Religious Studies Knowledge organiser – Judaism Beliefs

1. Keywords			
Covenant	An agreement; in Judaism it refers to an agreement between individuals often on behalf of the Jews and God	Shema	A Jewish prayer affirming belief in the one God found in the Torah
Mitzot	Jewish rules or commandments	Shekninah	God's divine presence on earth
Monotheistic	A religion that believes there is only one God	Tenakh	The Jewish scriptures (T = Torah, the law; N = Nevi'im, the prophets; K = Ketuvium, the writings)

2. Nature of God:

- There is one God – **monotheistic** religion
- God is the source of all morality, beliefs and values
- God is the creator and therefore also law giver. God will judge people on how they follow these laws but he is merciful and shows compassion
- God is omnipotent – All powerful, Omnibenevolent – All loving, Omniscient – All-knowing, Omnipresent – Everywhere at all times
- **Shekhinah** – is the Hebrew word for "presence", which in Jewish theology explains God's presence on Earth. The **Shema** is a prayer from the Torah that is used in morning and evening services in synagogues as well as being said at home by Jews to express belief in one God: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone." Deuteronomy 6:4

3. God's Covenants:

A **covenant** benefits both parties and includes responsibilities

Covenant with Abraham: You must leave your homeland, worship the one true God and circumcise all the males in your household. God will give him the promised land, give him lots of descendants and make them great. "I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you" Genesis 12:2

Covenant with Moses: Obey the **mitzvot** and worship God. Be your God, protect and remember you and give you the Promised Land. *Ten commandments*

5. Life after death, judgement and resurrection:

- There is little teaching about life after death so there are different beliefs if this will be a physical or spiritual
- Jews believe that some people will enter paradise (**Gan Eden**) while others will go to **Sheol**.
- Some Jews believe they will be judged straight away others believe God will judge everyone on the Day of Judgement, after the coming **Messiah**
- Jews also believe in **resurrection**, that at some point people will rise from their graves and live again (*this is why Jews bury the dead not cremate them*). However, many Jews reject this idea. Some think it will be spiritual others that it won't happen at all.

4. Keywords	
Gan Eden	The Garden of Eden – Paradise where righteous souls might go after death
Gehenna	A place where impure souls might go after death
Resurrection	The belief that after death the body remains in the grave until the end of the world before rising again when God will come to judge
Messiah	"The anointed one"; a leader of the Jews who is expected to live on earth at some point in the future
Messianic Age	A future time of global peace when everyone will want to become closer to God, possibly through the intervention of the Messiah
Sheol	A place of waiting where souls are cleansed and purified

6. The nature of the Messiah:

Jews believe that the **Messiah** will come and establish God's Kingdom on earth – this will be the **Messianic Age**

- A male descendant of the Jewish King David but must be human - he will have a human birth and human parents
- A perfect teacher of God's law and a great political leader - inspirational and a good judge
- Able to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem
- Ruler over humanity - but he will rule with kindness resulting in bringing peace to the world through being able to unite humanity (**Messianic Age**)