



# HAND BOOK







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## CHUMASH WITH RASHI I-V

5 upper level credits each

I-Bereishis, II-Shemos, III-Vayikra, IV-Bamidbar, V-Devarim

### Description

Each of these exams requires knowledge of the text of the *sefer*, with an emphasis on important people, places, and events. Students are also expected to be familiar with widely known selections from *Rashi's* commentary (based on the lists provided in the study guide).

### Materials

- *Chumash with Rashi*
- TAL *Chumash/Rashi* Study Guide – includes lists of required *Rashis* to study for each exam, and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 15 short answer questions

**Exam Length:** 1.5 hours



## NACH WITH RASHI I-III

5 upper level credits each

I-Yehoshua, II-Shoftim, III-Megillos (Esther and Rus)

### Description

Each of these exams requires knowledge of the text of the *sefer/megillot*, with a focus on the important people and events. Students are also expected to be familiar with widely known selections from *Rashi's* commentary (based on the lists provided in the study guide).

### Materials:

- *Nach with Rashi*
- TAL *Nach/Rashi* Study Guide — includes lists of required *Rashis* to study for each exam and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format:

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 15 short answer questions

**Exam Length:** 1.5 hours



## CHUMASH WITH MEFARSHIM I-V

5 upper level credits each

I-Bereishis, II-Shemos, III-Vayikra, IV-Bamidbar, V-Devarim

### Description:

Each of these exams requires general knowledge of the content of the *sefer*, with an emphasis on the important people, places, and events. Students are also expected to be familiar with extracts from the commentaries of selected *mefarshim*, as translated and explained by the Stone *Chumash* (based on a list provided in the study guide). In addition, students are expected to explore classic themes within each *sefer* (as outlined in the study guide) in preparation for an essay on one of them.

### Materials:

- Textbook: *The Chumash*, The Stone Edition (ArtScroll)
- TAL *Chumash with Mefarshim* Study Guide — includes lists of required *mefarshim* to prepare for each of the exams (as cited in the Stone *Chumash*), lists of classic themes to focus on when studying for each exam, and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format:

- 15 multiple choice questions
- 10 short answer questions
- One essay question

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## **NACH WITH MEFARSHIM I-II**

*5 upper level credits each*

I-Yehoshua, II-Shoftim

### **Description:**

Each of these exams requires general knowledge of the content of the *sefer*, with an emphasis on the important people, places, and events. Students are also expected to be familiar with extracts from the commentaries of selected *mefarshim*, as translated and explained by the Artscroll Rubin *Nach* (based on a list provided in the study guide). In addition, students are expected to explore classic themes within each *sefer* (as outlined in the study guide) in preparation for an essay on one of them.

### **Materials:**

- Textbook: *The Rubin Edition of the Prophets: Joshua and Judges* (Artscroll)
- TAL *Nach* with *Mefarshim* Study Guide — includes lists of required *mefarshim* to prepare for each of the exams (as cited in the ArtScroll Rubin *Nach*), lists of classic themes to focus on when studying for each exam, and a sample exam with an answer key.

### **Format:**

- 15 multiple choice questions
- 10 short answer questions
- One essay question

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## GEMARA EXAMS

Gemara exams are available on six levels:

- Elementary I and II
- Intermediate I and II
- Advanced I and II

Students may receive credit for **only one exam** on the Elementary I level, **only one exam** on the Elementary II level, and **only one exam** on the Advanced II level.

Students may receive credit for more than one exam on the Intermediate I level, Intermediate II level, and Advanced I level.



## GEMARA ELEMENTARY LEVEL I

6 lower level credits

Students may take **only one** of the following exams:

*Bava Basra, Perek 1; Bava Kama, Perek 1; Bava Metzia, Perek 1; Gittin, Perek 1; Kesuvos, Perek 1; Kiddushin, Perek 1; Makkos, Perek 1; Sukkah, Perek 1; and Yevamos, Perek 1.*

### Description:

This exam requires an understanding of about 5 *dapim* of Gemara text with a limited number of questions on assigned *Rashis*. Students will be asked to translate typical terms used in the Gemara, and are expected to be familiar with basic vocabulary terms, as well as commonly used expressions, rules, acronyms, and patterns. Students should also know general information relating to the study of Gemara, such as the structure of the *daf gemara* and the history of the Mishnah and Gemara, based on a summary provided in the study guide. The ability to read *Rashi* script is required.

### Materials:

- A Gemara of the relevant *maseches*
- TAL Elementary Gemara Study Guide on the relevant *maseches* — includes background information about the Mishnah and Gemara, lists of required *Rashis*, terms, and abbreviations, and a sample examination with an answer key.

### Format:

- 42-46 multiple choice and short answer questions, organized according to the *dapim*.

