

SAMPLE CONVERSION TEST

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THE INSTITUTE FOR HALAKHIC CONVERSION



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4. Why do you believe the Torah is from G-d?

5. What are the fundamental differences between Eastern Religions and Torah?

6. In what ways is Feminism not compatible with Halakha?

7. Why is Homosexuality and Lesbianism wrong?

8. In what ways is Torah philosophy not compatible with certain environmental or animal rights approaches?

9. What is the religious basis for the Jewish people's claim to Eretz Yisrael?

10. How do you understand the Holocaust?

11. Why is there Anti- Semitism in the world?

12. If you have a political persuasion i.e. Liberal or Conservative, what Torah values do you see these ideas connected to? In what ways are these persuasions different or not compatible with Torah?

13. How do you understand the relationship between Modern Science and Torah?

Shabbat

1. How many Melachas are forbidden on the Shabbat?
2. Please identify 7 of the Melechas that you find personally most practical to your Shabbat observance?
3. Why is it wrong to drive on Shabbat, even to shul?
4. What is Muktzeh? Is it forbidden generally to touch Muktzeh or move it?
5. When are you allowed to move Muktzeh?
6. When does Shabbat begin and end according to mainstream halakha?
7. How do you make tea on Shabbat?
8. When and how are you allowed to warm something on Shabbat?
9. Is it permissible to directly instruct a Gentile to perform a melacha for your benefit under normal circumstances?
10. How many meals should one have on Shabbat and within what time frames?
11. Please explain any 1 Melacha by describing the Av Melacha, one of its Toldah's, and a Rabbinic fence related to it?

Blessings

1. Please list the Berachot you make for the following foods and drinks?

1. Mangoes
2. Bananas
3. Peanuts
4. Macadamia Nuts
5. Celery sticks
6. Tuna fish salad
7. Egg Salad
8. Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwhich
9. 1 Slice of Pizza
10. French Fries
11. Cereal and Milk
12. Breaded Fish or Chicken
13. Szechuan Broccoli and Chicken
14. Potato Leek Soup
15. Apple Juice
16. Grape Juice
17. Soy Milk
18. Plain Chocolate bar
19. Chewing gum
20. Brown rice
21. Sushi

22. Mashed Potatoes
23. Corn Tortilla
24. Avocadoes
25. Potato Chips
26. How much bread do you need to eat to be obligated to say Birkat Hamazon?
27. If you have a variety of foods (Water, Apple, Celery, Cake) before you- of equal appeal- which beracha do you make first, second, third and fourth?
28. What is the name of the After-Beracha for Apple Juice?
29. What is the name of the After-Beracha for Barley Mushroom soup?

Jewish Calendar

1. What are the names of the Hebrew months?
2. Is the Hebrew Calendar Lunar or Solar based?
3. Why is the Hebrew calendar essential to Torah living?
4. What is the name of the prayer that is connected to the New Moon and after what day of the month may one no longer recite it?
5. What customs do Jewish women have around the New Moon (Rosh Chodesh)?
6. What are all the special prayers we say on Rosh Chodesh?

Rosh Hashanah

1. What are the essential themes of Rosh Hashanah?
2. What is the main and unique Mitzvah of Rosh Hashanah?
3. Are women obligated in this Mitzvah according to Torah law? If yes, why? If not, why not?
4. What are some of the customs on Rosh Hashanah?
5. When do we not blow Shofar on Rosh Hoshanah and Why?

Yom Kippur

1. What are the 5 things forbidden on Yom Kippur?
2. List 3 exceptions to these prohibitions?
3. Of these, which is the most serious prohibition?
4. What is the fundamental Mitzvah on Yom Kippur?
5. Explain the process of this Mitzvah and its different components?

Succot

1. How many days is the holiday of Succot?
2. What are the two Mitzvot associated with Sukkot?
3. Are women obligated in these Mitzvot according to Torah law? If yes, why? If not, why not?
4. What is the proper way to fulfill these Mitzvot? Be as detailed as possible.
5. What holidays follow Succot, and how are they observed?

Chanukah

1. How many candles do we light on the sixth night of Chanukah, excluding the Shamash?
2. What are we celebrating on Chanukah?
3. On the 8th night of Chanukah, do we light the candle to the most left or most right first?
4. On the 8th night, which candle do we set up first the most left or the most right?
5. Why do we give presents to kids on Chanukah?

