

Public acts of worship The nature of public worship - Worship is either homage or reverence given to God. This can happen in a synagogue. - Orthodox Jews: requires at least 10 men adult members to worship (minyan). The purpose of public worship - Gives a Jewish person a sense of belonging to a whole community of believers. - It strengthens their faith. - They can make friends with others in the Jewish faith. - They can take part in prayers which can only be said in a congregation. Features of public worship: - To welcome in Shabbat, synagogues hold Shabbat evening prayers. The Kiddush is also recited (prayer said over the wine). - The Torah is taken out of the Ark and carried to the Bimah for the rabbi to read. - Public worship also takes place for other festivals including Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The importance of synagogue worship – for the community - Importance as the Torah says 'love your God and worship him with all your heart and soul'. (Deuteronomy) - To worship God with all your heart and soul requires people who share in the same beliefs and values. - It is required for the community to celebrate important celebrations such as Brit Milah, Bar/Bat Mitzvah and weddings. - It is required for the community to celebrate the great festivals such as Pesach (Passover), Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.	Public acts of worship How worship in the synagogue is important for the individual. - Worshipping with others in the synagogue gives a sense of belonging and you can friends with others in the faith. - It gives order and purpose to people's religious life. - It gives people the opportunity to reflect and think about the meaning of life, including difficult times such as death. - It gives an opportunity to hear the Torah. - It also has sermons from the Rabbi – makes you reflect and think about what it means to be a Jew in the 21st Century. Why Jewish people worship in different ways - Liberal/reform Jews allow the use of musical instruments in worship because it is based on their belief on Shabbat rules that can be interpreted for modern life (banned by Orthodox as this involves working on Shabbat). - Orthodox women worship privately as they do not attend daily prayers in the synagogue. - Orthodox men and women are separated in the synagogue. Liberal/Reform synagogues allow men and women to sit together. - Liberal/Reform Jews have women rabbis, and many do not keep kosher. They do not believe the Torah is the word of God – it was written by people inspired by God. - Liberal/Reform – prayers are mainly said in English, not Hebrew. - Liberal/Reform - There are different prayers and women attend all prayers.	The Tenakh and Talmud Tenakh = (Torah – five books of Moses, Nev'im – the books of the prophets, Ketuvim – holy writings) Talmud = collection of Misneh and other writings on the Jewish law. Torah – contains the laws and moral ideas of Judaism. Holiest part of the Tenakh as they contain the 613 Mitzvot (commandments). Nevi'im – contains the history books and teaches the Jewish people how the covenant God made with Moses worked its way through the Jewish people. Ketuvim – Writings – the purpose is to show how Jews behaved towards God and gives advice on how to live a moral life. Why the Tenakh and Talmud are important to Jews today. The Tenakh is important because: - The Psalms are an essential part of daily prayers. - The Torah is particularly important in synagogue worship and daily living. - Portions of the Nevi'im and Ketuvim are read at the synagogue. - Jewish people study and meditate on the Tenakh to help their understanding and relationship with God. The Talmud is important because: - It explains the meaning of the 613 Mitzvot - It explains how the mitzvot should be applied in the daily lives of Jews. - It is the basis of the Halakhah (Jewish law), which is the foundation of Orthodox Jewish life today.	Jewish food laws - The purpose of Jewish food laws is to obey these mitzvot which God gave to Moses: 'You may eat the sheep, goat and any animal that has a divided hoof and chews the cud (Deuteronomy). 'You may not eat the camel, rabbit..you are not to eat their meat' (Deuteronomy). - Fish can be eaten, however shellfish is forbidden as 'anything that does not have fins and scales are unclean'. (Deuteronomy). As a result of mitzvot, Judaism developed quite complicated food laws known as kosher (fitting or correct). Kashrut means the state of being Kosher. In summary: - Cows, sheep, goats, chicken, fish (with fins and scales) can be eaten. - Pigs, camels, and shellfish must not be eaten – this is not Kosher (Treifah). - Kitchens should be in two halves – one for meat, the other for dairy with separate crockery etc. Divergent implications of food laws - Orthodox believe keeping kashrut is important as they want to follow the mitzvot. - It gives a sense of identity - It makes them bond with fellow Jews. - It makes them think about God every time they eat. Keeping Kashrut not as important for Liberal/Reform Jews – laws of Moses are not God's direct commandments. Some will always eat Kosher meat, others will not bother.	