

# The Jerusalem Examination

## What is the Jerusalem Examination?

The Jerusalem Examination is the highest test of Hebrew and Jewish Knowledge designed specifically for the Diaspora. It is intended for Graduates of Jewish High Schools and other students of Hebrew who want a recognized official record of their achievements. The Examination consists of two sections: **The first tests** the student's knowledge of literary sources from all Periods of the Hebrew language. **The second section** tests the student 's knowledge of Hebrew through Comprehension of an “unseen” passage, writing a short composition and completing grammar exercises.

## What should the Examination candidate study?

To prepare for the Jerusalem Examination, candidates must study excerpts from the Bible, Mishnah, liturgy, Medieval Literature (philosophy and poetry), modern Hebrew literature (prose and poetry) and articles on Jewish thought and philosophy. Five of these subjects are compulsory, and of the other five subjects the student selects any two on which he wishes to be examined For the convenience of the student, all the required study material is contained in the Jerusalem Examination Reader, except for the Biblical passages and the stories by S. Y. Agnon. The requirements for the "Jerusalem Examination " are also listed on the registration form.

## Who administers the Jerusalem Examination?

The Jerusalem Examination is prepared by the Office for Hebrew Examinations Overseas, in conjunction with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the Hebrew Language Division of the Jewish Agency for Israel 's Department for Jewish Zionist Education. Professor Moshe Bar-Asher of the Hebrew University 's Hebrew Language Department and President of the Hebrew Language Academy heads the Office for Hebrew Examinations. The results are checked by Hebrew language academic experts.

## Who passes the Examination?

The passing grade is 50 for the first test and 60 for the second Anyone who fails one test is given the opportunity to be re-examined, without having to repeat the other test as well.

## What credit does the candidate receive?

The Jerusalem Examination provides the student with a framework for serious, in-depth, fundamental learning. The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, together with the Jewish Agency, awards the Jerusalem Diploma to every candidate who passes the Examination. This diploma exempts its holder from the Hebrew courses for overseas

students offered by universities in Israel It is thus recognized by all Israeli institutes of higher learning.  
Some universities abroad give credits for the diploma.

## **What are the benefits for students studying at Jewish schools?**

It is possible to take an internal examination at school on material which has been previously approved by the Examination Office. The material must be submitted for approval by Pazia Sela no later than one month before the internal examination. The grade achieved in this preliminary examination is determined by the school and constitutes 30% of the final grade.

## **When is the Jerusalem Examination held ?**

The Examination is held three times a year: in the fall, (around Hanukkah time); in the winter (close to Purim) and in the spring (near Shavuot). Candidates can choose whether they wish to take both tests at the same time or whether they would prefer to sit for each test separately.

## **Where is the Jerusalem Examination held?**

It is held in every Jewish school which has registered for the Jerusalem Examination. Test papers are sent to the school according to the number of applicants. It is also possible to be tested in Israel Candidates should apply to the secretariat of the Examination in Jerusalem for more information.

## **How old are the candidates ?**

The minimum age is 16 (eleventh grade). There is no maximum age. Anyone whose level of Hebrew is suited to the material is welcome to apply.

## **Non-affiliated candidates**

Any candidate who is not affiliated with an educational framework can take the examination as an external student, at any school where the Jerusalem Examination is held. The student 's grade can be obtained from that school.

## **How does one register for the Jerusalem Examination?**

For further information about registration and fees, please contact the Secretariat of the Jerusalem Examination, at the Hebrew Language Division of the Jewish Agency 's Department for Jewish Zionist Education, P.O.B. 92, Jerusalem 91000. Telephone: 972-2-6216176 or 6216053, Fax: 972-2-6216214. Our E-mail is pazias@jazo.org.il. You can also make inquiries through your nearest Jewish Agency office.

## **Address in the U.S.A. :**

The Jerusalem Examination  
Department for Jewish Zionist Education  
633 Third Avenue, 5 Floor  
New York NY 10017  
Tel: 001-212-339 6003 Fax: 001-212-318 6161/6193

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The Jerusalem Examination Reader and the teacher's booklets are available from the Marketing and Distribution Division of the Department for Jewish Zionist Education, P.O.B. 10615, Jerusalem 91104. Telephone: 972-2-6202629, Fax: 972-2-6202652 Our E-mail is [bookshop@jafi.org](mailto:bookshop@jafi.org).