

# EXAM I STUDY GUIDE: JUDAISM

## A- IDENTIFICATION QUESTIONS (5 terms=each 10 points)

There will be 15-20 terms (people, places, concepts, events, books, movements, practices) among which you will have to identify only FIVE terms in the exam. For each term, you need to provide three things:

- 1) explain the term, i.e., **what was it?**
- 2) provide a **historical timeline** (century or period such as 11th century, 15th century OR second temple period, rabbinic Judaism or medieval period and etc.) NOTE: please note that exact dates are NOT expected at all, so do not worry about the exact dates.
- 3) explain the term's **historical significance**, that is, how it is important within the context of Judaism or Jewish history.

*EXCEPTION: If you are identifying an author, a person or a movement you will pass the 1st one ("what was it?" part), you can go directly to 2nd (historical timeline) and 3rd one (historical significance). For a book, you will have to still know the "what was it?" part, which means a very brief content of the book (such as "it is a book on law or mysticism")*

*NOTE: Plan to spend between 3-4 minutes on each I.D.*

*LENGTH: Ideally, 3-4 sentences will be more than enough for a concise identification.*

## B- ESSAY QUESTION (50 points)

There will be 3 essay questions among which you will choose only ONE of them to write an essay.

Your essay should show a reasonable grasp of the assigned readings and lectures, be supported by specific examples and evidences, and be well-organized. Therefore, NO argument is expected in your essays.

Essay questions will be chosen from the following 3 periods:

- 1) from **Early Period** (Babylonian Exile, Second Temple Period)
- 2) from **Rabbinic Judaism Period** (Rabbinic period developments)
- 3) from **Modern Period** (major branches of Judaism in the modern period and Zionism/Holocaust)

*NOTE: Just for the purpose of writing an essay (not for identification questions), I would suggest you focus on ONE period in order to do it well.*

*LENGTH: Ideally, a short essay should consist of 300 words maximum (which means 2-3 paragraphs); however, if you are having any difficulty for various reasons, you can go beyond this limitation with no worries in order to show: you grasp the subject matter under discussion.*