

## **Essentials of Judaism**

# Weekly on Tuesdays, 7.30 pm

2025/2026 Term dates/topics

#### **About:**

Many adults feel unsure about their Jewish knowledge — often because their last formal learning was before b'nei mitzvah.

This year, we're changing that.

We've created The Essentials of Judaism — a new course for everyone in our community. Together, we'll explore the core practices, stories, and skills that shape Jewish life: festivals, home traditions, how to use a siddur, navigate synagogue services, Jewish history, and much more.

Most sessions run online on Tuesday evenings, with special inperson experiences like Sukkah shopping in Golders Green and a visit to Willesden Cemetery.

No prior knowledge needed — just curiosity and a desire to learn together.

#### When and where:

In general, 60-minute sessions take place weekly, during term time with reading/videos in between so we can spend time enjoying discussions and questions rather than conveying facts.

We are not assuming prior knowledge and we know that the experiences and knowledge levels of the group is very mixed which means we can all learn from each other.

#### **Contact:**

For more information please contact Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu on T: 0208 445 3400 / E: shulamit.ambalu@shaarei-tsedek.org.uk

### **TERM DATES / TOPICS**

### Winter 2025 / Spring 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>In person / online</u>
16/9/2025	Welcome, Rosh Hashanah	Online
30/09/2025	Yom Kippur	Online
05/10/25 (Sun)	Golders Green for Arbah Minim	In person (Outing)
07/10/2025	Sukkot / Simchat Torah	Online
21/10/2025	God	Online
04/11/2025	Sin, reward and punishment	In person
11/11/2025	Tanakh, Chumash	In person
22/11/2025 (Sat)	How Jews pray, Tallit, Kippah	In person
25/11/2025	How Jews pray: key sections of	In person
	Siddur, Shema, Amidah	
02/12/2025	Synagogue and Second Temple	In person
09/12/2025	Chanukkah	Online
16/12/2025	Chanukkah in Square or /Jewish	Online
	@home - mezuzah, kitchen, books,	
	Judaica, or cookery	
<u>2026</u>		
06/01/2026	Torah scroll and role of the scribe	In person
13/01/2026	Progressive Jewish theology & God	Online
20/01/2026	Oral law and Talmud	In person
27/01/2026	Oral law and Talmud 2: Tu BiShevat	
07/02/26	Shabbat at home	In person
10/02/2026	Kashrut at home	Online
24/02/2026	Purim (2 & 3 March is Purim)	In person
10/03/2026	Pesach include Kashrut in this	Online
	session	
17/03/2026	Pesach the Seder and Haggadah	In person
24/03/2026	Beit Din & Mikveh	In person
12/04/2026 (Sun)	Imperial War Museum - Shoah	In person (Outing)
14/04/2026	Israel I: History overview	In person

### **TERM DATES**

#### Summer 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>In person / online</u>
2026		
28/04/2026	Israel	In person
05/05/2026	Tisha B'Av	Online
10/05/2026 (Sun)	Trip to Willesden Cemetery	In person (Outing)
12/05/2026	Denominations/streams of	In person
	Judaism	
19/05/2026	Shavuot	In person
02/06/2026	Birth/circumcision/names	In person
09/06/2026	Coming of age / B'nei Mitzvah	In person
16/06/2026	Death and mourning	In person
23/06/2026	Marriage and divorce	Online
30/06/2026	Reform Decision Making	In person
07/07/2026	Ask the rabbi	In person
14/07/2026	End of year outing	In person

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Participating in online learning is different from being physically together. There are the same opportunities for contact, relationship, learning, and depth of experience. But as we each join from our own homes it is particularly important to pay attention to and make good preparations for technology and space. This will support you in having the best experience of participating in Gateway 2 Judaism. And your efforts will also greatly support others.

Here are some steps we are asking you to take in good time before the start of the programme. Please read them all and deal with each part.

1) You will need a laptop or desktop computer for using Zoom which must have a working camera. Arrange for the screen to be at head height. The bigger the screen, the better.

Please do not use a tablet (iPad etc) or a mobile phone as you will not be able to see all the participants properly

- 2) Please have your video on it is fine if you are having a bad hair day.
- 3) Please keep your mute off as much as possible as you will be more present.
- 4) Please download and install the latest version of the Zoom application, which you can find at **www.zoom.us/download**.

