

Test 1 Review

1. What is the Qur'an? What are the Hadiths?
 - Qur'an is the holy book of Islam
 - Infallable revelation of Muhammad
 - Every chapter begins by exalting Allah
 - Accepts many of the prophets from the Old Testament, but is considered to be the true word of God (smaller than New Testament)
 - Does not venerate Mary like Christian Bible, does not consider Jesus to be Messiah
 - Grants Muhammad special privileges (cannot be cursed, was allowed to be polygamist)
 - Text emphasizes wrath (Jihad, fighting is obligatory, idolaters should be killed)
 - Discusses final judgment
 - Hadiths are stories about Muhammad and how he acted in certain situations
 - Allows for clarification of certain situation not specified in Qur'an
 - Six collections
2. What are the five pillars of Islam?
 - (a) **Confession (Shahada)**: Must confess there is no God other than Allah
 - (b) **Prayer (Salat)**
 - Prayer is performed face down to the ground (submission)
 - Performed as a community five times a day (towards Mecca)
 - (c) **Almsgiving (Zakat)**: Taking care of the poor is emphasized in the Qur'an.
 - (d) **Fasting (Sawm)**
 - Takes place during month of Ramadan (when Qur'an was given to Muhammad)
 - Fasting during daylight hours
 - (e) **Pilgrimage (Hajj)**: Journey to Mecca to circumnavigate the Ka'ba
3. Differentiate the Sunnis, Shiites, Sufis, and Wahhabis
 - (a) **Sunni**: Majority of Muslims
 - Take pride in the Muslim empire and believe that Islam can become world-dominating
 - Interpret scripture through reason and believe in pre-destination
 - (b) **Shia**: Iran/Iraq Muslims
 - Believe Mahdi will reveal himself as messianic figure
 - Authority is given to clerics
 - (c) **Sufi**: Mystical Muslims
 - Look for mystical meaning in the scripture
 - Believe Allah is one with humans (very controversial view)
 - Meditation on Muhammad's night journey
 - Pacifist; not looking for worldly Islam
 - (d) **Wahhabi**: Terrorist ideology
 - Radical views of Islam
 - Will kill others in the name of Allah (even other Muslims)
4. Explain the war-like nature of Islam
 - Allah gave Muhammad permission to fight against those who resisted Islam
 - Muhammad was a warrior; took Mecca back after massing an army in Medina
 - Qur'an says fighting is necessary (Jihad), but most Muslims consider it to be defensive
 - War against infidels (Christians, Jews, etc...)
 - Mujahadeen (holy warriors) are promised gifts upon death
5. Relate Judaism and Islam
 - Judaism follows from Isaac, Islam follows from Ishmael
 - Both recognize the Old Testament (Islam sees Bible as sacred but flawed)
 - Both tend to follow laws very strictly (Torah and Sharia)
 - Jews did not accept Muhammad as a prophet
6. Who are the Black Muslims?
 - Response to state of blacks in society
 - Edward Byden - thought Islam could strengthen blacks place in society
 - Timothy Drew - thought blacks had divine origins
 - Elijah Muhammad
 - Believed he was a prophet of Allah and only he could interpret Qur'an
 - Blacks originated from tribe of Shabazz (ties to Arab culture)
 - White men were created by scientists wishing to defy Allah \implies white men are evil
 - Blacks need to segregate themselves from whites
7. Describe the process and problems of Hellenism among the Jewish people
 - 330 B.C. - Alexander the Great
 - Greek culture spread into the Israelite lands
 - Old Testament was translated into Greek
 - Many Jews adopted the hellenistic ideas
 - Some Jews saw Greek culture as too secular (adopting Greek culture meant abandoning the Torah)

8. Who are the Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, and Essenes?
 - **Pharisees:** The lower priesthood
 - Viewed Torah as an everchanging set of laws (adaptation to modern life)
 - Accepted oral tradition and adapted the Torah to fit it
 - Believed hellenistic/Romanized world created by Sadducees was doomed
 - **Sadducees:** The high priests
 - Civic and religious heads of society
 - Concerned with economic affairs - collected taxes and became very wealthy
 - Very conservative religious ideas (rejected angles/apocrypha and emphasized law of Moses)
 - Very liberal in secular matters (called Hellenizers) and compromised with many Roman demands
 - **Zealots:** Supporters of rebellion against Rome
 - Believed submission to Romans meant forsaking God
 - Fought many battles against Roman infantry
 - **Essenes:** Watchers of the Messiah
 - Removed themselves from society to await the Messiah
 - Small remote communities
 - Responsible for the Dead Sea Scrolls
9. Differentiate Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative Judaism
 - **Orthodox:** By the book Judaism
 - Believe that the written law is the only law
 - Very traditional and unbending to modern culture
 - **Reform:** Flexible tradition
 - Moral laws are eternal, written laws are not
 - Influenced by French Enlightenment
 - Did not look for return of the Messiah
 - **Conservative:** American Judaism
 - Tradition as a guide but not as the only choice
 - Middle ground between Orthodox and Reform
10. Discuss the following concepts in Judaism: Jew, Synagogue, Kosher, and Sabbath
 - **Jew**
 - Someone descended from the tribe of Isreal
 - A chosen person of God
 - Someone with a Jewish mother
 - Proselytes (converted Jews) must undergo Circumcision (males only) and Baptism
 - **Synagogue**
 - Jewish place of worship (**not** a temple)
 - Need 10 adults (orthodox - must be men) to form one
 - Arc containing Torah is the centerpiece (reding is very important)
 - Usually face towards Jerusalem
 - Prayer is very focused done together
 - **Kosher**
 - Food is sacred to Jewish people
 - Kosher laws are outlined in Deuteronomy/Leviticus
 - Keeps Jews separate from other culture
 - **Sabbath**
 - Holy day of worship (Saturday)
 - No work is to be done on Sabbath
11. Relate the history of Anti-Semitism
 - Begins with book of Ester - Persians attempt to anihillate Jewish people
 - Theodosionus (Middle Ages) declares Judaism to be illegal (no conversion, Jews can't hold office)
 - John Chrysostom - Jews are "Christ Killers"
 - 1096: Crusades kill many Jews, and church condemns them for usuary
 - Jews blamed for Black Plague (poisoning wells)
 - Many killed during Spanish inquisition
 - Martin Luther - Just before death, writes "On The Jews and Their Lies"
 - Voltaire - Hated the church and the Jews (background of Church)
 - Germany adopts influential anti-semetic ideas
 - Hitler blames Jewish people for defeat in WWI (Jews wouldn't finance war)
 - Holocaust of Jewish people during WWII