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### Judaism

If philosophy is an open inquiry that seeks critical scrutiny of its own assumptions, Jewish philosophy will involve the informing of that inquiry by the resources of the Jewish tradition. Jewish philosophy so defined subsumes the narrower question, “what does it mean to be a Jew?” in the larger universe of Jewish concerns - from the problem of evil to divine transcendence, immorality, human freedom, justice, history and destiny, nature and economy, the value and meaning of life, and of human life in particular.

What unites practitioners of Jewish philosophy is not some exotic logic that we can label chauvinistically or patronizingly as “Talmudic.” Nor a common store of doctrines, but a chain of discourse and problematics, an ongoing conversation that is jarred but not halted by shifts of language, external culture, or epistemic background.

What makes this conversation distinctive is no unique flavor or accent, no values or concerns that are unshared by others, but a respect for prior Jewish efforts found worthy as points of reference or departure as the conversation continues.

From Goodman L – Judaism in ‘Philosophical Issues in the Religions of the World’ selections from Part 1 of Quinn P and Taliaferro C (eds) – *A Companion to Philosophy of Religion* (Blackwell, 2002) p44

1. (a) Clarify the argument and/or interpretation in the passage. **(24)**
  
- (b) Do you agree with the idea(s) expressed? Justify your point of view and discuss its implications for understanding religion and human experience. **(16)**

**(Total 40 marks)**

**TOTAL FOR PAPER 1G: 40 MARKS**

**Start your answer on page 3.**





