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours

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## GEMARA ELEMENTARY LEVEL II

6 lower level credits

Students may take **only one** of the following exams:

*Bava Basra, Perek 1; Bava Kama, Perek 1; Bava Metzia, Perek 1; Gittin, Perek 1; Kesuvos, Perek 1; Kiddushin, Perek 1; Makkos, Perek 1; Sukkah, Perek 1; and Yevamos, Perek 1.*

### Description

This exam requires an understanding of about 5 *dapim* of Gemara text with questions on assigned *Rashis*. Students will be asked to translate typical terms used in the Gemara, as well as some less common ones. Students are expected to be familiar with complex vocabulary terms, as well as commonly used expressions, rules, acronyms, and patterns. Students should also have a detailed understanding of the structure of the *daf gemara*, background information on the content of the Mishnah and Gemara (based on a summary provided in the study guide), and be able to use all the features on a *daf Gemara* (such as the *Bach*). The ability to read *Rashi* script is required.

### Materials

- A Gemara of the relevant *maseches*
- TAL Elementary Gemara Study Guide on the relevant *maseches* — includes background information about the *daf gemara*, lists of required *Rashis*, terms, and abbreviations, and a sample examination with an answer key.

### Format

- 42-46 multiple choice and short answer questions, organized according to the *dapim*.

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours

## GEMARA INTERMEDIATE LEVEL I

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8 upper level credits

Students may take one or more of the following exams:

*Bava Basra, Perek 1; Bava Kama, Perek 1; Bava Metzia, Perek 1; Gittin, Perek 1; Kesuvos, Perek 1; Kiddushin, Perek 1; Makkos, Perek 1; Sukkah, Perek 1; Yevamos, Perek 1; and Pesachim, Perek 1.*

### Description

This exam requires an understanding of 6-8 *dapim* of Gemara, with *Rashi's* commentary, and assigned *Tosafos* (about 10). Students will be tested on the content of the Gemara, *Rashi* and *Tosafos*, including basic questions and answers relating to the Talmudic discussions according to *Rashi* and *Tosafos*. Students are expected to know about the *halachic* works and *mefarshim* on the Gemara (as described in the Study Guide), be able to use all the features on a *daf* *Gemara* (such as the *Bach*), and be familiar with the terminology, expressions, rules, acronyms, and patterns used in the Gemara. The ability to read *Rashi* script is required.

### Materials

- A Gemara of the relevant *maseches*
- TAL Intermediate Gemara Study Guide on the relevant *maseches* — includes descriptions of *halachic* works and *mefarshim* on the Gemara, a list of required *Tosafos*, and a sample examination with an answer key.

### Format

- 42-46 multiple choice and short answer questions, organized according to the *dapim*.

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours

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## GEMARA INTERMEDIATE LEVEL II

8 upper level credits

Students may take one or more of the following exams:

*Bava Basra, Perek 1; Bava Kama, Perek 1; Bava Kama, Perek 3; Bava Metzia, Perek 1; Gittin, Perek 1; Kesuvos, Perek 1; Kiddushin, Perek 1; Makkos, Perek 1; Sukkah, Perek 1; and Yevamos, Perek 1.*

### Description

This exam requires an understanding of 6-8 *dapim* of Gemara, with *Rashi's* commentary and assigned *Tosfosim* (about 20). Students will be tested on the content of the *Gemara*, *Rashi* and *Tosafos*, including both basic and complex questions and answers relating to the Talmudic discussions. Students should be prepared to discuss information relating to the study of *Gemara*, and should be familiar with the terminology, expressions, rules, acronyms, and patterns used in the *Gemara*. The ability to read *Rashi* script is required.

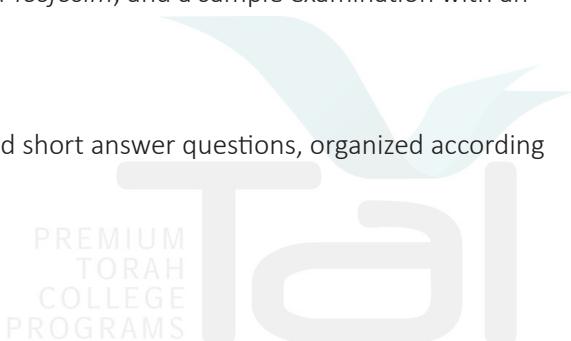
### Materials

- A Gemara of the relevant *maseches*
- TAL Intermediate Gemara Study Guide on the relevant *maseches* — includes a list of required *Tosfosim*, and a sample examination with an answer key

### Format

- 42-46 multiple choice and short answer questions, organized according to the *dapim*.

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours



## GEMARA ADVANCED LEVEL I

8 upper level credits

Students may take one or both of the following exams:

*Bava Basra, Perek 1; Bava Basra, Perek 3.*

### Description

Students are expected to study three *sugyos* (detailed in the study guide) to prepare for this exam, and one of the three will appear on the exam. Students should be able to translate all the text in the *sugya*. Based on the *marei mekomos* listed in the study guide, students will be asked to define specific *machlokos*, explain *sevaras*, identify strengths and weaknesses of different approaches of the *Rishonim*, and compare and contrast the various *shitos* (positions). The exam will have questions relating to commentary from both *Rishonim* and *Achronim*. The ability to read *Rashi* script is required.

