

Jewish Thought

for *Olim*
in religious schools

מחשבת ישראל

לבתי ספר דתיים
לעולים חדשים

Instructions

הוראות

- א. משך הבחינה: שעה וחצי.
- ב. מבנה השאלון ומפתח ההערכה:
בשאלון זה פרק אחד.
לכל שאלה – 25 נקודות ; $(4 \times 25) = 100$ נקודות
- ג. חומר עזר מותר בשימוש:
מילון עברי–לועזי / לועזי–עברי.
- ד. הוראות מיוחדות:
יש לכתוב תשובות קצרות ובהירות. יש לבסס את דבריכם על המקורות שלמדתם.
- ה. Duration of exam: One and a half hours
- ו. Exam structure and breakdown of points:
There is one part in this exam.
Each question – 25 points; $(4 \times 25) = 100$ points
- ז. Material that may be used during the exam:
A Hebrew–other language / other language–Hebrew dictionary.
- ח. Special instructions:
Keep your answers concise and clear. Base them on the sources you studied.

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 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

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

1. א. Harav Avraham Yitzhak Hacohen Kook, *Ma'amar Hador*

- (1) Based on Rav Kook, explain the difference between the spiritual and moral level of the younger generation (in Rav Kook's time) and that of previous generations.
- (2) Explain the influence of this difference on the education appropriate for the younger generation.

(14 points)

ב. Harav Avraham Yitzhak Hacohen Kook, *Orot Hatorah*

- (1) According to Rav Kook, why did some students stop practicing Torah [יצאו לתרבות רעה]?
- (2) What approach does Rav Kook suggest to help students remain faithful to Torah?

(11 points)

2. א. Harav Dessler, *Michtav Me'Eliyahu*

According to Rav Dessler, one of the ways to observe the mitzvah of *emuna* [faith in God] is "the path of holiness" [דרך הקדושה], which can be achieved in three ways. Explain two of these ways.

(12 points)

ב. Harav Avraham Yitzhak Hacohen Kook, *Igeret Takanah*

- (1) According to Rav Kook, in which people is *segula* [סגולה] no longer evident? (8 points)
- (2) "בְּדוֹרֵנוּ נִתְרַבּוּ (הִתְרַבּוּ) נְשָׁמוֹת רַבּוֹת שֶׁאֵין עֲלֵיהֶן שְׁפִילוֹת מְאֹד בְּעֵינֵי הַבְּחִירָה..."
מכל מקום אור הסגולה מאיר בהם."

[In our generation there are many souls in which the light of *segula* shines, even though their level of *behira* is very low.]

In the Swords of Iron War, many soldiers and civilians far from religious observance fought and gave their lives to defend their people and country.

In your opinion, how can we explain that *segula* became stronger, even though *behira* [בחירה] was weaker? (5 points)

3. א. Rambam, *Igeret Teiman*; Rabbi Yehuda Halevi, *Sefer Hakuzari*

- (1) What historical event does Rambam describe as being "עמוד שהאמונה סובבת עליו" [a pillar around which faith in God is centered]? (4 points)
- (2) According to Rambam, what is special about this event? (9 points)
- ב. (1) According to Rabbi Yehuda Halevi, what doubt did God wish to remove by means of this event? (6 points)
- (2) What reason did the king of the Khazars give for his opinion that we must believe in the miracle of the manna from heaven in the desert? (6 points)

4. א. Talmud Bavli, *Nida*

Some people claim that they feel disconnected from the world of Torah and faith in God [אמונה]. Explain how the Talmud's statement about "התינוק במעי אימו" [a baby in their mother's womb] might help a person overcome this feeling. (12 points)

ב. *Midrash Hagadol*

The midrash describes how Avraham searched and discovered faith in God.

In light of this midrash, why did Avraham merit Divine revelation [התגלות של הקב"ה] at the end of this process? (13 points)

5. א. Harav Yosef Haim Mi'Baghdad (The Ben Ish Hai), *Mishlei HaBen Ish Hai*

According to the Ben Ish Hai, why is faith in God [אמונה] based on the Revelation at Mount Sinai rather than other proofs?

Base your answer on his parable. (13 points)

ב. Rabbi Nahman Mi'Breslav, *Likutei Moharan*

"עיקר התכלית והשלמות הוא רק לעבוד את ה' בתמימות".

[The chief purpose and perfection is to serve God solely with *temimut* [simplicity/wholeness]]

Based on your own opinion, suggest one advantage and one disadvantage of serving God with *temimut*. (12 points)

Good Luck!

All rights reserved by the State of Israel.

It is forbidden to copy or disseminate any part of this document without permission from the Ministry of Education..

בהצלחה!

זכות היוצרים שמורה למדינת ישראל
אין להעתיק או לפרסם אלא ברשות משרד החינוך