

## 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

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

### הוראות לנבחן

א. משך הבחינה: שעה וחצי.

ב. מבנה השאלון ומפתח ההערכה:

בשאלון זה שני פרקים.

פרק ראשון — (16×4) — 64 נקודות

פרק שני — (12×3) — 36 נקודות

סך הכול — 100 נקודות

ג. חומר עזר מותר בשימוש:  
מילון עברי-לועזי / לועזי-עברי.

ד. הוראות מיוחדות: אין.

כתוב במחברת הבחינה בלבד, רשום "טיוטה" 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. (1) Who compiled the Mishnah?

(2) The Mishnah has six orders [סדרים].

Name two of these orders, and briefly describe their content.

(6 points)

ב. (1) When was the period of the *Savoraim* [סבוראים], and why are they called by this name?

(2) What is the *Epistle of Rav Sherira Gaon* ["איגרת רב שרירא גאון"] about?

(10 points)

#### 2. Laws of Kashrut [הלכות כשרות]

א. (1) According to the Torah, under what circumstances is it forbidden to eat meat and milk together?

(2) Give one stringency [חומרה] introduced by the Sages regarding this matter.

(6 points)

ב. Explain why the Sages introduced many prohibitions particularly with regard to eating meat and dairy foods. (4 points)

ג. If a person wishes to eat meat after having eaten dairy food, what must he do?

Give two actions.

(6 points)

#### 3. Prayer [תפילות]

א. Why must we wash our hands [*netilat yadayim* - ליטול ידיים] in the morning? Give two reasons.

(8 points)

ב. (1) Name the person about whom the Tanach relates that his/her prayer was accepted when he/she prayed at the time of the afternoon prayer [*Minchah* - תפילת המנחה].

Explain why a person who prays *Minchah* is greatly rewarded.

(2) At what time is *Minchah Gedolah* ["מנחה גדולה"] recited, and at what time is

*Minchah Ketanah* ["מנחה קטנה"] recited?

(8 points)

4. Shabbat [שבת]

- א. (1) Give two laws that must be carefully observeds regarding the wine cup used for *Kiddush*.  
(2) When people are sitting together around the Shabbat table, is it customary for one person to recite *Kiddush* for everyone or does everyone recite *Kiddush* for themselves?

Explain your answer.

(8 points)

- ב. (1) Explain why the *hallot* [חלות] must be covered while *Kiddush* is recited.  
(2) Explain the principle of "אין קידוש אלא במקום סעודה" [literally: 'There is no *Kiddush* unless at the place of a meal'].

(8 points)

5. Festivals – Yamim Nora'im [מועדים – ימים נוראים]

- א. (1) How should we conduct ourselves during *Aseret Yemai Teshuvah* [Ten Days of Penitence - עשרת ימי תשובה], and why should we conduct ourselves in this way?

- (2) Give two laws (or customs) that are observed on the day leading up to Yom Kippur [ערב יום הכיפורים].

(8 points)

- ב. (1) List three of the afflictions [עינויים] observed during Yom Kippur.  
(2) What *haftarah* [הפטרה] is read during *Minchah* of Yom Kippur, and why is this particular *haftarah* read on Yom Kippur?

(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. A person goes into a candy store and wants to taste some of the candies.  
(1) In what case is he forbidden to taste them, and why?  
(2) In what case is he permitted to taste them?  
(8 points)
- ב. If a person leaves money lying around in order to see if he can trust his worker, he is transgressing the prohibition "לפני עֵוֹר לא תתן מכשל" [literally: 'you shall not place a stumbling block before the blind']. Explain why. (4 points)

### 7. Blessings [ברכות]

- א. *Birkat Hamazon* [ברכת המזון] contains four blessings.  
Name three of these blessings. (6 points)
- ב. Extra sections are added to *Birkat Hamazon* on Shabbat and festivals.  
Give one addition made on Shabbat and one addition made on festivals. (6 points)

### 8. Festivals – Hanukkah [מועדים – חנוכה]

- א. (1) The festival of Hanukkah was instituted to commemorate two events.  
What are these two events?  
(2) Name one addition that is made to prayers during Hanukkah.  
(5 points)
- ב. (1) Which member/s of the family light/s the Hanukkah candles? Give the *sephardi* custom or the *ashkenazi* custom.  
(2) Why is it necessary to light the *shamash* [שַׁמֶשׁ]?  
(7 points)

### 9. Commandments [מצוות]

- א. (1) What is *sha'atnez* [שַׁעֲטָנִז]?  
(2) List two actions that are forbidden because of *sha'atnez*.  
(7 points)
- ב. (1) How many days after a first-born son is born is the commandment of *pidyon haben* [פדיון הבן] performed?  
(2) How is this commandment performed?  
(5 points)

**Good Luck!**

**בהצלחה!**