

DOCUMENTATION FOR

SECTION 3

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF JEWISH STUDIES EXAMINATION TAKEN
BY PUPILS ENTERING KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL FROM KING DAVID
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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King David High School, Liverpool

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Last November an examination consisting of questions on very basic Jewish Knowledge was taken by the 49 pupils (aged 11-12) who had come up from the King David Primary School that year.

An analysis of the answers produced by these pupils to some of the questions is given in Appendix 1. From these results, a number of important conclusions can be derived. IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT ALTHOUGH THESE CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IN STRONG LANGUAGE, IT HAS NOT BEEN DONE FOR THE SAKE OF CRITICISM BUT IN ORDER TO GET AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION SO THAT WE MAY TRY AND IMPROVE IT.

- (1) The questions in this examination were on very basic Jewish knowledge which should be learnt year-in-year-out. The fact that such poor results were produced indicates that this knowledge was not taught thoroughly enough - if at all. Is enough time devoted to the teaching of basic Jewish knowledge?
- (2) The results for the Derachot questions, indicate that the pupils are not sufficiently encouraged to make Derachot.
- (3) From the questions on the songs we can clearly see that the traditional songs are not taught before the Festivals.
- (4) The number of correct answers were boosted by pupils who learnt the material from their homes etc. rather than from the school.
- (5) Four pupils joined the school from non-jewish Primary Schools. Their results were not appreciably worse than the average results of the 49 King David Primary School pupils.

APPENDIX 1.

With which Festival or Fast do you associate the following :-

	Correct Answers	Incorrect Answers
Megillat Esther	30	19
Charoset	41	8
Kinot	3	46
Tekiah	24	25
Tal	2	47
Neilah	9	40
Hadassah	27	22
Chol Hamoed	15	34
Milk Foods	8	41
Kol Nidrei	17	32

N.B. For Chol Hamoed giving just one of the correct answers is counted as correct.

Continued

What Berachah is recited over the following foods or drinks ?

	Correct Answers	Incorrect Answers
Bread	37	12
Wine	40	9
Eggs	4	45
Milk	9	40
Biscuits	14	35
Apple	21	28
Carrot	21	28
Banana	0	49

N.B. Pupils were not penalised for incorrect spelling, however bad it was.

What is meant by the following terms:

	Correct Answers	Incorrect Answers
מסירה	36	13
מסירה	17	32

	Correct Answers	Incorrect Answers
מסירה	23	26
מסירה	3	46

What three things do we use at Havdalah ?

3 correct answers	4
2 correct answers	6
1 correct answer	3
0 correct answers	36

When do we sing the following songs ?

	Correct Answers	Incorrect Answers
Adir Hu	14	35
Yoni Ze-le-Yisrael	6	43
Maos Tzur	17	32
Ki Anu Amecha	1	48
Shoshanat Ya'akov	8	41

CONFIDENTIAL ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF JEWISH
STUDIES EXAMINATION TAKEN BY PUPILS

ENTERING KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL IN SEPT. 1976

On their second day at the High School, the Jewish pupils took an examination ~~in very basic~~ consisting of questions on very basic Jewish Knowledge. 43 ~~for~~ Jewish pupils came from the Primary School and 6 from other schools. (One of the latter (mother Jewish) had never had any Jewish education and could not therefore take the examination.)

An analysis of the answers produced by those pupils to some of the questions now follows.

With which Festival or Fast do you associate the following :-

	Primary School		Not-Primary School	
	Correct answers	Incorrect answers	Correct answers	Incorrect answers
Neilah	9	34	1	4
Egg & Bone	43	0	5	0
Milk Foods	17	26	2	3
Shofar	26	17	3	2
Aravot	20	23	0	5
Sitting on the Floor	5	38	0	5
Fifteen Fruits	7	36	0	5
Megillat Esther	37	6	3	2
Kol Nidrei	14	29	3	2
Chol Hamoed	14	29	2	3

N.B. For Chol Hamoed giving just one of the correct answers is counted as correct

What Bereshch is reacted over the following foods or drinks?

	Primary School		Not Primary School	
	Correct answers	Incorrect answers	Correct answers	Incorrect answers
Milk	18	25	2	3
Cake	17	26	3	2
Apples	29	14	3	2
Bananas	9	34	1	4
Bread	31	12	5	0
Orange juice	14	29	2	3

N.B. Pupils were not penalised for incorrect spelling, however bad it was.

What is meant by the following terms :

	Primary School		Not Primary School	
	correct answers	incorrect answers	correct answers	incorrect answers
Bikur Cholim	4	39	1	4
Tzedakah	15	28	0	5
NeEilat Yadayim	30	13	2	3
Seudat Purim	12	31	0	5

CONFIDENTIAL ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF
JEWISH STUDIES EXAMINATION TAKEN BY PUPILS
ENTERING KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL FROM KING
DAVID PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIVERPOOL, IN SEPT. 1977

During their first week at the High School, the Jewish pupils took an examination consisting of questions on very basic Jewish knowledge. 40 Jewish pupils came from the Primary School of which 38 sat the examination - two were absent.

