

Tanakh For *Olim*

תנ"ך לעולים חדשים

Instructions

הוראות

א. Duration of exam: Two and a half hours

א. משך הבחינה: שעתיים וחצי.

ב. Exam structure and breakdown of points:

ב. מבנה השאלון ומפתח ההערכה:

This exam consists of three parts.

בשאלון זה שלושה פרקים.

Part One	— (2×28)	— 56 points
Part Two	— (1×28)	— 28 points
Part Three	— (1×16)	— 16 points
Total	—	100 points

פרק ראשון	— (28×2)	— 56 נקודות
פרק שני	— (28×1)	— 28 נקודות
פרק שלישי	— (16×1)	— 16 נקודות
סך הכול	—	100 נקודות

ג. Material that may be used during the exam:

ג. חומר עזר מותר בשימוש:

- A complete Hebrew Tanakh, without any commentary and/or additions.
- A Tanakh with a translation.
- A Tanakh with maps.
- A Hebrew-other language / other language-Hebrew dictionary.

- 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. Special instructions:

ד. הוראות מיוחדות:

- (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.

- (1) אל תעתיקו את השאלה; כתבו את מספרה בלבד.
- (2) התרכזו ב**נושא**. שימו לב לכתב, לכתוב ולפיסוק.

Note: In quotes from the Tanakh, the explicit name of God is written as, "ה'".

הערה: בקטעים מן התנ"ך השם המפורש בא בצורת ה'.

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.
כתובת טיוטה בדפים שאינם במחברת הבחינה עלולה לגרום לפסילת הבחינה.

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!

Questions

Part One – Bereishit

(56 points)

Answer two of the questions 1–3 (each question – 28 points).

For each question you choose, answer all the items (Item א – 8 points; Items ב and ג – 10 points each).

1. Read **בראשית**, Chapter ט"ז (16).

א. Read verses 'א–'ד (1-4).

- (1) According to verses 'א–'ג (1-3), what was the reason for Sarai's distress, and how could the action she took solve this distress? (4 points)
- (2) In your opinion, what can we learn about the character of Avram from verses 'א–'ד (1-4)? Explain your answer. (4 points)

ב. Read verse 'א (1) and verses 'ד–'י (4-10).

These verses describe a crisis in the relationship between Sarai and Hagar.

- (1) What behavior of Hagar caused the crisis between her and Sarai, and how did each of them deal with the crisis? Explain your answer, basing it on the text. (5 points)
- (2) What was the Divine decision regarding the crisis between the two women, and, in your opinion, could this decision have improved the relationship between them? Explain your answer, basing it on the text. (5 points)

ג. Read verses י"ב–י"א (11-12).

- (1) According to verse י"א (11), what is the meaning of Yishmael's name, and how might the name's meaning encourage Hagar? Base your answer on the text. (5 points)
- (2) Yishmael's future qualities, described in verse י"ב (12), might reassure Hagar or worry her. Explain both parts of this statement. Base your answer on the text. (5 points)

2. Read **בראשית**, Chapter כ"ד (24).

א. Read verses ט'-א' (1-9).

- (1) In verses ד'-ג' (3-4) it says that Avraham made his servant swear an oath.
According to these verses, what did Avraham require of his servant in this oath?

(3 points)

- (2) Explain under what condition the servant would be exempt from the oath, and how this condition is related to God's promise to Avraham in verse ז' (7).

(5 points)

ב. Read verses ט"ז-כ"ט (29-36).

The arrival of Avraham's servant arouses greed, as well as curiosity, in Lavan, Rivka's brother.

- (1) Bring one example from verses ט"ז-כ"ט (29-32) indicating Lavan's greed or his curiosity regarding the arrival of Avraham's servant. Explain your example.
- (2) According to verses ל"ו-ל"ג (33-36), explain one way in which Avraham's servant took advantage of Lavan's greed or his curiosity in order to succeed in his mission.

