

Unit 1: Judaism in a nutshell

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- Understanding what the Torah means? And when it was given?
- Understanding what G-d taught the Jewish people on Mount Sinai? (National revelation)
- Understanding how the Written Torah and Oral Torah was formulated.
- Understanding the three sections of the written Torah: Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim.
- Understanding how the Written Torah consists of 'The 5 books of Moshe' – Bereshit, Shemot, Vayikra, Bamidbar and Devarim. Students should be able to name 6 key events that took place in each of the 5 books of the Torah. (Students do not need to know all the Parshiyot in the Torah or all the events that took place in each of the 5 books of the Torah)
- Understanding how the Book of Prophets – is a collection of narratives that describe direct communications that G-d gave to the Prophets.
- Understanding how the book of writings was written with the guidance of G-d.
- Understanding briefly why the Oral Torah was written down? What the name 'Tanna'im' means? And who they were? And how they appear in Mishnayot.
- Understanding briefly the role of the Amora'im and how their conversations contributed to the formation of the Gemora and finally the Talmud.

- Understand the following events that took place from Creation to Mount Sinai. I have placed only the key points in the chart on the following pages that will be accessed in each section along the timeline of events:

| | Individual/s in the Torah | Summary of the key points in their life that need to be studied and remembered |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Adam and Eve | - How they were placed in the Garden of Eden, the test to not eat from the tree and how they failed the test. The creation of Cain and Hevel and that Cain killed Hevel. |
| 2. | Noah | -Understand that the generation of Noah was involved in idolatry and stealing. - How Noah was faultless and righteous in his generation.-Command to build an ark and save his family + pairs of non-kosher animals + 7 pairs of kosher animals. -After the flood – G-d commanded Noah with the 7 Noahide laws: 1. Do not murder, 2. Do not steal, 3. Do not worship false gods, 4. do not act sexually immoral, 5. do not eat a limb from a live animal, 6. do not curse G-d and 7. Set up courts to uphold justice. |
| 3. | Avraham | -He was called Avraham Ha' Ivri – ie Avraham the Hebrew / Literally 'the one from the other side'. Recognising how he was different from everyone else. - Commanded to leave home. - G-d made promises to him. - Brit Milah. - 10 tests - Sent Eliezer his servant to find a wife for Yitzchak. |
| 4. | Sarah | - She was barren for many years. - Finally gave birth to Yitzhak at the age of 90 years old. |
| 5. | Yitzchak | - He was nearly sacrificed by Avraham (Avraham's 10 th test). He got married to Rivka. |
| 6. | Rivka | - Gave water to Eliezer's camels. - She got married to Yitzchak. –Gave birth to twins. – Encourages Yaakov to receive the firstborn blessings from Yitzchak. |
| 7. | Esav | - Firstborn son born to Yitzchak and Rivka. – Very aggressive and a hunter. – A very wild personality. |
| 8. | Yaakov | - Received birthright from his brother Esav. – Received firstborn blessings from his father. – Leaves his home and on his journey had a dream of a ladder with angels ascending and descending the ladder. - He got married to 4 wives and had 12 sons and one daughter. –The 12 sons became the 12 Tribes of Israel. |

| | Individual/s in the Torah | Summary of the key points in their life that needs to be studied and remembered |
|-----|----------------------------------|--|
| 9. | Yosef / Joseph | - There was jealousy amongst his brothers. – He was finally sold as a slave to go down to Egypt. – He was imprisoned and wrongly accused. – The butler and the baker in the Prison had 2 dreams which were interpreted by Yosef. The Butler returned to his position and the Baker was hung. |
| 10. | The first Pharaoh | - He had two dreams which were interpreted by Yosef. Yosef stored up the food during 7 good years in preparation for 7 years of famine that followed. |
| | A new Pharaoh | - He came to power and feared the Jews and how they were becoming too powerful. – He instructed the Jews / Hebrews to build storage houses and they became his slaves. He then ordered that all Jewish boys should be killed at birth and then he ordered finally that they should be thrown into the Nile. |
| | Moshe | - He was born and placed in a basket on the river Nile. Miriam his sister watched from afar to check for his safety. He grew up in Pharaoh's Palace. Upon leaving the Palace one day he protected a Jew that was being beaten by an Egyptian slave master and he killed the Egyptian. Moshe fled to Midian and married Zipporah. One day when Shepherding his father in law's flock he saw the burning bush where G-d spoke to him and instructed him to be the leader and take the Jews out of Egypt. |

Students will be expected to display knowledge of the following key events :

| | Events | Summary of the key event that took place that will need to be studied and remembered |
|--|--|--|
| | Creation | – Knowledge of what was created on each day of Creation. |
| | 10 Plagues | - Order of the 10 plagues. – Preparations to leave Egypt including: Blood on the doorposts, the Korban Pesach, eating Matzah and how the dough had no time to rise as they left in haste. |
| | The Exodus | - The pillar of cloud that travelled with the Jews by day and the pillar of fire by night. – One week after leaving Egypt they arrived by the Sea of Reeds. – G-d split the sea and after the Egyptians were punished and drowned the Jews sang songs of praise to G-d. |
| | The Giving of the Torah | - Date of the event: The sixth of Sivan. – G-d spoke the first two commandments to the entire Jewish people. – Moshe went up the Mountain to receive both the Written and Oral Torah. – 40 Days and nights later : Moshe returns down the Mountain and found the Jews bowing down to the Golden calf, Moshe smashed the two tablets of stone and prayed for two sets of 40 days for the forgiveness of the Jewish people. – The Jews were forgiven and received atonement on the 10 th Tishrei (Yom Kippur) |
| | Mishkan | - Centre for Divine worship in the desert. – The Jews were able to see G-d's presence rest in the world. |
| | Preparation to enter the Land of Israel | - Moshe sent 12 spies into Israel. – 2 Spies (Joshua and Caleb) returned with a positive report while 10 Spies gave a very negative report.- The Jews were punished by having to wander in the desert for 40 years. – Moshe was not allowed to enter the land of Israel. |