

# Worship in the Synagogue

## Worship in the Synagogue:

- The nature and importance of Orthodox and Reform synagogue services
- Shabbat service, the significance of prayer including the Amidah

## Key Concepts:

Covenant	A promise or agreement between God and the Jews	Shabbat	Day of rest for Jews from Friday to Saturday sunset
Shekhinah	Place where God's presence rests and can be felt	Kosher	Foods and practices allowed
Messiah	Anointed one who will bring about a new age for mankind	Synagogue	Place of worship and learning for Jews
Mitzvot	Duties or commandments	Torah	The five books of the Tenakh

## Exam Practice:

- Describe how Jewish women might worship differently to men (5)
- You will need to explain the differences between Orthodox and Reform synagogue services. Create a Venn diagram to show Orthodox practices, Reform practices and those practices that are shared by Orthodox and Reform.

## Key Sources of Authority:

- The Shema and Amidah prayers
- The siddur- prayer book

## Key Beliefs and Practices:

Synagogue services	<b>Synagogue</b> services are important for both <b>Reform</b> and <b>Orthodox</b> Jews as they draw the community together and seen as less selfish than <b>personal prayers</b> . Most <b>synagogues</b> have daily <b>prayers</b> and celebration of festivals but the main community time is the <b>Shabbat</b> service. <b>Reform</b> services allow music and <b>rabbis</b> can be male or female. <b>Orthodox</b> services do not allow music as after the destruction of the second <b>Temple</b> in AD70 no music was allowed as an act of mourning. It is rare that Jews kneel for <b>worship</b> apart from on <b>Yom Kippur</b> .
Shabbat Service	The main service will last about two hours and includes important <b>prayers</b> such as the <b>Shema</b> and <b>Amidah</b> . In <b>Reform synagogues</b> the service is mainly in the language of the country. <b>Orthodox</b> services mainly use <b>Hebrew</b> considered as a holy language. Portions of the <b>Torah</b> and <b>haftorah</b> are read which the <b>rabbi</b> (always male in Orthodox synagogues) usually refers to in their <b>sermon</b> . After the service there will be a <b>Kiddush</b> which includes a special <b>blessing</b> recited over a cup of wine. <b>Reform</b> services omit <b>prayers</b> which make references to a <b>personal Messiah</b> or <b>resurrection</b> .
Importance of prayer in the synagogue	Through <b>prayer</b> a relationship is built with <b>God</b> . The weekday and Shabbat prayer book ( <b>siddur</b> ) contains many different types of prayer such as praising God, requests of God and thanksgiving. The prayer books for Jewish festivals is called the <b>machzor</b> . Important prayers are recited by standing e.g. the Amidah. In some synagogues the <b>Shema</b> prayer is said standing as it is considered important. Some worshippers cover their eyes when reciting the Shema so they can concentrate.
The Amidah Prayer	This is an important prayer which speaks directly to <b>God</b> and is said facing <b>Jerusalem</b> . Many <b>Orthodox</b> Jews will recite the Amidah at each of the three daily prayer services in addition to the <b>Shabbat</b> service. Prior to the Amidah, the entire congregation rises and takes three steps back, then three steps forward. Worshippers step back and forward as if entering the presence of the King with reverence. The 19 blessings are divided into three sections: praising God, requests of God, thanks to God.

## Key Connections:

How does worship in the synagogue relate to *beliefs about God*?

How does worship in the synagogue relate to the *importance of Shabbat*?