KS3 Religious Education: revision notes

Judaism

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Beliefs and history

- Jews believe in one God, who made a **covenant** (agreement) with Abraham, promising that his descendants would become a great nation.
- Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt (the Exodus). At Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.
- The **Torah** is the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (the Tenakh). It contains 613 commandments (mitzvot).

Practices

- Jews worship in a **synagogue**, led by a **rabbi** (teacher). The **Torah** scrolls are kept in the Ark.
- **Shabbat** (the Sabbath) lasts from sunset on Friday to nightfall on Saturday. It is a day of rest, with candles, blessings and a family meal.
- **Kosher** food laws say which foods may be eaten, such as no pork, and not mixing meat and dairy.
- At 13, a boy becomes Bar Mitzvah; at 12 (or 13 in some communities), a girl becomes Bat Mitzvah, taking responsibility for keeping the commandments.

Festivals and groups

- **Pesach** (Passover) remembers the Exodus from Egypt, with a Seder meal.
- Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is a day of fasting and asking forgiveness.
- Hanukkah, the festival of lights, uses a nine-branched candlestick (hanukiah).
- Orthodox Jews follow traditional practices closely; Reform (Progressive) Jews adapt some practices to modern life.

Key terms

Covenant	An agreement between God and people.

Your notes

Torah	The first five books of the Hebrew Bible.
Synagogue	A Jewish place of worship.
Rabbi	A Jewish teacher and leader.
Shabbat	The day of rest, from Friday sunset to Saturday nightfall.
Kosher	Food that is allowed by Jewish law.
Pesach	Passover, remembering the Exodus from Egypt.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. Who led the Israelites out of Egypt?
2. What is the Torah?
3. When is Shabbat?
4. What is a rabbi?
5. What does Pesach remember?
6. What is Yom Kippur?
7. What does kosher mean?
8. What is a covenant?

Answers

1. Moses
2. The first five books of the Hebrew Bible
3. From Friday sunset to Saturday nightfall
4. A Jewish teacher and leader
5. The Exodus from Egypt
6. The Day of Atonement
7. Food allowed by Jewish law
8. An agreement between God and people

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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Your notes