6. Is Chanukah a Torah mandated holiday?

Purim

1. How many times is one obligated to hear the Megillah on Purim?

2. What happens if you missed a chapter?

3. When is the proper time to fulfill the Mitzvah of the Purim meal, at night or during the day?

4. How many Shelach Manot is one obligated to send? What should they consist of?

5. What is the minimal amount of charity one is obligated to give?

6. Are women obligated to hear the Megillah? Why?

7. Is Purim a Torah-mandated holiday?

8. Is there an obligation to drink wine on Purim? What is the range of opinions?

9. What is the essential message of the story of Purim?

Pesach

1. What are the 2 key Torah mitzvot we perform on the first night of Pesach?
2. How serious a prohibition is it to eat Chametz on Pesach? Light, Moderate or Severe?
3. What is the definition of Chametz?
4. Are you allowed to eat Chametz after Pesach that was owned by a Jew on Pesach?
5. What unique Kosher marker besides the regular kosher symbol do you look for to indicate that a food is Kosher for Passover?
6. When do we recline at the Seder and to which side do we recline?
7. How many days of Pesach are there outside of the land of Israel?
8. Can a healthy Jew or Jewess fulfill the Mitzvah of Matzah with Egg Matzah?
9. Is Gebrocht a Halakhic requirement or stringency? Why?
10. If your cup only held 2.5 fluid oz, did you fulfill the requirement to drink the four cups of wine?
11. Are you allowed to use Organic Romaine Lettuce for Marror, even if it was not checked for bugs?

12. By what time, should one ideally eat the Afikomen?

13. What are the three things one must say at the Seder and according to whom?

14. What are some examples of Kitniyot and who may and who may not eat them on Pesach?

Omer

1. Are women obligated to count the Omer?

2. What happens if you miss the 10th night and you forget to count the next day?

3. What is the custom you will keep regarding haircuts during this period? From when to when?

4. Can you attend a Classical music concert during this period?

5. Who died during the time period of the Omer and why did they die?

6. What is the meaning of the celebrations on Lag Ba'omer?

Shavout

1. What are we celebrating on Shavout?
2. What are 2 special customs associated with Shavout?
3. What is the background and meaning of these customs?

Fast Days

1. List all the rabbinic fast days?
2. Which is the most restrictive?
3. Why was the 1st Bet Hamikdash destroyed?
4. Why was the 2nd Bet Hamikdash destroyed?
5. Are you allowed to study most areas of Torah on Tisha' Be'av?
What areas of Torah may you study on Tisha Be'av?
6. What is the Shabbat before and after Tisha B'eav called and why?
7. What are the restrictions we observe on Tisha Be'av?

8. What Megilah do we read on Tisha Be'av

Yom Ha'atzmaut

1. Why, and how, do some Jews religiously celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut?

2. If you will do so, why? If not, why not?

Yom Hashoah

1. Why and how do some Jews observe Yom Hashoah?

2. If you will do so, why? If not, why not?

Kosher

1. What are the signs that identify a kosher land animal? List 3 Kosher land animals?

2. What are the signs that identify a kosher fish?

3. Which fowl are considered kosher today?

4. Is the milk of a Camel kosher?
5. Is the egg of an Ostrich kosher?
6. What is the Hebrew word for how a kosher land animal or fowl must be slaughtered?
7. If a bee is not kosher, why is honey kosher?
8. Is there an obligation in America, according to all opinions, to only consume milk that was supervised by a Jew?
9. Is there an obligation, according to all opinions, to consume only bread that was baked by a Jew?
10. May a Gentile, under normal circumstances, cook a fancy meal for a Jew without the involvement of a Jew in some part of the process?
11. Is the prohibition against consuming commercially available, non- kosher wine Biblical or Rabbinic?
12. What is the reason this prohibition exists?
13. Is the obligation not to cook kosher meat and kosher milk biblical or rabbinic?
14. How long is one required to wait after eating meat before eating dairy?
15. How long, if any, is one required to wait after having a piece of pizza to have meat?

16. How is a knife different than a spoon in halakha?

17. List 3 foods that have a special status in regards to their ability to absorb?

18. If a pot is meat and one cooked parve corn on the cob in it, may you use the leftovers with a dairy meal? Why or why not?