### Materials

- A Gemara of the relevant *maseches*
- TAL Advanced Gemara Study Guide on the relevant *maseches* — includes lists of required *Rishonim* and *Achronim* (*mareh mekomos*) for three different *sugyos*, and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- 15-16 content-based questions

**Exam length:** 3.5 hours



## GEMARA ADVANCED LEVEL II

8 upper level credits

Students may take **only one** exam on this level.

### Description

This exam is a skills-based evaluation which tests a student's ability to understand a *sugya* which the student has not prepared for in advance of the exam. The student will be given a short *sugya* (of medium-level difficulty) in the exam, accompanied by selections from various *Rishonim* and *Achronim*. After studying the *sugya* with the selected *mefarshim*, students are expected to answer questions that require understanding of the logical arguments in the Talmudic discussion, and explain the various conclusions drawn from the debate. The ability to read *Rashi* script is required.

### Materials

- TAL Advanced Gemara Study Guide — includes a sample exam and answer key that will resemble the exam in level and style (the content on the actual exam will be different)

### Format

- 11-14 short answer questions

**Exam length:** 3 hours



## MOADIM ELEMENTARY LEVEL

6 lower level credits

### Description

This exam focuses on the key themes of the *Moadim*, with an emphasis on the related mitzvos, practical halachos, *minhagim*, and *tefillos*. Additionally, students should be prepared to discuss the historical events that are connected to the *Moadim*, as well as the basic reasons for the mitzvos and *minhagim* that are associated with the *Moadim*.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Shaarei Halachah: A Summary of Laws for Jewish Living*, by Rabbi Ze'ev Greenwald (Feldheim Publishers)
- Textbook: *Gateway to Judaism: The What, How, and Why of Jewish Life*, by Rabbi Mordechai Becher (Mesorah Publications)
- TAL Elementary *Moadim* Study Guide — includes detailed lists of the assigned readings, and a sample examination with an answer key

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 20 short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## MOADIM ADVANCED LEVEL

6 upper level credits

### Description

This exam demands a comprehensive knowledge of the *Moadim*. Students should be prepared to discuss the historical events that are connected to the *Moadim*, as well as the various mitzvos and *minhagim* that are associated with the *Moadim* and the reasons for performing them. Students are expected to explore in-depth themes relating to *Moadim* in the essay sections, by combining independent thought and analysis with textual and *halachic* sources.

### Materials

- Textbook: *The Book of Our Heritage (Sefer HaToda'ah)*, by Rabbi Eliyahu Kitov. There are three books in the series: Book 1, Tishrei–Shevat; Book 2, Adar–Nissan; and Book 3, Iyar–Elul. All three books are needed in order to study for the examination.
- TAL Advanced *Moadim* Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions, a list of important topics and themes on which to focus, and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- 10 short answer questions
- A long descriptive essay
- A long explanatory essay

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours



## SHABBOS ELEMENTARY LEVEL

6 lower level credits

**NOTE:** Students are advised to take the Shabbos Elementary Level exam before the Shabbos Advanced Level exam.

### Description

This exam requires knowledge of general themes associated with Shabbos, reasons for specific Shabbos *minhagim* and halachos, and definitions of Shabbos-related terms. Students will also be tested on knowledge of the thirty-nine *melachos*, as well as practical knowledge of basic *hilchos Shabbos*.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Shaarei Halachah: A Summary of Laws for Jewish Living*, by Rabbi Ze'ev Greenwald (Feldheim Publishers)
- Textbook: *Shabbos: Tasting Eternity*, by Rabbi Daniel Yaakov Travis (Hamodia, Feldheim Publishers)
- TAL Elementary Shabbos Study Guide — includes detailed lists of the assigned readings, and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 20 short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## SHABBOS ADVANCED LEVEL

6 upper level credits

**NOTE:** Students are advised to take the Shabbos Elementary Level exam before the Shabbos Advanced Level exam.

### Description

This exam focuses on practical knowledge of *hilchos Shabbos* in a number of specific areas, as well as the various reasons for those halachos. Topics include: working on *erev Shabbos*, washing on *erev Shabbos*, kindling Shabbos candles, learning the weekly *parshah*, *Kabbalas Shabbos*, *oneg* and *kavod Shabbos*, resting on Shabbos, and learning *Torah* on Shabbos. Students are expected to explore complex ideas relating to *Shabbos* and *erev Shabbos* in the essay sections, by combining independent thought and analysis with textual and *halachic* sources.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Shabbos: Tasting Eternity*, by Rabbi Daniel Yaakov Travis (Feldheim Publishers)
- Textbook: *More of Shabbos in My Soul*, by Rabbi Boruch Leff (Feldheim Publishers)
- TAL Advanced Shabbos Study Guide — includes detailed lists of the assigned readings and of the themes and topics on which to focus, and a sample exam with an answer key.