An analysis of the answers produced by these 38 pupils to some of the questions now follows:

With which Festival or Fast do you associate the following?

	CORRECT ANSWERS	INCORRECT ANSWERS
Kol Nidrei	7	31
Megillat Esther	31	7
Hadassim	10	28
Chol Hamoed	6	32
Te Kiah	27	11
Tal	2	36
Charoset	32	6
Fifteen Fruits	2	36
Kinah	0	38
Milk foods	10	28

N.B. For Chol Hamoed, giving just one of the correct answers is counted as correct.

continued

What Berachah is recited over the following foods or drinks?

	CORRECT ANSWERS	INCORRECT ANSWERS
Bread	28	10
Biscuits	11	27
Milk	3	35
Apples	16	22
Bananas	5	33
Orange Juice	3	35

N.B. Pupils were not penalised for incorrect spelling, however bad it was.

What is meant by the following terms?

	CORRECT ANSWERS	INCORRECT ANSWERS
Netillat Yadayim	27	11
Shushan Purim	5	33
Tzedakah	10	28
Birchat Hamazon	11	27

DOCUMENTATION FOR

SECTION ~~3~~4

27, DALE STREET.
LIVERPOOL, L2 2ND.

2nd May 1975

Dear Headmaster,

At the last meeting of the Jewish Studies Committee of the Schools the question was again discussed of the Jewish studies time-table in 4th and 5th years. During those years of the 8 periods only 3 are in the regular time-table, the other 5 precede the normal school day.

The Committee again reaffirmed its views that this was an unsatisfactory situation and that at least 2 of the 5 Assembly periods should be brought into the regular school-day. The Governors' representatives who were present accepted (as we have in the past) the force of this recommendation. For myself I believe it is a reasonable indeed unanswerable request.

I would therefore like you to accept that we have committed ourselves to the proposition that two of the Assembly periods in 4th and 5th years should be incorporated in the regular school-day. I would like you in conjunction with the staff to give immediate attention to the best method of implementing the proposal. It would seem good sense that no subject should lose a period in both the 4th and 5th years. Apart from that it seems a matter suited for staff consideration and decision

rather than Governors but you will appreciate that if our views can be of help to you, you have but to ask.

Yours Sincerely,

Henry L. Lachs

Henry L. Lachs

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

COMPARISON of 4th and 5th YEARS AT JEWISH SCHOOLS IN THIS COUNTRY

	JFS*	Hasmonean (Boys)**	King David High School Liverpool	King David High School M'Chester
Total number of JS and MH periods in Official school day	Minimum of 5, can take 10 or more periods.	Year 4: 12 Year 5: 7/8	3	Year 4:7 Year 5:6
Maximum No. of subjects studied for examinations.	8	9	10	8/9

*JFS has a 7 period day (instead of the usual 8) with average length of periods being about 43 minutes; hence four 43 minute periods equal five 35 minute periods. In the above table, for comparison purposes, this conversion has been made.

** The "Hasmonean Girls' School have a similar number of periods in JS (to the boys' school) and also studies the same number of subjects for examinations.

Other schools (e.g. Yesoday Hatorah, Lubavitch, Manchester Jewish Grammar etc.) devote half a day each day to religious instruction.

NUMBER OF 5th FORM PUPILS GAINING O-LEVEL/CSE PASSES
(GRADES 1,2,3,4,5).

NO. OF SUBJECTS PASSED YEAR	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1973	0	5	13	12	21	14	7	8	0	1	?
1974	1	17	15	29	12	8	1	0	1	1	?

ANALYSIS OF 5th FORM EXAMINATION RESULTS 1975

O-level Pass (Grades A,B,C) and CSE Grade 1											
No. of Subjects passed	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
No. of pupils	0	8	13	9	5	6	7	9	8	7	11

O-level Pass (Grades A,B,C) and CSE (Grades 1,2,3,4,5,).											
No. of Subjects passed	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
No. of pupils	0	13	19	23	8	7	9	0	3	0	1

When including Modern Hebrew, which is taken by some pupils in the 4th year, four pupils gained a total of ten O-levels in the 4th and 5th years, and a further two, ten subjects in O-level plus CSE (not Grade 1).

(One pupil passed Spanish by private study and this has therefore not been included in the above analysis).

KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

ANALYSIS OF 5th FORM EXAMINATION RESULTS 1976

O-level Pass (Grades A,B, C) and C.S.E. Grade 1

No. of Subjects passed	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
No. of Pupils	0	6	8	9	3	9	5	7	9	14	17

O-level Pass (Grades A.B.C.) and C.S.E. (Grades 1,2,3,4,5)

No. of Subjects passed	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
No. of Pupils	0	15	23	19	14	8	3	4	0	0	1

When including Modern Hebrew, which is taken by some pupils in the 4th Year, four pupils gained a total of ten O-levels in the 4th and 5th years, and a further four, ten subjects in O-level plus C.S.E. (not Grade 1).