's plan. Base your answer on the text. (4 points)

Prophet and Prophecy

8. Read **ירמיה**, Chapter כ"ו (26).

א. Read verses א"י-א (1-11).

(1) Explain the connection between the content of the prophecy and the location where Yirmeyahu proclaims the prophecy. (6 points)

(2) Explain why the priests and prophets attack Yirmeyahu following of his prophecy. (6 points)

ב. Read verses א'ג-א (1-6), and verses י"ב-ט"ו (12-15).

(1) Some claim that a prophecy of disaster and fury was intended first and foremost to make the people mend their ways, and therefore did not necessarily have to come true. Bring one proof from these verses to support this claim. Explain your answer. (4 points)

(2) Read verses י"ב-ט"ו (12-15). Bring two arguments from these verses that Yirmeyahu uses to try and convince the people that he is a true prophet, and explain your answer. (6 points)

ג. Read verse ט"ז (16), and verses כ"ד-כ"ו (20-24).

(1) What did the people decide regarding Yirmeyahu's fate according to verse ט"ז (16), and did they decide according to verses כ"ד-כ"ו (20-24)? (5 points)

(2) What made them change their decision, according to verses כ"ד-כ"ו (20-24)? (5 points)

Law and Society

9. Read **דברים**, Chapter כ"ד (24), verses י'-כ"ב (10-22).

א. Read verses י'-יג (10-13).

(1) The laws in these verses are intended to protect the lender [המלווה] and the borrower [הלווה]. Bring one example of a law that protects the lender and one example of a law that protects the borrower, and explain each of them. (7 points)

(2) According to these verses, what might encourage the lender to obey the law? Explain your answer. (5 points)

ב. Read verses י"ד-י"ח (14-18).

These verses describe commandments relating to social issues that are intended to protect the weak members of society and make people behave towards them with sensitivity and compassion.

List two different commandments, and explain how they help to achieve these aims. (10 points)

ג. Read verses י"ט-כ"ב (19-22).

(1) What encourages the farmer to obey the law, and what threat is implied to make him obey this law? Explain your answer. (5 points)

(2) Read verses י"ט-כ"ב (19-22), and also **ויקרא**, Chapter ט' (19), verses ט'-י (9-10). Some claim that the aim of the giving described in these verses is to educate the farmer about social responsibility. Bring two examples (one from each chapter) in which this aim is evident. Explain your answer. (5 points)

Tehillim [Psalms]

10. Read תהלים, Chapter ח' (8).

א. Read verses א'-ה' (1-5).

These verses describe the greatness of God relative to man.

- (1) Based on verse ג' (3), explain the role of small children and infants in the description of God's greatness. (6 points)
- (2) Based on verses ד'-ה' (4-5), explain how the poet is filled with wonder at God's greatness. (6 points)

ב. Read verses ו'-י' (6-10), and תהלים, Chapter ק"ד (104,) verses י"ט-ט"ז (10-16).

- (1) Both psalms express the special status of man relative to other creatures. Bring proof for this claim from each of these psalms, and explain both proofs. (6 points)
- (2) In your opinion, which of the psalms attributes a higher status to man? Explain your answer and base it on both psalms. (4 points)

ג. Read verses ח'-ט' (8-9).

In this psalm the poet uses descriptions of animals to express God's greatness.

- (1) Explain this statement using one of these verses. (6 points)
- (2) Read verse ב' (2), and verse י' (10), and also תהלים, Chapter ק"ד (104), verse א' (1) and verse ל"ה (35).

These verses form an envelope [מסגרת] in each of the psalms.

For each of the psalms, explain how this envelope helps the poet express the greatness of God. (4 points)

Literature of Wisdom – Thoughts about Life [ספרות החוכמה – ההוראים על החיים]

11. Read קהלת, Chapter א' (1).

א. Verses ב'-י' (2-10) deal with Kohelet's despair with the cyclical character of nature and human life. Explain one similarity and one difference between the cycles of nature and the cycles of human life. Base your answer on the text. (12 points)

ב. Read verses י"א-י"ב (10-11) and verses י"ד-ט"ו (14-15).

- (1) These verses express the idea of the futility of human life [אפסות האדם] in the world. Explain this idea. Base your answer on two examples from the text. (6 points)
- (2) Read verse י"א (11). Do you agree with Kohelet's claim in this verse? Explain your answer. (4 points)

ג. (1) According to verses י"ב-י"ח (12-18), what is Kohelet's conclusion regarding wisdom, and what led him to this conclusion? Explain your answer. (6 points)

- (2) Read קהלת, Chapter ט' (9), verses ט"ז-י"ח (16-18). Explain what change occurred in Kohelet's attitude towards wisdom. Base your answer on the text. (4 points)

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!