

2.1 Judaism Beliefs and Teachings

The Nature of the Almighty	Shekhinah	Messiah	The covenant at Sinai	The covenant with Abraham`	Sanctity of Life	Moral Principles & the Mitzvot	Jewish beliefs about life after death	The Shema	The 10 Commandments	Pikuach Nefesh	13Principles of Faith
God is One, Creator. Law-giver and Judge	The Almighty's presence in the world	The Anointed one, the king sent from God	God's covenant with Moses in which he receives the Mitzvot	God's covenant with Abraham in which he received a promise of the land of Canaan	Life is sacred and a gift from God	Moses received 613 Mitzvot from God and Jewish people must observe them	Judaism teaches belief in Gan Eden, Gehinnom and Olam-Ha-Ba	The prayer which expresses the oneness of God. It is said in the morning and at night.	The basis of Jewish law as given to Moses by God.	‘Saving a life’, the principle that Mitzvot can be ignored to save life	A summary of Jewish beliefs written by Maimonides a Jewish scholar

The Nature of God		The Shekhinah		Messiah		The Covenant at Sinai	
Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God as One: Judaism is a monotheistic religion. This means the belief in one God. Judaism is a monotheistic religion. This means the belief in one God. God as Creator: God created the universe out of nothing, exactly how He wanted it to be. God as Lawgiver & Judge: God gave laws to help people exercise their free will in the correct way, they will be judged by God accordingly. 	Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to bring Jews closer to God by understanding what he is like Enforces the idea of worshipping only one God (monotheism) They recite the Shema twice a day to reinforce this. It makes up a central part of their daily life and worship Understanding God as Creator, Lawgiver and judge helps Jews act ‘in the image of God’ with justice and mercy. 	Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shekhinah = the divine presence of God which is still with us today SIMILAR TO CHRISTIAN HOLY SPIRIT It is taught that the Shekhinah is present during study as this is also a form of worship. The Shekhinah is forever present during collective worship, prayer, study of the Jewish holy documents and in the synagogue. The Shekhinah is also relevant to prayer. When a Jew has finished praying they are overcome with God’s power. 	Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows Jews that God is still with them today guiding people to live how God wants them to. Shows why the Temple in Jerusalem is so special- shekhinah is there The Shekhinah sees the loyalty of God's people and reminds them they must stay true to Him. It connects the history of Judaism, and is a constant reminder of what God has done in the past, to the people living as Jews today. 	Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mashiach means ‘Anointed One/Messiah’ The characteristics and tasks of the messiah are mentioned specifically in the Nevi’im. It is the belief in a great leader rather than a saviour It will be a time of peace, with no more hatred, intolerance or war. There are differing views between Orthodox and Reform Jews about when the Messiah will come 	Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is one of the Thirteen Principles of Faith Jews feel motivated to improve the world in order to be active partners in bringing about a better world. This belief has an impact on the local Jewish community as they participate in activities to promote social, political and environmental improvements throughout the world. Jews pray for the coming of the messiah three times a day 	Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God appeared to Moses on Mount Sinai to make the covenant It was an agreement between God and the Jewish people It was written on two stone tablets kept in the Ark of the Covenant stored in the tabernacle and later the Temple It is believed that if people kept the 613 laws given to Moses, they would be God's special people Although Moses was given 10 commandments, Jews regard them as special as they are to be kept by all Jews 	Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These rules provide a guide for living for the Jews Jews believe that keeping these commandments will fulfil the covenant and God will protect them They also remind Jews of God's importance and his expectations of them The unite all Jews as they are living by the same laws
The Covenant with Abraham		Sanctity of Life		Moral principles & The Mitzvot		Jewish Beliefs about Life After Death	
Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torah says that God called Abraham to leave his family in Iraq and travel to Canaan (Palestine) to worship the one true God. God's side of the covenant was to make a great nation from Abraham's sons and to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants as ‘an everlasting possession’ Abraham's side of the agreement was for Abraham and every male to be circumcised and to worship God alone 	Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's the reason why Jewish baby boys are circumcised (Brit Milah) The Brit Chayim ceremony for Jewish baby girls (Reform and Liberal Jews only) welcomes girls into the covenant with Abraham Abraham is the father of Judaism- Judaism would not exist without him It's the reason why Jews believe that Palestine is their “holy land” 	Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jews believe that human life is the most important concern because life is given by God and so is sacred (Holy). For Jews, this belief stems from the creation story in Genesis, when humans were created in the image of God. The story tells that God breathed life into Adam and into the whole of creation. 	Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It helps Jews to work out whether an action is moral and acceptable to God. It is a key consideration for issues of war, murder, abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment. Preserving life is a duty in Judaism. Death cannot be made to come more quickly than it would from natural cause. For Jews this rules out such practices as active euthanasia and murder. 	Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mitzvot are 613 commandments taught within the Jewish tradition. They are the grounding of many Jewish moral principles. Jews believe the Mitzvot were given by God to Moses within the Torah, and that it was part of the covenant at Sinai that the Jewish people would try to obey them. Orthodox Jews believe they are God's exact laws to be followed 	Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage better relationships between people Help us improve our relationship with God The Mitzvot show Jews the best way to live their lives. The Mitzvot give religious significance to everyday occurrences such as saying blessings before and after eating, or rules of modesty governing what a Jew may wear. 	Meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is general agreement among all Jews that death is not the end. Jewish afterlife is referred to as OLAM HA-BA (The World to Come) Gan Eden – A pure spiritual heaven. Ancient Rabbis talked about it as a place where the righteous will go after death. Gehinnom – Thought of a place of punishment for unrighteous souls. Those who did not follow the Torah would go there until their souls were cleansed before going to Gan Eden. 	Importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching from Talmud and Torah Gives meaning to following the Mitzvot It is one of the Thirteen Principles of Faith which is the Jewish Creed It gives meaning and purpose to life as people will be judged on how they live this life with the good rewarded and the evil punished.