19. What must one do to a metal dairy spoon if one used it to stir one's hot meat Cholent?

20. What is one required to do to vessels that you cook with that are newly purchased from a Gentile?

21. Is it required to remove all stickers before hand?

22. Is one obligated to immerse one's pocket knife? If yes, why? If not, why not?

23. Is there an obligation to immerse plastic vessels?

24. If one newly bought something that is required to be immersed, but one cannot immerse it before its first use, is one allowed to still use it? If so, under what conditions? If not, why not?

25. Are wood bowls obligated to be immersed?

26. If there is a spatula that the plastic portion of it has contact with the food and the handle is metallic, is one obligated to immerse it?

27. Describe in detail how you would set up a kosher kitchen and table?

28. List three questions you would call your Rav about if they happened in your kitchen?

Mezuzah

1. Is one obligated to put a Mezuzah on the following:

- A) Car
- B) Bathroom
- C) Business office
- D) Small Closet
- E) Large walk in closet
- F) Garage
- G) Sukkah
- H) Finished Basement
- I) Attic

2. May the Torah portions required to be inserted into a Mezuzah case be written on any kind of paper?

3. If you had 50\$, how much would you spend on the Mezuzah, and how much on the decorative case?

4. What kind of Mezuzah (small or large) is it particularly important to make sure that it is written in a Kosher way?

5. A Mezuzah is placed on which side of the doorpost?

6. You are standing at the doorpost that separates between your living room and dining room, how do you decide which "right side" to put the Mezuzah on?

7. If you put the Mezuzah on the left side, after the fact, is it OK?

8. Why do we have Mezuzahs on our doorposts?

9. How often should you check your Mezuzot?

10. By whom is it more important to have them checked by a Scribe or a Kabbalist?

11. List two things that invalidate a Mezuzah?

12. After renting an apartment, how long do you have before you need to put up a Mezuzah?

13. When buying a home, when do you need to put up a Mezuzah?

14. If you are putting up several Mezuzot at one time, how many berachot do you make?

15. Do you put the Mezuzah on the top 1/3 or middle 1/3 of the doorpost?

16. If you have a gate that leads into your house that has a doorpost and lintel, is a Mezuzah required?

Shul

1. Is it permitted to talk with a close friend that you have not seen in weeks, during Torah reading, as long as you do so quietly, refrain from Lashon Hara, and are not disturbing anyone?

2. Why is a Mechitzah essential to a Synagogue?

3. Is it generally permitted to pray in a synagogue that has no Mechitzah?

4. Is it generally better to pray with a minyan or at home?

5. Why may a woman not lead services at shul?

6. Why do women not receive aliyot to the Torah at shul?

7. When a man gets an aliyah to the Torah, what is he supposed to do before, during, and after the reading?

8. Does one count one's shul membership as tzedakah?

9. When one is in a synagogue, what mood should one cultivate?

10. If one left a jacket or hat in shul, and one goes back to get it, what should one do before leaving the shul?

Shatnez

1. If a garment you wish to purchase is made of wool- in what circumstances is it required to have it checked for a wool and linen combination?

2. Is this a Torah or Rabbinic commandment?

3. What kind of Mitzvah is this a: Chok, Mishpat, Edut or Gezerah?

4. Do Linen bed sheets need to be checked if made in Asia?

5. Do wool socks need to be checked if made in Asia?

Yom Tov

1. List 3 differences between Shabbat and Yom Tov

2. What special Torah commandment do all Yom Tov's share in common?

3. What are some ways of fulfilling this Mitzvah?

4. What is the appropriate way of dressing on Yom Tov?

5. How is Havdalah different after Yom Tov than after Shabbat?

6. What 5 words does one say if one needs to do melacha after Yom tov or Shabbat has ended, but one has not recited Havdalah?

7. Do you have a Melava Malka after Yom Tov?

Tzedakah

1. What portion of one's after tax income should one give to charity?

2. May one count one's 10 year old child's yeshiva day school tuition as Tzedakah?

3. May one count one young adult's child's college tuition or Yeshiva tuition as Tzedakah?

4. What is the highest level of charity according to the Rambam?

5. May one loan money to a Jew in need with very modest interest?

6. Is one obligated to give charity to a person that you have deep suspicions they are not really poor?

Taharat Hamishpacha (Nidah)

1. When is a woman with an irregular cycle required to refrain from relations with her husband, even though she is still tahor?

2. Is a woman required to check herself at these times?

3. What if a woman forgot to check? Is she permitted to her husband without an examination?

4. What is the stringency of the Ohr Zarua? Do you plan on keeping it?

5. If a husband is going on a business trip, and it is a forbidden time as described above (where she is tahor), is the couple permitted, obligated or forbidden to have relations?