Prayer Prayer is an attempt by humans to communicate with God. There are two types of prayer - Formal prayers = where a set form is prayer is used. - Informal prayers = where a person makes up their own spontaneous prayer to express their feelings to God. - The formal prayers of Judaism are contained in the Siddur (the daily prayer book). Prayer in the home - Much of Jewish worship and prayer is centred on the home. Some prayers are said as private prayers. - When a Jew wakes up in the morning, they thank God for waking them – they pour water on their hands to purify themselves for the coming day. - They praise God by saying the Shema. - The Mezuzah on each door of the house is a constant reminder of God's presence and blessing 'You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out'. (Deuteronomy). Jewish people touch the mezuzah and thank God whenever they pass it. - Eating food requires prayers to thank God 'Blessed are you Lord our God, King of the universe who brings food out of the ground' and bless him again when they have finished eating. The three daily prayers: - During the day a Jew should pray a set formal prayer three times: Shacharit = a morning prayer Michah = an afternoon prayer Arvit = an evening prayer. - These prayers take place in an Orthodox synagogue but many Jews say their prayers at home. Orthodox mean wear their tefillin and tallit. - The format of prayers is set out in the Siddur (daily prayer book) and each prayer includes the shema, and the amidah. - In Orthodox families, the prayers are said in Hebrew, but in Liberal/Reform families the prayers will be said in English. In Liberal/Reform synagogues women can make up a minyan. The importance of having different forms of prayers - Saying prayers in a set form has its advantages because: - It stops prayer being focused on selfish concerns. - It gives the worshipper a sense of being part of Jewish history - It gives order and purpose to people's religious life. - It helps people to pray who might find it difficult to know what to say. Saying prayers in your own words has its advantages because: - They can contact God whenever they want. - They can express their own thoughts and feelings rather than other people's. - They can use their own words. - They can ask God's help for themselves.
Shema and Amidah The Shema begins 'Hear, O Israel, the L-rd our G-d is one'. How the Shema is said - The Shema is said three times a day: once in the morning, once in the evening and before they go to sleep. - The first two paragraphs of the Shema are written on the mezuzah scroll so they are remembered, and sometimes spoken. Why the Shema is said - It is a declaration of the main points of the Jewish faith. - There is one God - People should love God and follow his commands. - Those who serve God will receive blessings. - Become holy by fulfilling God's commands.	Shema and Amidah The Amidah is the second most important prayer. It contains 19 blessings, each of which ends with the words 'Blessed are you, O Lord'. The Amidah praises God, asks for personal requests, prays for the people of Israel and asks for peace, blessing and forgiveness. Why the Amidah is important It asks God to fulfil their spiritual and physical needs. It is the major prayer in the Siddur (prayer book) and helps Jews to fulfil their service to God. Differences in beliefs between Christians/Jews Jews face Jerusalem/Christians don't. Orthodox Jews worship in Hebrew/Christians in their own language Men and women don't sit together in Orthodox synagogues/in Christian churches they do.	Rituals and ceremonies Children are a great blessing in Judaism. The very first mitzvah says Jews should have children 'Be fruitful and increase in number' (Genesis). Ceremonies for boys - Boys circumcised after eight days old (Brit Milah). - Takes place in hospital, home or synagogue, - If celebrated at home, 10 adult males present to make a minyan. - Circumcision is a sign 'in the flesh' of the covenant God made with Abraham. 'Every male among you shall be circumcised...it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you' (Genesis). Ceremonies for girls - They have a special naming ceremony. - The rabbi blesses the child and there is a celebratory meal. - The rabbi names the child and after Kiddush (a prayer) over the wine, a few drops may be given to the child. The cup might be shared by the parents and family before the meal. Ceremony is known as Brit Bat.	Marriage ceremonies All Jews are expected to marry and have children because of the Mitzvah. Marriage is based on the Torah '...a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh' (Genesis). Purpose of Jewish marriage - To obey the mitzvah and have children. - For a man and woman to share sex with each other – what God intended. - To establish a Jewish home/bring children up as Jews/continue Jewish faith. The Wedding ceremony - The couple fast before the wedding and repent for their past sins. - The ceremony takes place under a huppah (wedding canopy).The bride and groom meet under the huppah. The rabbi blesses a glass of wine. The bride and groom drink from the same glass. The groom puts a ring on the bride's finger. The Ketubah (marriage contract) is read. They drink wine to show they are husband and wife. - The bride stamps on the glass to remind them of the Temple being destroyed.	

