

Oral Torah

Laws and Introduction
— Exam for *Olim*

תורה שבעל פה

דינים ומבוא — שאלון לעולים חדשים

Instructions for examinees

א. Duration of exam: One and a half hours

ב. Exam structure and breakdown of points:

This exam has two parts.

Part One — (4×16) — 64 points

Part Two — (3×12) — 36 points

Total — 100 points

ג. Material that may be used during the exam:

A Hebrew-other language / other language-Hebrew dictionary

ד. Special instructions: none

הוראות לנבחן

א. משך הבחינה: שעה וחצי.

ב. מבנה השאלון ומפתח ההערכה:

בשאלון זה שני פרקים.

פרק ראשון — (4×16) — 64 נקודות

פרק שני — (3×12) — 36 נקודות

סך הכל — 100 נקודות

ג. חומר עזר מותר בשימוש:

מילון עברי-לועזי / לועזי-עברי.

ד. הוראות מיוחדות: אין.

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

כתוב במחברת הבחינה בלבד. רשום "טייטה" 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. Introduction to the Oral Torah [מבוא לתורה שבעל פה]

- א. During the period of the Zugot ("pairs") two sages headed the Jewish people.
What was the function of each of these sages? (5 points)
- ב. (1) What was the principal work carried out by the Amoraim [אמוראים]?
(2) The Babylonian Talmud was accepted in all parts of the Jewish Diaspora
whereas the Jerusalem Talmud was little studied.
Give one reason for this fact. (8 points)
- ג. The Rema [הרמ"א] authored the work *Hamapa* ("The Tablecloth") ["המפה"].
What is the content of this work? (3 points)

2. Laws of Kashrut [הלכות כשרות]

- א. (1) Give one difference between "standard" *kashrut* ["כשרות רגילה"] and "high-grade" *kashrut* ["כשרות מהודרת"].
(2) When ordering food in a restaurant you should make sure that the restaurant has a *kashrut* certificate. However, when buying a bottle of drink in a store you should make sure that the bottle bears a stamp of *kashrut*. Explain the reason for this difference. (8 points)
- ב. (1) Explain the *halachic* rule of "a single witness is trustworthy regarding prohibitions" ["עד אחד נאמן באיסורים"].
(2) On the basis of this rule, we can rely on a *kashrut* certificate. Explain this statement. (8 points)

3. Prayers [תפילות]

- א. Why did the Sages establish a fixed formula of prayer? Give two reasons. (8 points)
- ב. Why is it preferable to pray in a public quorum rather than privately? Give two reasons. (8 points)

4. Shabbat [שבת]

- א. What is an *av melacha* ["אב מלאכה"], and what is a *tolada* ["תולדה"]? (6 points)
- ב. The 39 categories of work [ל"ט אבות המלאכה] are generally divided into several groups. List two of these groups, and name one type of work [מלאכה] that belongs to each of the groups you listed. (6 points)
- ג. It is forbidden to operate an electric appliance on Shabbat, even though it entails no effort, yet it is permissible to spend the whole of Shabbat hauling a chair around, even though this does entail effort. Explain the difference in law between these two cases. (4 points)

5. Festivals – Pesach [מועדים – חג הפסח]

- א. Before Pesach we can make pots and pans *kosher* for Pesach even though they were used throughout the year with *hametz* food.
- (1) Explain what *hagala* [הגעלה] is, and list what types of dishes can be *koshered* by *hagala*.
- (2) Explain what *libun* [ליבון] is, and list what types of dishes can be *koshered* by *libun*. (8 points)
- ב. Telling the story of the exodus from Egypt on the first night of Pesach (ליל הסדר) is a commandment given in the Written Torah [מצווה מן התורה]. List two purposes of this commandment. (8 points)

Part Two (36 points)

Answer three of the questions 6-9 (each question – 12 points).

6. Laws of Interpersonal Conduct [הלכות בין אדם לחברו]

- א. (1) Why is it forbidden to steal with the intention of returning the stolen article [לגנוב על מנת להחזיר]?
(2) Explain why it is forbidden to buy an article from someone who stole that article from another person.
(8 points)

- ב. "וַעֲשִׂיתָ מִגִּדָּה לְגִנְךָ" ["and you shall make a guard rail for your roof"] (ח)
Give one example in which observing this commandment does not involve a roof.

(4 points)

7. Blessings [ברכות]

- א. Explain why we recite a blessing before eating. (4 points)
ב. (1) List three types of food after which we recite "one blessing, like three" [*beracha ahat mei'ein shalosh*, מעין שלוש שלוש].
(2) Why is this blessing called "*mei'ein shalosh*" [מעין שלוש]?
(8 points)

8. Festivals – Sukkot and Shavuot [מועדים – חג הסוכות וחג השבועות]

- א. We sit in the *sukka* in remembrance of the exodus from Egypt, which took place in the month of Nisan.
If this is so, why do we sit in the *sukka* in Tishrei and not in Nissan? (3 points)
ב. (1) Name two foods that we are permitted to eat outside the *sukka*.
(2) Name one food that we are allowed to eat only in the *sukka*.
(3 points)
ג. List three laws and customs connected with Shavuot. (6 points)

9. Commandments [מצוות]

- א. (1) What two passages [פרשיות] are written in a *mezuzah*?
(2) On which side of the entrance to the house do we affix the *mezuzah*, and at what height should we affix the *mezuzah*?
(6 points)
ב. (1) Why must we buy a *mezuzah* only from a reliable person?
(2) Why is it customary to kiss the *mezuzah*?
(6 points)

Good Luck!

בהצלחה!