Beliefs and Teachings

1) The Nature of God

1. God as One (Genesis 1:3-5, Genesis 1:26-28).
2. God is Creator (Genesis 1:3-5, Genesis 1:26-28).
3. God as Law Giver and Judge (Exodus 20:1-15)
4. Shekinah: Divine Presence
5. What are the similarities and difference in belief about God amongst Orthodox and Reform Jews?

2) Messiah: Mashiach

1. Explain the Orthodox beliefs about the nature and role of the Messiah.
2. Explain what Reform Jews believe about the Messiah.

3) Covenant

1. What is a covenant?
2. The Abrahamic Covenant. What happened? How does this covenant affect Jewish life today? The importance of the Promised Land.
3. The Covenant at Mount Sinai. What happened? Why is the Covenant as Sinai important to Jews today? (Exodus 3:11-15).
4. The 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:3-14)

Key Words / Concepts

- Synagogue
- Shekinah
- Shabbat
- Kosher
- Torah
- Mitzvot
- Messiah
- Covenant

4) Life on Earth: Pikuach Nefesh

1. What is the meaning of Pikuach Nefesh? Sanctity of life for Jews.
2. Applying Pikuach Nefesh: Why issues may make it difficult to apply? Euthanasia, assisted suicide, voluntary euthanasia, non-voluntary euthanasia.
3. What is the guidance given from the Jewish Bible?
4. Oscar Schindler: What important message about preserving life can be found in the Talmud? See Sanhedrin 4:5.
5. Free Will and Mitzvot: What is the relationship between the two? Key passages for importance of Pikuach Nefesh: Genesis 1:26-27, Talmud B, Yoma 84b, Psalm 139:13-15 and Jeremiah 1:5.
6. The Concept of Free Will – Genesis 3. How does this influence the behaviour of a Jew?
7. The 613 Mitzvot: Where are they from? What do Orthodox and Reform Jews believe about them?

5) The Afterlife

1. What do Orthodox and Reform Jews believe about the afterlife?
2. Discuss the differences between a Jewish and Christian grave.
3. Hebrew Scriptures and Sheol, see Isaiah 38:18.
4. Judgement and resurrection, see Isaiah 26:19 and Daniel 12:2.
5. Gan Eden – a place of the dead in Paradise: Heaven.
6. Gehenna – a place of the dead in punishment: Hell.
7. You must show clear understanding about the different Jewish beliefs about life after death with regard to how this may affect the lives of believers.