Bar Mitzvah Means son of the commandment - Means when a boy is responsible for his own actions. - He must put on a Tefillin for morning prayers. - A boy becomes Bar Mitzvah at the age of thirteen. Before the ceremony he attends special Hebrew classes at the synagogue so that he can read scriptures. The main features of the ceremony are: - The boy recites the blessing before the Torah reading. - If possible, he reads the whole Torah passage for the day. - The boy’s father says ‘Blessed be he who hath freed me from the responsibility for this child’. - The rabbi talks about the responsibilities of adult Jews and the joys of fulfilling the mitzvot. There is a celebratory meal. Bat Mitzvah Means daughter of the commandment - In Orthodox Judaism, girls make their Bat Mitzvah as the age of twelve. - They cannot wear tefillin or read the Torah in the synagogue under the Orthodox tradition. - Girls are addressed by the Rabbi and each then reads a passage they have chosen from the Tenakh. This ceremony is sometimes called Bat Chayil (daughter of worth). - In Liberal/Reform Judaism, girls are treated exactly the same as boys and have the same responsibilities. - In Liberal/Reform Judaism the Bat Mitzvah is just the same as a boy’s. - Happens at the age of 13 and they are called to read the Torah.	Death and mourning rituals Judaism deals with death in four stages: At the point of death - If it is known someone is dying, family should gather to help the person die as a Jew. The prayer contains a special prayer. It begins ‘O Lord my God...both my cure and my death are in their hands’. - Ideally, every Jew dies with the last sentence of the prayer on their lips. From death to the funeral - Once they hear of death, close relatives make a tear in their clothes to fulfil the mitzvah ‘Then Jacob tore his clothes’ (Genesis). - Synagogues usually have a burial society (chevra kaddisha) which helps the family at their time of grief. - It is considered disrespectful to leave the dead person alone and someone stays with the body all the time until the funeral. - The funeral is very simple – readings/prayers - Everyone accompanies the body to the grave and then washes their hands at the end as contact with the dead is seen as unclean. Avelut: the period of mourning - Shiva – the first seven days are extreme mourning. Mourners stay at home except for going to synagogue on Shabbat. - They burn a candle day and night as it says ‘the candle of the Lord searches for the soul of man’. - For the next 3 weeks male mourners go to synagogue to pray Kaddish every day. Yerzeit - Anniversary of the death and as long as mourners live they keep a candle burning night and day where payers are also said. How Liberal/Reform differ from Orthodox - Allow cremation. - Put a black ribbon on rather than tearing their clothes. - Do not stay in the house for seven days. - Allow the playing of music.	Shabbat Jewish people celebrate Shabbat to: - Proclaim their belief that God created the world and then rested. - Fulfil the mitzvot about Shabbat. - Obey the fourth of the Ten Commandments, - Spend time as a family - Spend time in worship, prayer and study. - Think about what God intends life to be like How Shabbat is celebrated in the home - Begins when the woman of the home lights the Shabbat candles. - She covers her eyes and says a blessing for the commandments, lights the candles and says another blessing before they go the synagogue. Shabbat worship continues with the Shabbat meal: - The father blessed the children and then says the Kiddush over the wine. - Cleaning of hands before the father blesses the bread (challot) - The father cuts the bread, dips a little in salt to remind them of the sacrifices at the Temple. - The meal begins. In between the courses the parents tell Bible stories and the family sing songs. How Shabbat is celebrated in the synagogue - Each Friday synagogues hold evening prayers. - At the end of the service the rabbi says a Kiddush to thank God for giving Shabbat to the Jewish people. - On Saturday morning families go to the synagogue for morning prayer. The Sefer Torah is taken out of the Ark and carried to the Bimah for the Rabbi to read. A sermon is given. Why Shabbat is important to a Jewish person - They can renew themselves and concentrate on their religion. - They can think about God and find out more about their faith. - Friendships can develop and they can socialise outside work. Why Shabbat is important for the Jewish community - Celebrated since the creation of the world. - It is God’s gift to the Jewish people. It binds them together. - It reminds Jews of when they were slaves. - They can grow in their Jewish faith.	