(4 points)

ג. Read verses ס"א-מ"ט (49-61).

- (1) Bring two examples from verses נ"ח-נ' (50-58) showing that Rivka's family was reluctant to let Rivka go with the servant, and explain each of them.

(5 points)

- (2) Read verses ס"א-נ"ז (57-61) and also **בראשית**, Chapter י"ב (12), verses ד'-א' (1-4).

Based on these verses, bring two points of similarity between Rivka and Avraham. Explain what this comparison adds to our understanding of Rivka's character.

(5 points)

3. Read **בראשית**, Chapter ט"ט (39).

א. Read verses ו'-א' (1-6).

- (1) What influence did Yosef have on Potifar's estate [בית פוטיפר]? (4 points)
- (2) What reward did Potifar give Yosef in exchange for his influence? (4 points)

ב. Read verses ט'-ז' (7-9).

- (1) According to verses ח'-ז' (7-8), what is the title [כינוי] repeatedly used for Potifar's wife? (3 points)

- (2) In verse ט' (9), Yosef gives two reasons for his refusal to lie with Potifar's wife.

How does each of his reasons relate to the title that you wrote in Sub-Item(1)?

Explain your answer.

(7 points)

ג. Read verses כ'-ט"ז (16-20).

- (1) What is the title that Potifar's wife uses for Yosef in her conversation with Potifar, and what is she trying to achieve by using this title? (6 points)

- (2) Some claim that Potifar did not believe the accusations his wife made against Yosef.

Bring one example that supports this claim, and explain it.

(4 points)

Part Two – Shemot

(28 points)

Answer one of the questions 4–5.

For the question you choose, answer all the items (Item א – 8 points; Items ב and ג – 10 points each).

4. Read שמות, Chapter י"ד (14).

א. Read verses י"ב–ד' (4-12).

In verse ה' (5) it is told that the Egyptians were dissatisfied with the change in their situation.

(1) Bring one example demonstrating the dissatisfaction of the Egyptians with their situation.

Explain your answer. (4 points)

(2) Read verse ד' (4) and verse ח' (8).

Explain a theological (religious-faith related) problem that may arise from the text in one of these verses, and give one solution to the problem. (4 points)

ב. Read verses י"ד–י' (10-14)

(1) Bring one example demonstrating the dissatisfaction of the Children of Israel with their situation. Explain your answer. (5 points)

(2) Explain how Moshe's leadership is revealed in these verses. Bring two examples, and explain them. (5 points)

ג. Read verse י' (10), verse י"ג (13), and verses ל"א–כ"ט (29-31).

(1) Use the key roots [שורשים מנחים] ו-א-ה and י-ר-א to explain the process that the people went through, and write what conclusion the people reached at the end of the process. (6 points)

(2) Now read שמות, Chapter כ' (20), verses י"ח–ט"ו (15-18) (the verses may be different depending on the version you are holding).

Read the passage that begins with the words: "וְכָל הָעָם רְאִים אֶת הַקּוֹלֶת" and ends with the words: "אֲשֶׁר שָׁם הָאֱלֹהִים".

Explain how the conclusion that you described in Sub-Item(1) is evident in these verses. (4 points)

5. Read שמות, Chapter ל"ב (32).

א. Read verses ו'-א' (1-6).

- (1) What did the people demand of Aharon, and why? (4 points)
- (2) Explain in what way Aharon satisfied the demand of the people, but tried to put off fulfilling it. Base your answer on the text. (4 points)

ב. Read verses ט"ו-כ" (15-20).

- (1) List two forceful actions that Moshe took: one action with the tablets of the covenant [לוחות הברית] and one action with the golden calf [העגל], and explain the purpose of each of the actions. Base your answers on the text. (6 points)
- (2) Read verses ל"ב-ל' (30-32).
What does Moshe request from God? In your opinion, does this request demonstrate that he is a responsible leader? Explain your answer. (4 points)

ג. Read verses כ"ה-כ"א (21-25).

