

The Law - Tenakh, Torah and Talmud		✓
Tenakh	The Tenakh is the whole of Jewish scripture. It is made up of: <u>T</u> orah (Law), <u>N</u> evi'im (Prophets), and <u>K</u> etuvim (Writings).	
Torah	Teaching or Law - has the highest authority of the sacred texts because it is the revealed word of G-d.	
Nevi'im	The prophets - has medium authority because it is the word of G-d, but spoken through others.	
Ketuvim	The writings - have the lowest authority because they are the words of men and women who have been ' <u>inspired</u> ' by their faith and practice. (Divine Inspiration)	
Jewish views regarding the Torah.	<p>Jewish Law is the ultimate code to living daily life. It is the factor which defines all Jewish belief and practice. All traditions are based on the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodox Jews believe that the law should be kept because it was given by G-d, directly to Moses on Mount Sinai (Divine Revelation), and that as a result the law is 'immutable' - it cannot be changed. <p>In contrast, Progressive/Reform Jews believe that the laws were written by men, over a long period of time, who were inspired by their faith and relationship with G-d and in response to situations that existed in a particular time and place (Divine Inspiration). For this reason Progressive and Reform Jews believe that the written law can be reinterpreted, updated or even abandoned to suit modern times.</p>	
Sefer Torah	<p>The Sefer Torah is the large parchment Torah Scroll which is read publicly in the synagogue during worship. The scrolls are handwritten by a scribe who has trained for many years so as he can write the exact words of G-d without error. A Yad (to point) is used to follow the text so as it doesn't get smudged, altered or damaged in any way.</p> <p>Sefer Torah scrolls are treated with great respect during worship. They are kept in a cupboard at the front of the synagogue called the Aron Hakodesh (Ark), and are covered with a cloth mantle, silver breast plate, crowns and bells. It is read from a raised platform called a Bimah.</p>	
Chumash	A Chumash is a printed version of the Torah, usually in book form, which people can read and use at home. The word Chumash can also refer to online versions of the text.	
Talmud	<p>The Talmud is the 'oral law' (laws passed on by word of mouth) now presented in written form. The Talmud explains how to keep the 613 Mitzvot. A traditional Orthodox view is that both the written and the oral law were revealed to Moses at Mount Sinai.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the earliest evidence of the oral law in written form dates back 2500 years to the Second Temple era. From that point on its written form has been developed into what is now the Talmud. Non-traditional viewpoints consider the Talmud/Oral Law to be divine inspiration by numerous authors and believe that the rabbis are charged with the responsibility of interpreting the law and legislating within the context of their own time in history. <p>All agree that both the written and oral Torah contain eternal truths that apply a well today as when they were written and that the study of both the written and oral law is critical.</p>	