

# Student Questionnaire

*Note: If you have any questions or hesitations, simply write a note on the side. This way when you analyze your answers afterwards you'll remember what you were thinking.*

## Jewish Identity

1. On a scale of 1-5 (5 = highest), how much does your Jewishness matter to you?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are your priorities in life? Rank the following values in order (1-8) (1= highest):

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Being a good American | _____ Jewish identity |
| _____ Family                | _____ Knowledge       |
| _____ Prestige              | _____ Friendship      |
| _____ Wealth                | _____ Having fun      |

3. What are the components of your Jewish identity?

For each of the following categories, indicate whether it is (\*) central, (✓) important or (X) unimportant to your perception of yourself as a Jew:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Religious Practice  
\_\_\_\_\_ Religious Ideals  
\_\_\_\_\_ Social (e.g., having Jewish friends)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nationalism (e.g., Zionism)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jewish Culture (e.g., Jewish foods, drama, language)

4. If you were describing yourself to someone else, which of the following terms would you use:

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Modern Orthodox | e. Non-denominational   |
| b. Orthodox        | f. Zionist              |
| c. Conservative    | g. Cultural             |
| d. Reform          | h. Baal/Baalat Teshuvah |

## Social

5. Approximately how many people are in each of the following groups of your friends:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ Intimate - very close friends
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Good Friends - people you "hang out" with
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Acquaintances - people you greet

6. How much of your free time do you spend with friends?

\_\_\_\_\_ % of my time

7. Of the time spent with friends, how much is spent in groups, how much with just one friend?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ % in groups
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ % one-on-one

8. Which of the following statements best describe your group of close friends (circle as many as apply)?

- a. we all have similar religious points of view
- b. we have somewhat different religious views
- c. we have very different religious views
- d. we all have similar personalities
- d. we have somewhat different personalities
- f. we have very different personalities

9. You're sitting at a dinner table and someone raises a viewpoint that is the opposite of yours. For each of the issues listed below, indicate if your reaction is:

- a. welcome the opportunity for discussion
- b. don't mind
- c. feel somewhat disturbed, and would prefer to talk about something else
- d. feel very uncomfortable, and try to change the topic

Issues:

\_\_\_\_\_ abortion

- \_\_\_ animal experimentation
- \_\_\_ homosexuality
- \_\_\_ academic boycotts of Israel
- \_\_\_ freedom fighting versus terrorism in Israel
- \_\_\_ giving back the West Bank
- \_\_\_ negotiating with the Palestinian Authority
- \_\_\_ Orthodox-Reform relations
- \_\_\_ atheism vs. belief in God

10. Consider the following scenario: You're on a summer Israel program. Among the fifty kids on the program are four kids from your high school. The first night activity is a welcome party at the hotel. Do you:

- a. Spend all of your time meeting new people.
- b. Spend some time with your friends, but most of your time meeting new people.
- c. Spend most of your time with your friends, but some time meeting new people.
- d. Spend all of your time with your friends, figuring that you'll meet the other people on the bus.

11. Imagine the same situation as above, except that you don't know anyone. How do you feel?

- a. very tense
- b. nervous
- c. don't care
- e. relaxed
- f. excited

12. How much of your life do you share with your intimate friends (check as many as apply):

- a. everything
- b. school
- c. social
- d. ideas
- e. feelings
- f. family problems

13. Your class is electing a representative, and the vote will be counted by a show

of hands. You strongly approve of one candidate, but the overwhelming majority of the class supports the other one. Do you:

- a. vote for your choice
- b. abstain
- c. vote for the popular candidate

14. Would you write a book report on a book your teacher didn't like but you did?

\_\_\_\_\_

15. During your college years, what limitations would you put on who is considered an acceptable date:

- a. only observant
- b. only actively Jewish
- c. only Jewish
- d. no limits

16. For each of the following situations, how do you feel?

- a. very comfortable
- b. no problem
- c. a bit uncomfortable
- d. very uncomfortable

\_\_\_\_\_ a non-Jewish roommate

\_\_\_\_\_ a Jewish, non-observant roommate

\_\_\_\_\_ an observant Jewish roommate whose practices are very different from yours (e.g., Hasidic, Reform)

\_\_\_\_\_ sharing a kitchen with non-observant roommates

### **Political**

17. As a member of the Holocaust Education Week Committee, you're sitting at a table distributing information when a student comes over to you and asks, "How can you be educating the public about what the Nazis did to the Jews? What do you call what you're doing to the Palestinians?" How do you feel?