- (1) According to verses כ"ה-כ"א (21-25), how did Aharon try to reduce his level of responsibility for the things of which he was accused?
Explain your answer, basing it on two examples from the text. (6 points)
- (2) Now read verse א' (1), and explain what Aharon could have said to Moshe in his own defense in verses כ"ד-כ"ב (22-24) in order to further reduce his level of responsibility. Base your answer on the text. (4 points)

Part Three – Chosen Topics (16 points)

Answer one of the questions 6–10.

For the question you choose, answer Item א – **required** (8 points), and one of the Items ג–ב (8 points).

The Return to Zion [שיבת ציון]

6. Read עזרא, Chapter ג' (3).

Answer Item א – **Required**.

א. Read verses ה'–א' (1-5).

According to verse ב' (2), the first action of the people returning to Zion [שבי ציון] was to build an altar to the God of Israel.

Explain what the people's two reasons were for hurrying to build the altar.

Base your answer on the text. (8 points)

Answer one of the Items ג–ב.

ב. Read verses ט'–ו' (6-9).

(1) Bring two examples of the preparations for building the second Temple [בית המקדש השני], and explain how they show how important the Temple was to the people returning to Zion. Base your answer on the text. (5 points)

(2) Now read חגי, Chapter א' (1), verses ד'–ב' (2-4).

According to many commentators, the other meaning of the word "סְפוּגִים" in this context is "בנויים מעצי ארזים" ["built of cedar wood"].

According to this interpretation, explain what Haggai's implied criticism was of the way the people returning to Zion went about building the Temple. (3 points)

ג. Read verses י"ג–א' (11-13).

Sometimes the fulfillment of a dream brings with it not only feelings of happiness, but also of disappointment.

(1) How is happiness expressed in these verses, and how is disappointment expressed in them? What caused each of these feelings in the people returning to Zion?

Explain your answers and base them on the text. (5 points)

(2) Now read תהלים, Chapter קכ"ו (126).

Bring one example from this psalm expressing a positive feeling experienced by the people returning to Zion. Explain your answer. (3 points)

Prophet and Prophecy

7. Read ירמיה, Chapter כ"ח (28).

Answer Item א – **Required**.

א. Read verses 'א–ד' (1-4).

- (1) What historical event does Hanania Ben Azur mention in these verses, and what is his prophecy about it? (4 points)
- (2) Explain what it is in Hanania's prophecy that might convince his audience that his promise will come true. (4 points)

Answer one of the Items ב–ג.

ב. Read verses 'ה–י"א' (5-11).

On the one hand, Yirmeyahu hopes that Hanania's prophecy will come true, and on the other, he is skeptical about it.

- (1) How do the verses express Yirmeyahu's hope that Hanania's prophecy will come true? Explain your answer and base it on the text. (3 points)
- (2) Prove that Yirmeyahu demonstrates his skepticism about Hanania's prophecy by his use of the distinction between a false prophet and a true prophet. (5 points)

ג. Read verses 'י"ב–ט"ו' (10-14).

- (1) According to verses 'א–י"א' (10-11), what is the symbolic act that Hanania performed in front of the people, and what is its purpose? Explain your answer and base it on the text. (4 points)
- (2) How do God's words to Yirmeyahu in verse י"ג' (13) serve as an answer to Hanania, and what is the message to the people in verse ט"ד' (14)? Explain your answer and base it on the text. (4 points)

Law and Society

8. Read ויקרא, Chapter י"ט (19), verses 'ח–ט' (9-18).

Answer Item א – **Required**.

א. Read verses 'ט–י' (9-10) and verse ט"ו' (15).