6. If a woman performed a Hefsek Taharah 30 Minutes after sunset but before three stars came out, may she count that Hefsek Taharah for that day?

7. What is a Moch Dachuk? Is it an obligation and how long is it necessary?

8. How is a Hefsek Taharah performed?

9. What color undergarments does a woman wear during the Shiva Nekiyim?

10. Is a woman generally obligated to check herself every day of the Shiva Nikiyim?
11. If a woman finds a stain on her undergarments that is light-light yellow, does she need to show this to a rabbi?
12. If a woman examines herself and finds a very-very light pink residue with maybe a touch of red on a tiny-tiny portion of the bedikah cloth, does she need to show this to a rabbi?
13. If a woman is Tahor, what color undergarments should she wear and why?
14. How do you feel about asking these questions to a rabbi? are you committed to doing so? How will you go about it to make it as comfortable as possible?
15. May a husband and wife sleep together in the same bed when she is a Nidah, so long as they put a pillow in between them and are very committed to behaving appropriately?
16. May a man pass from hand to hand a plate to his wife when she is a Nidah, if he focuses on doing so with purity of intention?
17. If a husband or wife had a very difficult day, is it permitted to give a "non-sexual" hug when she is a nidah?

18. Why do we cut the fingernails before immersing?

19. Is a husband obligated to determine that his wife went to the mikvah, or can he just assume that she went?

20. What does a woman need to do to prepare for the mikveh?

21) When should a woman prepare for her mikvah if her immersion is on Motzie Shabbat?

22. How does a woman prepare for her immersion if it falls on a Friday night that is preceded by 2 days of Yom Tov?

23. What should a woman avoid eating on the day of her immersion?

24. If a woman finished going to the Mikvah and she found a penmark on her hand when she got into the car, and there is no pen in sight when she was at the mikvah or in the car, what should she do?

Teffilin

1. Which Teffilin do you put on first, the head or the hand?

2. What should you do if the straps are losing their color?

3. Are you allowed to conduct mundane business while wearing Teffilin?

4. Do you put on Teffilin on Tisha Be'av?

5. Are women obligated to wear Teffilin?
6. Do you put on Teffilin on Chol Hamoed?
7. What is the significance of Teffilin?
8. May one pass gas or sneeze while wearing Teffilin?
9. Is there an obligation to put on Teffilin of Rabbeinu Tam?
10. Why are the Teffilin black?

Morning Seder

1. When should one wash one's hand upon arising in the morning?
2. What is the difference between washing one's hands in the morning and washing one's hands before a meal?
3. Which shoe does one put on first?
4. Which shoe does one tie first?
5. What does one need to do before studying Torah?

6. Is one generally allowed to eat before praying?
7. What may one drink before praying?
8. How many hours after sunrise may one say the Shema?
9. How many hours after sunrise may one say the Morning Prayer?
10. What is the name of the blessing one says after using the restroom?
11. When is it allowed to study Torah in the bathroom?
12. Is it advisable to talk when one is using the bathroom?
13. May one postpone answering the relatively urgent call of nature if one is enjoying an activity one is doing or busy?

Torah Study

1. If you only had time to study one area of Torah a day what would you study and why?
2. Is there an obligation to set fixed time for Torah studies in the morning and the evening?

3. How do you understand the obligation to study Torah?

4. What area of Torah should one study on Shabbat?

5. What area of Torah should one study before Shabbat?

6. How many days before Pesach and Sukkot should one start studying the halachot of these holidays?

Honoring the Rabbi's & Elders

1. When an important rabbi enters the room and is approaching you as you are sitting, what is the appropriate behavior?

2. When an elderly person enters the room and is approaching you and you are sitting, what is the appropriate response?

Business Ethics & Stealing

1. Is it permitted to borrow something from a best friend without their permission if you know they would not mind?

2. Is one allowed to deceive a Gentile in business if they will not discover it?
What about a Jew?

3. Does the Torah govern matters that pertain to one's professional and commercial life?

4. If one has a financial dispute with a fellow Jew, how should one resolve it if you cannot work it out between yourselves?

Mourning

1. When someone dies that one is obligated to mourn for- is one allowed to daven, say berachot, put on tefilin etc?

2. What are the practices of Shiva?

3. When does Shiva begin?

4. What interrupts Shiva?

5. How does one observe Shiva on Shabbat?

6. How long does one say Kadish for?