Living as a Jew in the world means living according to an ancient system of beliefs and laws expounded in sacred writings.

DISCUSS

*This is the Question*

*Cut the stripfrom the table on page 3. I have put these in for copying!!.*

*Work in pairs*

*Identify which strips belong in the intro and which ones don’t*

*Put them in order.*

*Discuss with another pair by reading out what would be the intro. Put the other strips aside.*

*Check against the answer.*

Observant Jews live their lives according to an ancient system of belief. All Jews, regardless of their expression, believe three key things about their God. Firstly they believe that God is one, which is in contrast to many other ancient religions. Secondly they believe that this one God entered into a covenant with humankind and thirdly they believe that this one God was responsible for giving the law to the Jewish people. These three principal beliefs are revealed in the sacred writings of Judaism, especially in the Torah. It is evident therefore that these beliefs found in the sacred writings and held by Jews since the foundation of the religion point to Judaism being a living religious tradition, as in each age new generations of believers engage with the beliefs of the tradition and attempt to live ethical lives according to these beliefs.

This is what should have been left out! Why??? Because the introduction is a summary of your position in the essay … it should not include examples asnd further explanation. They belong in the body paragraphs of the essay.

So what is the question actually asking.

The monotheistic nature of Judaism is clearly expressed in the Shema prayer from Deuteronomy 6 where each observant Jew proclaims: “Hear O Israel, the Lord your God the Lord is one.”

Further to the oneness of God, Jews understand that this one God is omnipotent omnipresent and omniscient and the Shema prayer and texts from the creation stories of Genesis reinforce this.

The Torah also provides the evidence for the Jewish belief in the covenant that God entered into with humanity.

In Genesis chapters 12-20, God enters into a covenant with Abram as God encourages Abram to leave the land of his people and journey to the land of promise where Abram’s ancestors will be made as many as the stars of heaven.

The sign of this covenant is the change of name from Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah, the fulfilment of the covenant is the birth of Abraham’s son Isaac.

The last stage is where Abraham’s faith in God and the covenant is tested in God’s challenge to sacrifice Isaac. Belief in the one true God of the Torah demands that Jews keep the covenant.

Finally, God gives the law to the Jewish people when he calls Moses to Mt Sinai in Exodus chapter 19 and 20.

Jews believe that the entire oral and written law was handed to Moses on Mt Sinai.

Break open the question by giving the essay scaffold. Looking at what is and is not relevant.

Then maybe co construct a paragraph and use some of the rejected sentences to support your answer.

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| These three principal beliefs are revealed in the sacred writings of Judaism, especially in the Torah. |
| The Torah also provides the evidence for the Jewish belief in the covenant that God entered into with humanity. |
| The sign of this covenant is the change of name from Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah, the fulfilment of the covenant is the birth of Abraham’s son Isaac. |
| The monotheistic nature of Judaism is clearly expressed in the Shema prayer from Deuteronomy 6 where each observant Jew proclaims: “Hear O Israel, the Lord your God the Lord is one.” |
| Secondly they believe that this one God entered into a covenant with humankind and thirdly they believe that this one God was responsible for giving the law to the Jewish people. |
| Observant Jews live their lives according to an ancient system of belief. |
| Lastly Abraham’s faith in God and the covenant is tested in God’s challenge to sacrifice Isaac. |
| It is evident therefore that these beliefs found in the sacred writings and held by Jews since the foundation of the religion point to Judaism being a living religious tradition, as in each age new generations of believers engage with the beliefs of the tradition and attempt to live ethical lives according to these beliefs. |
| In Genesis chapters 12-20, God enters into a covenant with Abram as God encourages Abram to leave the land of his people and journey to the land of promise where Abram’s ancestors will be made as many as the stars of heaven. |
| Further to the oneness of God, Jews understand that this one God is omnipotent omnipresent and omniscient and the Shema prayer and texts from the creation stories of Genesis reinforce this. |
| Firstly they believe that God is one, which is in contrast to many other ancient religions. |
| Finally, God gives the law to the Jewish people when he calls Moses to Mt Sinai in Exodus chapter 19 and 20. Jews believe that the entire oral and written law was handed to Moses on Mt Sinai. |
| Belief in the one true God of the Torah demands that Jews keep the covenant. |
| All Jews, regardless of their expression, believe three key things about their God. |

**Judiasm Practice Essay Question**

***“Living as a Jew in the world means living according to an ancient system of beliefs and laws expounded in sacred writings.”***

**Discuss the truth of this statement using examples to illustrate your understanding of Judaism as a living religion.**

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| INTRODUCTION: Outline your position, do you think the statement is correct  Observant Jews live their lives according to an ancient system of belief. All Jews, regardless of their expression, believe three key things about their God. Firstly they believe that God is one, which is in contrast to many other ancient religions. Secondly they believe that this one God entered into a covenant with humankind and thirdly they believe that this one God was responsible for giving the law to the Jewish people. These three principal beliefs are revealed in the sacred writings of Judaism, especially in the Torah. It is evident therefore that these beliefs found in the sacred writings and held by Jews since the foundation of the religion point to Judaism being a living religious tradition, as in each age new generations of believers engage with the beliefs of the tradition and attempt to live ethical lives according to these beliefs. | Jew, belief, God, law, ethic, writing, Torah covenant principal ethical |
| **Body paragraph 1:** Expand on each of the three principal beliefs **and how each belief** is reflected in the sacred texts | God, eternal, one, omnipotent, omnipresent, incorporeal, monotheism, covenant, Exodus 20, psalm, Deuteronomy 6, Genesis, expressions law Sinai Shema  Tenak Talmud |
| Body Paragraph 2++: Possible paragraph(s) explaining HOW these beliefs help Jews to LIVE their life. | Ethical monotheism,  Ethics Torah Nevi’im, Ketuvim prophetic tradition  Tikkun Olam Gemmilut Chasidism, Tzedakah, Bal Tashkit Wisdom, proverbs Halachah, sources, expressions |
| Body Paragraph 4: Possible mention of rituals that reflect Jewish ethics or beliefs. | Shabbat candles mother prayers blessing challot |
| CONCLUSION: Never to be forgotten… helps you to end up where you started☺ |  |