- (1) These verses demonstrate that sometimes the biblical lawgiver [המחוקק המקראי] requires that certain groups in society be favored, and sometimes he requires that everyone be treated equally. Prove each of these requirements from the verses above, and explain each proof (two proofs in total). (5 points)
- (2) In your opinion, what is the reason for these different requirements by the lawgiver? Explain your answer. (3 points)

(Note: This question continues on the next page.)

Answer one of the Items ג-ב.

ב. Read verses י"ב-י"א (11-12) and verses י"ח-י"ז (17-18).

- (1) Explain how verse י"א (11) expresses the idea that "עבירה גוררת עבירה" ["a transgression leads to a transgression"], and what severe consequence these transgressions lead to according to verse י"ב (12). (4 points)
- (2) According to verses י"ח-י"ז (17-18), explain what the difficulty is in the requirement to "וְאָהַבְתָּ לְרֵעֲךָ כָּמוֹךָ" ["you shall love your fellow as yourself"] (verse י"ח (18)), and how one of the laws mentioned in verses י"ח-י"ז (17-18) might help to deal with the difficulty of this requirement. (4 points)

ג. Read verse י"ד (14).

Some claim that the expression "וְיִרְאֵתָ מֵאֱלֹהֶיךָ" ["you shall fear your God"] refers to cases where others cannot know whether a person has transgressed, and only that person in their heart knows whether they have transgressed.

What are the two prohibitions in verse י"ד (14), and why does the lawgiver use the expression "ויראת מאלוהיך" in relation to these laws?

Explain your answer and base it on the text and on the claim. (8 points)

Psalms [Tehillim]

9. Read תהלים, Chapter קכ"ב (122).

Answer Item א – **Required**.

א. In this psalm the poet describes a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

- (1) Bring one example of the poet's excitement before the pilgrimage, and one example of his admiration for the city on his arrival. Explain your answers. (4 points)
- (2) In verses ט'-ח' (8-9), what does the poet promise in regards to Jerusalem? (4 points)

Answer one of the Items ג-ב.

ב. The meaning of the expression "כְּעִיר שְׁחֻבָּהּ לָהּ יַחְדָּו" ["like a city that is knit together"] (verse ג' (3)) can be explained from a religious, national, or social point of view.

- (1) Choose two points of view, and explain the meaning of the expression according to each of them. (5 points)
- (2) How does the repetition of the expression "בית ה'" ["House of God"] at the beginning and the end of the psalm emphasize one of the viewpoints you chose? (3 points)

ג. (1) Bring one example from verses ז'-א' (1-7) illustrating the poet's love for Jerusalem. Explain the example. (5 points)

(2) According to the psalm, explain how the unity of the people is expressed. (3 points)

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

10. Read **איוב [Iyov]**, Chapter 'א (1).

Answer Item א – **Required**.

א. Read verses 'ד–'א (1-4).

Explain the idea of reward for merit known as "צדיק וטוב לו" ["righteous and it is good for him/her"]; and how verses 'ד–'א (1-4) express this idea. (8 points)

Answer one of the Items ב–ג.

ב. Read verses 'ז–'ב (7-12).

(1) What is the disagreement between God and the satan [השטן] regarding Iyov's righteousness? Give two arguments that the satan brings to support his statements.

Explain your answers and base them on the text. (4 points)

(2) Read verse 'ה (5).

One can argue that Iyov's behavior in verse 'ה (5) confirms the satan's statements about Iyov (and that you wrote in Sub-Item(1)), and one can also argue that his behavior does not confirm the satan's statements.

Justify each argument, and base it on the text. (4 points)

ג. Read verses 'ט–'יג (13-19).

(1) The expression "בשורת איוב" ["tidings of Iyov"] means "bad news".

Write two expressions that recur in these verses, and explain how each of them intensifies the severity of the bad news that Iyov received. (4 points)

(2) Read **איוב**, Chapter 'ג (3), verses 'ז–'ב (2-7).

What is Iyov's response to his suffering? Give one example of this response, and explain it. (4 points)

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!