### Format

- 15 short answer questions
- Two long essays

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours

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## TEFILLAH ELEMENTARY LEVEL

6 lower level credits

**NOTE:** Students are advised to take the *Tefillah* Elementary Level exam before the *Tefillah* Advanced Level exam.

### Description

This exam requires knowledge of the central berachos and prayers of the *Shacharis* service. Students are also expected to know mitzvos, halachos and *minhagim* related to *tefillah* and the various prayers, the reasons for these prayers, and concepts related to *tefillah*.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Rav Schwab on Prayer — The teachings of Rabbi Shimon Schwab on the Siddur* (Mesorah Publications).
- TAL Elementary *Tefillah* Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions, and a sample exam with an answer key.

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 20 short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## TEFILLAH ADVANCED LEVEL

6 upper level credits

**NOTE:** Students are advised to take the *Tefillah* Elementary Level exam before the *Tefillah* Advanced Level exam.

### Description

This exam requires knowledge of the berachos and prayers of the *Shacharis* service. Students are also expected to know mitzvos, halachos and *minhagim* related to *tefillah* and the various prayers, the reasons for these prayers, and concepts related to *tefillah*. In the essay sections, students are expected to translate and explain the berachos of the *Shemoneh Esrei*, as well as discuss their themes. Students should also be prepared to discuss general topics relating to *tefillah*, such as gratitude, knowledge of Hashem, and *emunah*, in light of an understanding of the various prayers.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Rav Schwab on Prayer — The teachings of Rabbi Shimon Schwab on the Siddur* (Mesorah Publications).
- TAL Advanced *Tefillah* Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions, a list of important topics and themes on which to focus, and a sample examination with an answer key.

### Format

- 15 short answer questions
- Two long essays

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours



## **SHMIRAS HALASHON ELEMENTARY LEVEL**

*6 lower level credits – may be used to fulfill ethics requirements*

**NOTE:** Students are advised to take the *Shmiras Halashon* Elementary Level exam before the *Shmiras Halashon* Advanced Level exam.

### **Description**

This exam requires knowledge of the essential laws related to *lashon hara* and *rechillus*. Students are expected to define key terms and display knowledge of practical halachos. Additionally, students will be tested on material connected to ethical and inspirational ideas related to the mitzvah of *shmiras halashon*.

### **Materials**

- Textbook: *Chofetz Chaim A Lesson A Day*, by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman and Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz.
- TAL Elementary *Shmiras Halashon* Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions, and a sample exam with answer key.

### **Format**

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 20 short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## SHMIRAS HALASHON ELEMENTARY II LEVEL

3 lower level credits

### Description:

The elementary *Shmiras HaLashon* examination evaluates your knowledge of the fundamental concepts and *halachos* of *Shmiras HaLashon*, with multiple-choice and short answer questions assessing the breadth of your knowledge. (3 lower level credits – fulfills ethics requirements)

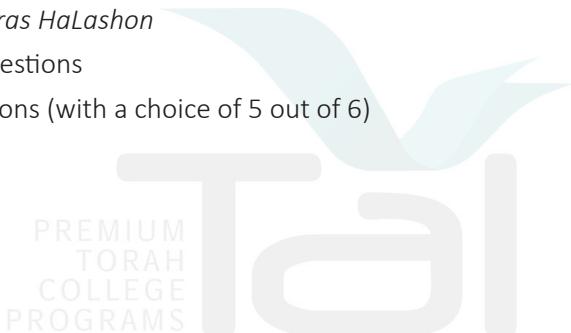
### Materials:

- Textbook: *Chofetz Chaim A Lesson A Day*, by Rabbis Shimon Finkelman and Yitzchak Berkowitz.
- TAL Elementary *Shmiras HaLashon* Study Guide — containing a syllabus listing the specific topics to study from the aforementioned text, and a sample exam with answer key.

### Format:

- Part I: Concepts of *Shmiras HaLashon*
  - 15 multiple-choice questions
  - 5 short-answer questions (with a choice of 5 out of 6)
- Part II: *Halachos* of *Shmiras HaLashon*
  - 15 multiple-choice questions
  - 5 short-answer questions (with a choice of 5 out of 6)

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## **SHMIRAS HALASHON ADVANCED LEVEL**

(6 upper level credits – fulfills ethics requirements)

**NOTE:** Students are advised to take the Shmiras Halashon Elementary Level exam before the Shmiras Halashon Advanced Level exam.

### Description

This exam requires knowledge of the laws related to *lashon hara* and *rechillus* at an advanced level, covering in detail topics such as speaking and listening to *lashon hara* for a constructive purpose. Students will be expected to write a *halachic* analysis of a realistic scenario involving *lashon hara*. Additionally, students will be expected to have a broad knowledge of ethical and inspirational ideas related to the mitzvah of *shmiras halashon* and be prepared to discuss topics such as positive and negative *middos* that are related to *lashon hara*, and the connection between speech and *avodas Hashem*.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Chofetz Chaim A Lesson A Day*, by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman and Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz.
- TAL Advanced *Shmiras Halashon* Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions (incorporating those from the Elementary exam), a list of important ethical topics and themes on which to focus, and a sample exam with answer key.

