

# GCSE Religious Studies

## Sources of Wisdom and Authority: JUDAISM

### Section 1: Beliefs and Teachings

Content bullet	Source of wisdom and authority	What the source says (paraphrased, not quoted)
<b>1.1: The nature of the Almighty</b>	Genesis 2 (Torah)	The Lord God made the heavens and the earth, and all plants, animals and humans. It shows God is Almighty, the Creator of the universe. He is omnipotent (all powerful).
<b>1.2: The nature and importance of Shekhinah</b>	2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (Tanakh)	The presence of God (the Shekhinah) fills the Temple. It is symbolised as a fire coming down from heaven. The Israelites kneel and worship.
<b>1.3: The nature and purpose of the Messiah</b>	Jeremiah 23:5-8 (Tanakh)	It is a prophecy that one day a Messiah will come from the line of King David. He will be righteous and wise and will come to save Israel and restore Jewish rule.
<b>1.4: The Covenant at Sinai</b>	Exodus 20 (Torah)	The Ten Commandments are given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. These are rules by which the Israelites must live.
<b>1.5: The covenant with Abraham and his descendants</b>	Genesis 17 (Torah)	God makes his covenant with Abraham. It has 3 parts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Abraham will be the father of many nations. (He is called the Father of Judaism).</li><li>2. All Jewish baby boys must be circumcised at 8 days old as a sign of the covenant. (This includes Abraham's own son, Isaac).</li><li>3. Abraham's wife, Sarah, will bear a son, even though she is very old.</li></ol>
<b>1.6: Sanctity of life</b>	Talmud Yoma 83-84	The oral law teaches that human life is sacred and must be preserved. The life of others is just as important as your own. Others can only ever be killed in self-defence. The duty to save life comes above all other Jewish laws, eg, keeping the Sabbath. This is the principle of Pikuach Nefesh.
<b>1.7: Moral principles and the Mitzvot</b>	Mishneh Torah of Maimonides	Maimonides, a Jewish scholar, wrote a guide to the whole Jewish law and how Jews should live. It teaches about: prayer, the Sabbath and Jewish holidays, family law, marriage, divorce, sexual relationships, dietary laws, oaths, laws to do with the land of Israel itself, Temple worship, sacrificial offerings, ritual purity, damage and injury, treatment of neighbours, loans, borrowing money, inheritance, the legal and political system, and mourning death.
<b>1.8: Jewish beliefs about life after death</b>	Ecclesiastes 12 (Tanakh)	At the end of this life the spirit returns to God who created it, like dust returns to the ground it came from.

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### Section 2: Practices

Content bullet	Source of wisdom and authority	What the source says (paraphrased, not quoted)
2.1: The nature and purpose of Jewish public acts of worship	Psalms 116:12-19 (Tanakh)	The writer of the Psalm outlines different types of worship to show he is thankful to God, eg, praising God, making sacrifices, worshipping in the Temple in Jerusalem.
2.2: The Tanakh (written law) and the Talmud (oral law) in everyday life	Perkei Avot 2 (Ethical teachings of the Mishnah - Oral Torah)	The Perkei Avot is part of the Oral Torah. The teachings cover all aspects of how Jews should live daily life; from respecting God and other people, to seeking peace and showing kindness, to being humble and not judging others. This is in addition to the written laws.
	Deuteronomy 14:3-10 (Torah)	This outlines the food laws (kashrut) Jews are required to keep. Jews must not eat pork but may eat other animals that chew the cud and have a split hoof. They should not mix meat and dairy and may only eat fish with fins and scales. Shellfish is not allowed.
2.3: The nature and purpose of prayer in the home and of private prayer	Psalms 55:16-23 (Tanakh)	God hears all prayers and this Psalm teaches Jews that praying to God will sustain them, even at difficult times. Jews should trust in him. Jews can pray privately in all circumstances.
2.4: The nature and importance of the Shema and the Amidah	Deuteronomy 6:4 (Torah)	"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." This is the opening line of the Shema, the most important prayer in Judaism. It reminds Jews that God is One.
2.5: The importance of ritual for Jews today	Genesis 17	The covenant of circumcision God made with Abraham is followed by Jews to this day with the Brit Milah ceremony when a boy is 8 days old. In this way, Jews today are linked with their Jewish history and are part of the covenant.  There are also rules for the mother after childbirth and specific rituals that are to be followed. She must wait 30 days for a son, or 66 days for a daughter, until she is purified from her bleeding.
	Genesis 21:1-8  Leviticus 12 (Torah)	
2.6: The nature, features, history and purpose of celebrating Shabbat	Exodus 31:12-18 (Torah)	Keeping the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments. Jews must not work. They remember that God rested on the 7 <sup>th</sup> day of Creation. It is a lasting covenant between God and all Jews.

<b>2.7: Jewish festivals</b>	Leviticus 23 (Torah)	<p>In the Torah Jews are instructed to keep certain festivals. You should learn why each is significant and how it is celebrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sabbath</li> <li>• Passover (Pesach)</li> <li>• Festival of Weeks (Shavuot)</li> <li>• Festival of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)</li> <li>• Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)</li> <li>• Festival of Tabernacles (Sukkot)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>2.8: Features of the synagogue</b>	Proverbs 14:28 (Tanakh)	The layout of the Ark and Bimah in the synagogue is important so that the Torah is at the centre of worship.
	Exodus 27:20-21 (Torah)	The Ner Tamid (eternal light) in the synagogue is never put out as a reminder that God is eternal.