Festivals Rosh Hashanah Marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year. This is one of the holiest times of the year for Jewish people. - It is one of the mitzvot as commanded in the Torah ‘Do no regular work, but present a food offering to the Lord’ (Leviticus). - Celebrated since Biblical times. - The Torah says that on the 1st of Elul (the month before Rosh Hashanah), Moses went up to Mt Sinai to receive the 10 Commandments. They were smashed shortly after when he found the Israelites worshipping the golden calf. Features - During the month of Elul the shofar (a musical instrument) is blown every day in the synagogue. Jews think about their sins and their relationship with God. - Making New Year resolutions is a requirement for Jews. Cards are exchanged with the words ‘May you be inscribed for a good year’. This reflects the ideas that God has a Book of Life in which he records the quality of people’s lives. Meaning and importance - On Rosh Hashanah people should consider their relationship with God and with each other, and decide how they are going to make both of these better in the coming year. - Rosh Hashanah is the day when the Book of Life is opened and when God writes down the quality of people’s lives: ‘See I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil...choose life (Deuteronomy). - It is a chance to come before God, acknowledge what they have done wrong and show they will do good in the coming year.	Festivals Yom Kippur Means day of atonement and happens ten days after Rosh Hashanah. These ten days are known as the ‘days of awe’. Jews think about what they have promised at Rosh Hashanah and to put things right with anyone they have wronged. Meaning and Importance - The mitzvah that Jews who do not deny themselves on Yom Kippur must be cut off means that this is regarded as the most important festival. Many Jews who never obey the mitzvot during the rest of the year fast and go to the synagogue on Yom Kippur. - Atonement not only means reconciliation between God and humanity, but making up for a wrong or an injury. - It releases people from the guilt felt about the sins of the past. - It helps Jews to make a fresh start. - Fasting encourages self-discipline and to feel compassion for the poor. Sukkot (Tabernacles) Sukkot begins just five days after Yom Kippur and many families start building the family Sukkah (plural for Sukkot) as soon as they finish the family meal at the end of Yom Kippur. It dates back to when the Israelites escaped from Egypt in the Exodus. They spent 40 years living as nomads in the wilderness and build temporary huts (sukkot) roofed with palm leaves. This festival takes Jewish people back to those times. The festival is commanded in the Mitzvot ‘live in booths for seven days...so that your descendants will know that I made the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of Egypt’. On each day of the festival people meet in the synagogue carrying an etrog (a fruit that looks like a lemon), in one hand and a lulav (palm branch), myrtle and willow, as commanded in the mitzvah. They wave the lulav in all directions and there is much rejoicing since Sukkot is called ‘the season of our rejoicing’. What they carry is known as the four species. Meaning and Importance - It symbolises and encourages harmony, with families living in their Sukkah as a unit. - It is a link with the ancestors, reinforcing the idea that Jews belong to an ancient people. - The four species symbolise God’s presence everywhere and the blessings he showers on his people. Pesach (or Passover) - A seven day festival at the beginning of Spring. In the days before Pesach, houses are cleaned to remove all traces of leaven (yeast). Any food containing leaven is called chametz. - It dates back to Moses and the Exodus story where they were enslaved by Pharaoh. They had to sacrifice a lamb and use its blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would pass over the house. There are Pesach mitzvot about the festival: For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses...whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel (Leviticus). Passover – meaning and importance - Pesach is the celebration of Jewish freedom from slavery. - It is a celebration of God’s power and God’s control of history. Without the Passover and Exodus there would be no Jewish people. - It is celebrated as the birthday of the Jewish nation and they have a Seder meal. - It is a celebration of Jewish history and of the way God has preserved his chosen people.
Shavuot (also known as Pentecost or Weeks) It is celebrated five weeks after Passover. It began as a harvest festival, marking the beginning of the wheat harvest. What happens in Shavuot? - Candles are lit to bring in the festival on the 1st/2nd eve - Many people read the Torah. Everyone goes to synagogue to hear the 10 commandments being read. People eat dairy food rather than meat	Meaning and importance of Shavuot - Following the 613 mitzvot of the Torah gives Jewish people their identity. - Shavout celebrates the spiritual freedom brought by the mitzvot. - Diary produce is eaten rather than meat because people did not know what the laws about meat would be.	Features of the synagogue Exterior synagogue design can be any type of building but it must have: - Have a star of David or a menorah to show it is Jewish. - Have light in as a sign of God’s strength and guidance. - Faces Jerusalem, where the Temple stood. Interior - A sink to cleanse themselves before worship. A holy ark and the Torah scrolls. A yad to help the reader. A ner tamid (eternal light) and a bimah.	How the synagogue is used by the different communities - In Orthodox synagogues men and women sit separately. In Reform/Liberal they don’t. - In Orthodox synagogues the rabbi will be a man. In Liberal/Reform they can be women. - In Orthodox synagogues there will be no musical instruments. In In Liberal/Reform they can use instruments. - In Orthodox synagogues only men can read. In Liberal/Reform women can. - In Orthodox synagogues only men carry the Torah scrolls. Lib/Reform can.	