### Format

- 10 short answer questions
- A long essay on ethical concepts
- An extended *halachic* analysis of a scenario

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours

## HILCHOS SHABBOS EXAMS I-IX

1 or 2 lower level credits each

### Descriptions

These exams require practical knowledge of *hilchos Shabbos*, as well as of the underlying reasons of the *halachos*.

***Hilchos Shabbos I:*** Definitions of work that is prohibited on Shabbos and an overview of the 39 *melachos*.

1 lower level credit

***Hilchos Shabbos II:*** *Melachos of choresh, zore'a, kotzer, meamer, dosh, and zoreh.*

2 lower level credits

***Hilchos Shabbos III:*** *Melachos of borer, tochen, meraked, and losh.*

2 lower level credits

***Hilchos Shabbos IV:*** *Melachah of bishul.*

2 lower level credits

***Hilchos Shabbos V:*** *Melachos of gozez, melaben, menapetz, tzovea, toveh, meysach, oseh shtei batei nirin, oreg and potzeah.*

2 lower level credits

***Hilchos Shabbos VI:*** *Melachos of kosher, matir, tofer, korea, and tzad.*

2 lower level credits

***Hilchos Shabbos VII:*** *Melachos of shochet, mafshit, meabed, mesartet, memachek, mechatech, kosev and mochek.*

2 lower level credits

Hilchos Shabbos VIII: Melachos of boneh, soser, maavir, mechabeh and makeh bepatish.

2 lower level credits

Hilchos Shabbos IX: Halachos relating to muktzeh, hadlakas haneiros, and Kiddush.

2 lower level credits

## Materials

- Textbook: *Zachor V'Shamor* (5 volumes) by Rabbi Eliyahu Falk.
- TAL Hilchos Shabbos Study Guide — includes a syllabus listing the assigned readings for each of the exams, and a sample exam with an answer key.

## Format

- 30 multiple choice questions
- 10 short answer questions

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## ELEMENTARY JEWISH HISTORY I

6 lower level credits

### Description

This exam requires basic knowledge of Jewish history from the destruction of the second *Beis Hamikdash* until the establishment of the State of Israel (70 CE to 1948). The exam focuses on key events, people, and literary works, including knowledge of where and in what time period the events took place. Although memorization of exact dates is not required, students should be able to place key historical events in chronological order. Students will be asked to identify relevant places on maps.

### Materials

- Textbook: *2000 Years of Jewish History: From the Destruction of the Second Beis Hamikdash to the Twentieth Century*, by Rabbi Chaim Schloss (Feldheim Publishers).
- TAL Jewish History I Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions, a map of Europe and the Middle East, and a sample exam with an answer key.

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 10 short answer questions
- 12 chronology and geography questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## ELEMENTARY JEWISH HISTORY II

3 lower level credits

**NOTE:** Students are advised to take the Elementary Jewish History II exam before the Advanced Jewish History II exam.

### Description

This exam requires knowledge of Jewish history from the establishment of Yavneh as a Torah center in the times of the Tannaim, until the end of the era of the Tannaim and the establishment of Torah in Babylonia by the early Amoraim (70 CE to 240 CE). The exam focuses on key events, people, and literary works, including knowledge of where and in what time period the events took place.

### Materials

- Textbook: *The History of the Jewish People — From Yavneh to Pumbedisa* by Meir Holder (Mesorah Publications, Ltd).
- TAL Jewish History II Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions, and a sample exam with answer key.

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 15 short answer questions

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## ADVANCED JEWISH HISTORY I

3 upper level credits

**NOTE:** Students are advised to take the Elementary Jewish History II exam before the Advanced Jewish History I exam.

### Description

This exam requires knowledge of Jewish history from the establishment of Yavneh as a Torah center in the times of the Tannaim, until the end of the period of the Amoraim and the completion of the Talmud (70 CE to 600 CE). The exam focuses on key events, people, and literary works, including knowledge of where and in what time period the events took place.

### Materials

- *The History of the Jewish People — From Yavneh to Pumbedisa* by Meir Holder (Mesorah Publications, Ltd).
- TAL Jewish History II Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions, and a sample exam with answer key.

### Format

- 15 multiple choice questions
- 10 short answer questions
- One long essay

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## ADVANCED JEWISH HISTORY II

6 upper level credits

**Note:** Students are advised to take the Elementary Jewish History II exam before the Advanced Jewish History II exam.

Students who took the Advanced Jewish History I exam cannot take the Advanced Jewish History II exam.

