

Unless otherwise indicated, all questions are based on Gemara/Rashi.

Copies of these tests can be obtained by contacting us directly or at www.dafaweek.com/DafAWeekTests.php. Initially, the “questions only” test will be posted. A few weeks later, we will post the “question/answer” sheet. Any comments, suggestions or corrections would be appreciated.

Name _____

Please Circle One: Open גמרא / Closed גמרא

1) At what point is it prohibited to cut down a grapevine during a שמיטה year.,.

A) According to the רבנן?

משיגרועו, when the grape reaches the size of a small bean.

B) According to רבי יוסי?

When the grapevine starts to bud, סמדר.

2) At what point is it prohibited to cut down a date palm tree during a שמיטה year.,.

A) According to the רבנן?

משיוציאו, when the first leaves come out during ניסן elsewhere (ברכות לו:) says when the tree starts budding.

B) According to רבי יוסי?

Same as the רבנן, there is no מחלוקת רבי יוסי ורבנן with regards to שאר אילנות.

3) According to the conclusion of the גמרא, why was רבי אילעאי allowed to cut down the date palm tree during the שמיטה year?

Because it was a male date palm tree, and the dates on a male date palm tree never fully ripen on the tree.

4) According to the ברייתא, what *halachic* significance is there to the small figs from בית היני...

A) According to the ת"ק?

Answer: In the שמיטה year you are not חייב to be מבער figs until the figs of בית היני are depleted.

B) According to רבי יהודה?

Answer: They are only considered fruit with regard to the חיוב to take מעשר.

5) ...אוכלין בענבים עד הפסח... – How does this ברייתא contradict the previous ברייתא regarding the time of ביעור and how does the גמרא resolve this contradiction?

Answer: It is a little unclear which ברייתא this ברייתא contradicts. Artscroll seems to explain that it contradicts the ברייתא specifically regarding dates. The מתיבתא גמרא seems to explain that this ברייתא contradicts the two previous ברייתאות regarding grapes, olives, figs and dates. Either way, the earlier ברייתאות gave a deadline based on when the fruits were depleted in various places, while this ברייתא gives a deadline based on specific dates. The גמרא's first answer is that the specific dates are the same as when the fruits got depleted from the various places. The גמרא's second answer is that the specific dates are the default times of the חיוב ביעור. However, if we find fruit in various locations at a later time, it would extend when the חיוב ביעור occurs.

6) What are the סימנים for the following landforms and what are the reasons that we need to know them?

A) Mountains הרים

Answer: If there are מילין trees growing there. Reasons: 1) We are not allowed to use dates from mountains as ביכורים; 2) מקה וממכר – if a person sells a mountain it must contain מילין trees.

B) Valleys עמקים

Answer: If there are date trees growing there. Reasons: 1) We are supposed to use dates from valleys as **ביכורים** and not supposed to use **פירות** (grain according to רש"י) from valleys; 2) for **מקח וממכר** – if a person sells a valley it must contain date trees.

C) Streams נחלים

Answer: If there are reeds growing there. Reasons: 1) Regarding an **עגלה ערופה**, the elders of the nearest city must decapitate it next to a stream; 2) for **מקח וממכר** – if a person sells a stream it must contain reeds.

D) Plain שפלה

Answer: If there are **שקמה** (sycamore) trees growing there. Reason: for **מקח וממכר** – if a person sells a plain it must contain **שקמה** trees.

7) Why is it forbidden to sell בהמה גסות to non-Jews?

Answer: The **רבנן** were **גוזר** selling large animals to non-Jews because they were worried that a Jew would also rent or lend their animal to a non-Jew and the non-Jew would make the animal work on **שבת**. Also, a Jew might sell the animal right before **שבת** and the buyer will ask him to demonstrate the animal's capacity to work. When the animal responds to the Jew's prodding, the Jew will be violating **מהמר** on **שבת**.

8) Why did some places have the custom not to sell small animals to non-Jews?

Answer: The places which had the **מנהג** did so as a **גזירה** that they would not come to sell large animals.

9) Why did בן בתירא allow selling a horse to a non-Jew?

Answer: The main purpose of a horse is riding and that is only **אסור מדרבנן** on **שבת**.

10) Why did רב forbid a person to say: This meat is for פסח?

Answer: If a person says “This meat is for פסח” it appears as if he is מקדיש the value of that meat for purchasing an animal for the קרבן פסח thus, when he eats it, he would appear to be violating its קדושת דמים.

11) If a person accepts upon himself to bring a מנחה קרבן made from שעורים, is he required to bring it and based on what criteria

A) According to the ת"ק?

Answer: The ת"ק of the משנה in מנחות says that he is obligated to bring a מנחה from חיטין since the beginning of his words obligated him to bring a מנחה and there is מנחת נדבה from שעורים we therefore disregard the end of his words.

B) According to רבי שמעון?

Answer: He is פטור from bringing any מנחה. רבי שמעון is of the opinion that we do not disregard his ending words and since there is no מנחת נדבה from שעורים his statement is meaningless.

C) According to רבי יוסי?

Answer: רבי יוסי agrees with the ת"ק of the משנה in מנחות that he is required to bring a מנחה of חטים, however for a different reason. He agrees with רבי שמעון that we don't disregard the person's ending words; however, we do not assume a person would say meaningless words. Therefore, when he obligates himself to bring a מנחה from שעורים we understand it to mean a wheat מנחה from the value of the שעורים.

12) Regarding lighting candles for יום כיפור...

A) What is the reason to light?

Answer: Having relations with one's spouse is prohibited on יום כיפור. Since it is forbidden to have relations in a lit up room, the light would act as a deterrent.

B) What is the reason not to light?

Answer: Having relations with one's spouse is prohibited on **יום כיפור**. The communities which didn't light a candle felt that seeing one's spouse would tempt a person to have relations.

13) Why is it that everyone agrees that we light candles on יום כיפור in בתי כנסיות ובתי in בתי כנסיות ובתי? מדרשות ובמבואות האפלים ועל גבי החולים?

Answer: Since in these places it is not relevant that a person would have relations, the regular **מצוה** to light candles in honor of the **קדושת היום** is observed.