

Tanakh For *Olim*

תנ"ך לעולים חדשים

Instructions

הוראות

א. Duration of exam: Two and a half hours

א. משך הבחינה: שתיים 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.

תנ"ך עברי שלם בלי פירושים ובלי תוספות.

A Tanakh with a translation.

מותר להשתמש בתנ"ך מתורגם.

A Tanakh with maps.

מותר להשתמש בתנ"ך שיש בו מפות.

A Hebrew-other language / other language-Hebrew dictionary.

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.

(1) אל תעתיקו את השאלה; כתבו את מספרה בלבד.

(2) Stay on topic. Pay attention to your handwriting, spelling, and punctuation.

(2) התרכזו ב**נושא**. שימו לב לכתב, לכתוב ולפיסוק.

Note: In quotes from the Tanakh, the name of God is written "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.

יש לכתוב במחברת הבחינה בלבד. יש לרשום "טיוטה" בראש כל עמוד המשמש טיוטה.

If you write draft material outside the answer booklet, your exam may be disqualified.

כתיבת 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 טז (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 relieve 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 aspect of Hagar's behavior caused the crisis in the relationship 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 יא–יב (11–12).

- (1) According to verse יא (11), what is the meaning of Yishmael's name [מדרש השם], 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 יב (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 כט (29), verses ד-ה (4–35).

א. Read verses ד-ח (4–8).

- (1) According to verses ו-ד (4–6), what did Yaakov want to know in his conversation with the shepherds, and why did he need this information?

You may consult **בראשית**, Chapter כז (27), verses מ-מג (43–45). (4 points)

- (2) According to verses ח-ז (7–8), why was Yaakov surprised by the shepherds' behavior, and what was the reason they gave for behaving this way? (4 points)

ב. Read verses יג-כח (13–28).

- (1) What is the difference between Lavan's attitude towards Yaakov in verses יג-טו (13–15) and his attitude towards Yaakov in verses כח-כב (22–25)? Explain your answer, basing it on the text. (5 points)

- (2) Explain why, in spite of Lavan's attitude towards Yaakov in verses כח-כב (22–25), Yaakov agreed to the new condition that Lavan imposed on him regarding Rahel. (5 points)

You may also consult **בראשית**, Chapter כז (27), verse לה (35).

ג. Read verses לה-לא (31–35).

- (1) Explain how Leah's desire to win Yaakov's love is expressed in the meanings of the names [מדרשי שם] of two of her sons. (6 points)

- (2) Which name and meaning shows that Leah is no longer dependent on Yaakov? Explain your answer, basing it on the text. (4 points)

3. Read **בראשית**, Chapter לו (37).

א. Read verses ד-א (1-4).

"וַיִּשְׂנְאוּ אוֹתוֹ וְלֹא יָכְלוּ דַבֵּרוֹ לְשָׁלָם" verse ד (4).

["And they hated him and they could not speak peacefully with him"]

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. (8 points)

ב. Read verses יא-ה (5-11).

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

Bring two examples from the verses that support this claim, and explain each example. (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, basing it on the text. (4 points)

ג. Read verses כז-יט (19-27).

(1) How is the brothers' cruelty towards Yosef evident in their speech, and how is 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, basing it on the text. (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 יט (19), verses טו–ג (3–15).

א. Read verses ה–ג (3–5).

- (1) List and explain two acts of kindness [חסדים] that God performed for the Israelites. (4 points)
- (2) Explain why God listed His acts of kindness before the Revelation at Mount Sinai [מעמד הר סיני] began. (4 points)

ב. Read verses ח–ה (5–8).

- (1) In the covenant made between the Israelites and God, what was the commitment undertaken by the Israelites and what was the commitment undertaken by God? Base your answer on the text. (6 points)
- (2) Bring proof from the text that the Israelites accepted the covenant willingly and not as a result of coercion. Explain your answer. (4 points)

ג. (1) Based on verses טו–י (10–15), list two actions that the people were commanded to carry out before the Revelation at Mount Sinai, and explain why they had to perform these actions. (6 points)

- (2) Verses יב–יג (12–13) relate that the people were strictly forbidden to approach the mountain. Explain how this prohibition was intended to protect the people. Base your answer on the text. (4 points)

5. Read שמות, Chapter כ (20), verses יח–א (1–18). (Note: The verses may be divided differently in different editions of the Tanakh.)

- א. (1) Give one of the Ten Commandments between man and God [בין אדם לאלוהים], and explain it. (4 points)
- (2) Give two of the Ten Commandments between people [בין אדם לחברו]. (4 points)

ב. Read verses יא–ח (8–11), about the commandment relating to Shabbat, from the words "זָכוֹר אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ" until the words "עַל כֵּן בֵּרַךְ ה' אֶת יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת וַיְקַדְּשֶׁהוּ".

Some say that this Commandment includes two commandments: one commandment to work [עשיית המלאכה] and one commandment to cease working [הפסקת המלאכה].