- a. very tense
- b. nervous
- c. relaxed
- d. excited

18. In the same situation, which would best describe your response:
- "Are you an anti-Semite, or what?"
  - "The Israeli occupation happens to be the most enlightened military occupation in history"
  - "The two issues have nothing to do with each other because..."
  - let him walk away in order to avoid a scene

19. On a scale of 1-5 (5=highest), how important to you is being involved in Jewish and Israel causes (e.g., pro-Israel rallies, buying Israeli goods, etc.)? \_\_\_\_

### **Religious**

20. For each of the following, rate on a scale of 1-5 the importance of the observance to you. Put a 0 next to any which you do not want to observe.

1 = I observe only when convenient

5 = I will not compromise under any circumstance

\_\_\_\_ Shabbat prohibitions

\_\_\_\_ Spirit of Shabbat (e.g., going to a free rock concert)

\_\_\_\_ Kashrut

\_\_\_\_ Praying with a minyan during the week

\_\_\_\_ Praying with a minyan on Shabbat

\_\_\_\_ Prohibition of pre-marital sex

\_\_\_\_ Prohibition of "negiah"

\_\_\_\_ Kippah (boys) / Skirt (girls)

21. Which of the following statements best describes the importance of religion in your life:

- "Judaism is my most important value; I make all my decisions based on how they impact on my religious life. "
- "Judaism is a key part of my life; I take it into consideration whenever I make an important life decision. "
- "Judaism is one of my many interests; it is relevant to many aspects of my life."
- "Judaism is not very important to me, but I do consider it of interest."
- "Judaism plays no significant role in my life. "

22. How often do you consult with an adult (e.g., rabbi, parent, friend) on religious issues?

- a. very often
- b. more often than not
- c. occasionally
- d. never

23. For each of the following situations, how do you feel about Judaism?

- a. inspired / enthusiastic
- b. positive
- c. no particularly religious feelings
- d. negative

\_\_\_ synagogue on Shabbat/Yom Tov

\_\_\_ Simchat Torah

\_\_\_ dinner on Shabbat/Yom Tov - with friends

\_\_\_ youth group get-together (synagogue, NCSY, USY)

\_\_\_ performing an act of chesed (e.g. going by oneself to visit the sick/elderly/disabled)

\_\_\_ praying by oneself

\_\_\_ studying Torah

24. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings?

- a. "I feel very comfortable with my approach to Judaism."
- b. "I don't expect to change very much in college, but I'm open to new ideas about Judaism. "
- c. "I'm uncertain about my current approach to Judaism."
- d. "I have many questions about Judaism that I would like to deal with during my college years."
- e. "I look forward to the opportunity to explore many different approaches to Judaism."

25. For each of the following synagogue situations, how do you feel?

- a. very comfortable
- b. no problem
- d. very uncomfortable
- e. outraged

- c. a bit uncomfortable

\_\_\_ a mechitza which totally blocks the women's view

\_\_\_ a high mechitza that can be seen through

\_\_\_ an average-height mechitza, women don't lead the davening or give Divrei Torah

\_\_\_ a mechitza, but both men and women give Divrei Torah

\_\_\_ no mechitza, both men and women lead the davening

26. Your Jewish learning normally consists of a fascinating class with the Hillel rabbi on "Judaism and Today's Issues" which meets once a week. Unfortunately you have a biology midterm tomorrow. Without additional studying, you will definitely get at least a C, but you don't feel comfortable enough with the material. Do you:

- a. go to the class, and have a study session afterwards
- b. skip dinner to study, go to the class, and finish studying later
- c. skip the class to study, and arrange to go over the class with a friend
- d. skip the class, and wait until next week

27. In which situation do you learn best?

- a. by paying attention in class
- b. by reviewing the material with a partner ("chevruta")
- c. by reviewing the material by yourself

28. Which of the following options do you enjoy the most?

- a. going to an interesting class
- b. studying with a chevruta
- c. reading a Jewish book on your own

29. Which of the following topics are you interested in studying more of?

- a. Halacha
- b. Talmud
- c. Jewish Thought
- d. Tanakh
- e. Jewish History