### Description

This exam requires knowledge of Jewish history from the establishment of Yavneh as a Torah center in the times of the Tannaim (just after the destruction of the Second Beis HaMikdash), until the end of the period of the Geonim (70 CE to 1040 CE). This period includes the entire period of the Amoraim and the writing and completion of the Talmud. The exam focuses on key events, people, and literary works, including knowledge of where and in what period the events took place.

### Materials

- *The History of the Jewish People — From Yavneh to Pumbedisa* by Meir Holder (Mesorah Publications, Ltd).
- TAL Jewish History II Study Guide — includes a detailed list of assigned readings with study questions, and a sample exam with answer key.

### Format

- 10 short answer questions (from a choice of 13)
- A long essay on the era of the Talmud
- A long essay on the era of the Geonim

**Exam length:** 2.5 hours

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## **HASHKAFAH (JEWISH THOUGHT AND ETHICS)**

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3 lower level credits

### **Description:**

The Hashkafah exam focuses on the fundamentals of Jewish belief and faith, including the topics of Divine providence, reward and punishment, the Next World, soul vs. body, and understanding the purpose of mitzvos. It also covers concepts related to the Shabbos and festivals, and ethical issues such as honesty, behavior toward others, proper character traits, and charity.

### **Materials:**

- Textbook: *Gateway to Judaism* by Rabbi Mordechai Becher (Shaar Press)
- TAL Jewish Thought and Ethics study guide — containing a syllabus that lists the main topics on which to concentrate your studies in the aforementioned text, and a sample examination with an answer key.

### **Format:**

- 30 multiple-choice questions.
- 10 short-answer questions (with a choice of 10 out of 13)

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF JEWISH LITERATURE (HISTORY OF LITERATURE 101)

5 lower level credits – fulfills history credit requirement

### Description

This exam requires basic knowledge of the classic texts of the Jewish people. Students are expected to identify key figures and main events from the 24 books of Tanach, and know basic facts about the works of the Oral Torah (based on study questions in the study guide). Additionally, students should display knowledge of important works of Jewish law and philosophy right up to recent history, identifying their main topics, authors, and the time period in which they were written (based on study questions).

### Materials

- Textbook: *The Foundation of Judaism* by Rabbi Akiva Aaronson.
- Textbook: *The Living Nach — Early Prophets, Later Prophets, Sacred Writings*.
- Textbook: *Judaica Books of the Prophets* (1976-1985).
- TAL Jewish Literature Study Guide — includes detailed lists of assigned readings with study questions, and a sample exam with an answer key.

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- 15 short answer questions

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## JEWISH MUSIC

3 lower level credits

### Description

This exam is on Jewish music from Biblical times until the contemporary era, with an emphasis on the relationship between religion and music. Students should be familiar with different types of Jewish music, such as klezmer and *chazzanus*, and be able to identify important singers and musicians. In addition, students should demonstrate understanding of how Jewish music, both in the synagogue and outside, has developed and changed over the ages. Students will be tested by written exam and will also be asked to listen to and identify samples of Jewish music.

### Materials

- Textbook: TAL Jewish Music Reader — *Jewish Music: An Orthodox Perspective, from Biblical Times to the Modern Era*.
- TAL Jewish Music study guide — includes a detailed list of study questions, a CD with samples of Jewish music, and a sample examination with an answer key.

### Format

- 30 multiple choice questions
- 10 short answer questions
- 10 music listening questions (multiple choice)

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours, including both written and oral/listening questions

PREMIUM  
TORAH  
COLLEGE  
PROGRAMS

## ELEMENTARY BIBLICAL HEBREW (LASHON HAKODESH)

8 lower level credits

### Description

This exam tests knowledge of basic Biblical Hebrew. Students are expected to display knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, including common word roots and morphology (i.e., markings for tenses, prefixes, suffixes, conjugations based on gender, and forms for singular/plural). This exam is appropriate for a student who can accurately translate a basic verse from *Chumash*.

### Materials

- Textbook: *A Guide to Loshon Hakodesh: A Self-Study Book for Mastering Hebrew Texts* (with exercises and an answer booklet) by Rabbi Nachman Marcuson.
- TAL *Lashon Hakodesh* (Biblical Hebrew) Study Guide (Elementary and Intermediate) — includes preparation guidelines and a sample exam with an answer key.

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- Six *pesukim* in Hebrew to be translated into English
- A table requiring verb conjugation

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## INTERMEDIATE BIBLICAL HEBREW (LASHON HAKODESH)

8 lower level credits

### Description

This exam tests knowledge of intermediate level Biblical Hebrew. Students are expected to display knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, including word roots and morphology (i.e., markings for tenses, prefixes, suffixes, conjugations based on gender, and forms for singular/plural). Students are expected to use *nekudos* (vowel markings). This exam is appropriate for a student who can accurately translate a typical verse from *Chumash*.