- (1) Quote the words that relate to the commandment to work, and explain them. (4 points)
- (2) Explain the reason given in these verses for the commandment to cease working. (6 points)

ג. Read verses יח–טו (15–18), from the words "וְכָל הָעָם רֹאִים אֶת הַקּוֹלֶת" until the words "אֲשֶׁר שָׁם הָאֱלֹהִים".

- (1) What do the people ask of Moshe, and what is the reason for this request? (6 points)
- (2) Explain Moshe's reply to the people's request. (4 points)

Part Three – Elective 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 ב–ג (8 points).

The Return to Zion [שיבת ציון]

6. Read **עזרא**, Chapter א (3).

Answer Item א (**required**).

א. Read verses א–ו (1–6).

- (1) List two actions that the returnees to Zion [שבי ציון] carried out. What was the purpose of these actions? (5 points)
- (2) What was the historical-political event that enabled the returnees to Zion to carry out these actions, and in what (civil) year did it occur? (3 points)

Answer either Item ב or Item ג.

ב. Read verses א–ז (1–7).

According to these verses, the returnees to Zion were careful to follow practices according to Jewish law.

Bring three proofs from the verses to support this statement, and explain each of your proofs. (8 points)

ג. Read verses ח–יג (8–13).

In these verses, the returnees to Zion express joy at the fulfillment of a dream, but also longing and sorrow for what has been lost.

- (1) Which verse expresses joy at the fulfillment of a dream, and which verse expresses sorrow at what has been lost? (5 points)
- (2) With which of these reactions of the returnees to Zion do you identify? Explain your answer. (3 points)

Prophet and Prophecy

7. Read **ירמיה**, Chapter כו (26).

Answer Item א (**required**).

א. Read verses א–יא (1–11).

- (1) Explain the connection between the content of the prophecy and the location where Yirmeyahu proclaims the prophecy. (4 points)
- (2) Explain why the priests and prophets attack Yirmeyahu following his prophecy. (4 points)

Answer either Item ב or Item ג.

ב. Read verses א–ו (1–6), and verses טו–יז (12–15).

- (1) Some claim that a prophecy of disaster and fury is intended first and foremost to make the people mend their ways, and therefore does not necessarily have to come true. Bring one proof from these verses to support this claim. Explain your answer. (3 points)
- (2) Read verses טו–יז (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. (5 points)

ג. Read verse טז (16), and verses כד–כז (20–24).

- (1) What do the people decide regarding Yirmeyahu's fate according to verse טז (16), and what do they decide according to verses כד–כז (20–24)? (4 points)
- (2) What makes them change their decision, according to verses כד–כז (20–24)? (4 points)

Law and Society

8. Read **דברים**, Chapter כ (20), verses א-כ (1–20).

Answer Item א (**required**).

א. Read verses א-ד (1–4).

What is the concern expressed in these verses, and how can the words of encouragement in verse א (1) and verse ד (4) encourage the people? Explain your answer. (8 points)

Answer either Item ב or Item ג.

ב. Read verses ה-ט (5–9).

(1) Based on verses ה-ז (5–7), explain the reasons for which a person is exempt from going to fight in a war. (4 points)

(2) Based on verse ח (8), a person who is "fearful and fainthearted" ["הִירָא וְרַךְ הַלֵּב"] is exempt from going to fight in a war.

Explain the reason for this exemption, and write what difficulty might arise as a result of the exemption. (4 points)

ג. Read verses י-כ (10–20).

(1) According to verses י-יד (10–14), explain the gradual nature of the Torah laws of war. (4 points)

(2) Based on verses ט-כ (19–20), explain how the Torah law reduces the damage that may result from war. (4 points)

Psalms [Tehillim]

9. Read **תהלים**, Chapter קד (104).

Answer Item א (**required**).

א. (1) Read verses טד-טז (14–16).

List two human foods that are mentioned in these verses. (4 points)

(2) Explain what benefit people derive from each of these two foods. (4 points)

Answer either Item ב or Item ג.

ב. Read verses יג-יז (10–13) and verse טז (16).

According to the description in these verses, the different elements in the world complement each other.

Use two examples from the description of water to support this statement. (8 points)

ג. Read verses כו-כז (19–20).

"מָה רַבּוּ מַעֲשֵׂי ה', כָּל־בְּחִכְמָה עָשִׂיתָ" (verse כד (24))

Give two examples from these verses that demonstrate that the world was created wisely.

(8 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 א-ד (1–4).

What is the idea of reward for merit known as "צדיק וטוב לו" ["the righteous prosper"] and how do verses א-ד (1–4) express this idea? Explain your answer. (8 points)

Answer either Item ב or Item ג.

ב. Read verses ז-יב (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, basing 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 (which you wrote in Sub-Item(1)). Conversely, one can argue that his behavior does not confirm the satan's statements.

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

ג. Read verses יט-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!