### Materials

- Textbook: *A Guide to Loshon Hakodesh: A Self-Study Book for Mastering Hebrew Texts* (with exercises and an answer booklet) by Rabbi Nachman Marcuson
- TAL *Lashon Hakodesh* (Biblical Hebrew) Study Guide (Elementary and Intermediate) — includes study guidelines and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- 60 multiple choice questions
- Six *pesukim* in Hebrew to be translated into English
- A table requiring verb conjugation

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## ELEMENTARY MODERN HEBREW

8 lower level credits

### Description

This exam tests knowledge of basic Modern Hebrew (including vocabulary, grammar and spelling). Students are expected to translate texts between Hebrew and English, display listening comprehension skills, and write sentences in Hebrew.

### Materials

- TAL *Ivris* (Modern Hebrew) Study Guide (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) — includes vocabulary lists and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- A Hebrew passage to be translated into English
- An English passage to be translated into Hebrew
- Five questions in Hebrew, testing oral comprehension, based on a recording
- Ten questions in Hebrew, requiring knowledge of various conjugations relating to gender and singular/plural

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## INTERMEDIATE MODERN HEBREW

8 lower level credits

### Description

This exam tests knowledge of intermediate level Hebrew (including vocabulary, grammar and spelling). Students are expected to translate texts between Hebrew and English, display listening comprehension skills, and write short paragraphs in Hebrew.

### Materials

- TAL *Ivris* (Modern Hebrew) Study Guide (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) — includes vocabulary lists, essay writing guidelines, and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- A Hebrew passage to be translated into English
- An English passage to be translated into Hebrew
- Five questions in Hebrew testing oral comprehension, based on a recording
- Two short essays in Hebrew (about 5-6 lines)

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## MODERN HEBREW ADVANCED LEVEL I

4 upper level credits

### Description

This exam focuses on Hebrew writing. Students are expected to demonstrate fluency in Hebrew at an advanced level (including vocabulary, grammar and spelling) and must display competent essay writing skills.

### Materials

- TAL *Ivris* (Modern Hebrew) Study Guide (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) — includes vocabulary lists, essay writing guidelines, and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- One long essay

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## MODERN HEBREW ADVANCED LEVEL II

4 upper level credits

### Description

This exam requires students to translate between Hebrew and English. Students are expected to demonstrate fluency in Hebrew (including vocabulary, grammar and spelling) at an advanced level, and must display good writing skills.

### Materials

- TAL *Ivris* (Modern Hebrew) Study Guide (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) — includes vocabulary lists and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- A passage in Hebrew to be translated into English
- A passage in English to be translated into Hebrew
- Five questions in Hebrew testing oral comprehension, based on a recording

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## ELEMENTARY YIDDISH

*8 lower level credits*

### Description

This exam tests knowledge of basic Yiddish (including vocabulary, grammar and spelling). Students are expected to translate texts between Yiddish and English, display listening comprehension skills, and write sentences in Yiddish.

### Materials

- TAL Yiddish Study Guide (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) — includes vocabulary lists and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- A Yiddish passage to be translated into English
- An English passage to be translated into Yiddish
- Five questions in Yiddish, testing oral comprehension, based on a recording
- Ten questions in Yiddish, requiring knowledge of various conjugations relating to gender and singular/plural

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## INTERMEDIATE YIDDISH

8 lower level credits

### Description

This exam tests knowledge of intermediate level Yiddish (including vocabulary, grammar and spelling). Students are expected to translate texts between Yiddish and English, display listening comprehension skills, and write short paragraphs in Yiddish.

### Materials

- TAL Yiddish Study Guide (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) — includes vocabulary lists, essay writing guidelines, and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- A Yiddish passage to be translated into English
- An English passage to be translated into Yiddish
- Five questions in Yiddish testing oral comprehension, based on a recording
- Two short essays in Yiddish (about 5-6 lines)

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## **YIDDISH ADVANCED LEVEL I**

*4 upper level credits*

### **Description**

This exam focuses on Yiddish writing. Students are expected to demonstrate fluency in Yiddish at an advanced level (including vocabulary, grammar and spelling) and must display competent essay writing skills.

### **Materials**

- TAL Yiddish Study Guide (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) — includes vocabulary lists, essay writing guidelines, and a sample exam with an answer key

### **Format**

- One long essay

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## YIDDISH ADVANCED LEVEL II

4 upper level credits

### Description

This exam requires students to translate between Yiddish and English. Students are expected to demonstrate fluency in Yiddish (including vocabulary, grammar and spelling) at an advanced level and must display good writing skills.

### Materials

- TAL Yiddish Study Guide (Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced) — includes vocabulary lists and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- A passage in Yiddish to be translated into English
- A passage in English to be translated into Yiddish
- Five questions in Yiddish testing oral comprehension, based on a recording

**Exam length:** 1.5 hours



## LITERACY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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6 upper level credits

*in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education or Literacy*

### Description

This exam evaluates knowledge of the development of reading and writing processes. Students will be tested on their mastery of the key concepts and terms associated with literacy, and are expected to demonstrate understanding of how important educational theories are applied to classroom teaching.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Literacy for the 21st Century: A Balanced Approach*, 5th Edition by Gail E. Tompkins, published by Allyn & Bacon, N.Y. (2010)
- TAL Literacy in Early Childhood and Elementary School Study Guide — includes preparation guidelines and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- 40 multiple choice questions
- Two short essays
- Two long essays

**Exam length:** 3 hours



## EDUCATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

6 lower or upper level credits  
in Education or Special Education

### Description

This exam focuses on the characteristics of exceptional children (both those with disabilities and those who are intellectually gifted). Students will be tested on their mastery of the key concepts and terms connected to research and history associated with special education. Students are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of how important educational practices are applied in both regular and special education classroom settings.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Exceptional Children: An Introduction to Special Education* (9th Edition) by William L. Heward, published by Merrill/Prentice Hall, N.J. (2009)
- TAL Education of Exceptional Children Study Guide — includes preparation guidelines and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- 40 multiple choice questions
- Two short essays
- Two long essays

**Exam length:** 3 hours



## MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (EDUCATION 303)

3 credits in Early Childhood Education

### Description

This exam evaluates knowledge connected to the core math and science topics in the early childhood curriculum. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of how these subjects should be taught to young children. Topics include: the use of manipulatives to teach math and science, key concepts for the preschool math curriculum (number operation, patterns, geometry, and measurement) and the scientific method.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Exploring Science and Mathematics in a Child's World* by Genevieve Davis and J. David Keller, published by Pearson Education, N.J.
- TAL Mathematics and Science in Early Childhood Education Study Guide — includes preparation guidelines and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- Multiple choice questions
- Short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## SOCIAL STUDIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (EDUCATION 304)

3 credits in Early Childhood Education

### Description

This exam evaluates knowledge connected to the core social studies topics in the early childhood curriculum. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of how these subjects should be taught to young children. Topics include: the use of social studies as a framework for thematic learning and multicultural education.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Social Studies for the Preschool/Primary Child* by Carol Seefeldt, Sharon Castle, and Renee Falconer, published by Pearson, N.J.
- TAL Social Studies in Early Childhood Education Study Guide — includes preparation guidelines and a sample exam with an answer key

### Format

- 40 multiple choice questions
- Thirteen short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

*3 lower or upper credits in Education or Psychology*

### Description

This exam focuses on the basic principles underlying the processes and characteristics of normal child development, in multi-cultural contexts. Topics include physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and language development. Current issues connected to children and schools will be considered; examples include intelligence testing, the impact of divorce, and the needs of second language learners. Students are expected to make connections between theory and practice and display understanding of the teacher's role in supporting child development.

### Materials

- Textbook: TAL Child Development Reader
- TAL Child Development Study Guide

### Format

- 40 multiple choice questions
- Thirteen short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## FOUNDATIONS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

3 lower level credits in Early Childhood Education

### Description

This exam focuses on developmentally appropriate early childhood educational practices, from birth through Grade 3, with an emphasis on toddler programs and preschool classrooms. Topics include: child development, classroom management techniques, parent involvement, the early childhood curriculum, and adapting instruction for learners with diverse needs. Students are expected to demonstrate familiarity with the professional ethics of early childhood educators and should display their knowledge of methods that best support young children's learning.

### Materials

- Textbook: Essa, E.L. *Introduction to Early Childhood Education*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning
- TAL Foundations of Early Childhood Education Study Guide — containing preparation guidelines and a sample examination

### Format

- 40 multiple choice questions
- Thirteen short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## **INFANT AND TODDLER DEVELOPMENT AND CARE**

*3 lower or upper level credits in Early Childhood Education*

### **Description**

This exam focuses on the development of children age 0-3 and the planning and facilitating of a holistic curriculum for infants and toddlers in early childhood programs. Topics include: the physical, emotional, and nutritional needs of infants and toddlers; family education and involvement; and curriculum planning for infant and toddler programs. Students are expected to make connections between theory and practice.

### **Materials**

- Textbook: Wittmer, D.S. & Peterson, S.H. *Infant and Toddler Development and Responsive Program Planning: A Relationship-Based Approach*. Pearson.
- TAL Infant and Toddler Development and Care Study Guide — includes preparation guidelines and a sample exam with an answer key

### **Format**

- 40 multiple choice questions
- Thirteen short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours



## PLAY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS

3 upper level credits  
in Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education

### Description

This exam focuses on the importance of play in childhood. Topics include: the connections between play and children's development in areas such as cognition and emergent language, how play contributes to learning, and the importance of play for optimum physical and emotional development. Students are expected to demonstrate their understanding of how play can be supported by teachers in classroom settings.

### Materials

- Textbook: *Children, Play, and Development* Author: Fergus P. Hughes
- TAL Play and Development in the Early Years Study Guide — includes preparation guidelines and a sample exam with an answer key.

### Format

- 40 multiple choice questions
- Thirteen short answer questions

**Exam length:** 2 hours

