



WEST COAST RABBINICAL COURT OF BEVERLY HILLS- RABBI GABRIEL COHEN Rav"ד
331 N. Alta Vista Blvd. L.A. CA 90036 323 939-0298 Fax 323 933 3686 WWW.BETH-DIN.ORG Email: INFO@[BETH-DIN.ORG](mailto:INFO@BETH-DIN.ORG)

APPLICATION for GERUT (CONVERSION)

Date of application: _____ Please provide a phone number of a relative or friend). Tel: _____

1) 1) An I. D; A driver's license or a passport. Birth certificate

NAME _____ **Hebrew name?:** _____ **M** _____ **F** _____

Home Address: _____

City, _____ State, _____ Zip: _____

Main Occupation: _____

Please describe your Position: _____

ss# _____ -Work Name & Address: _____

Home Telephone # (____) _____ - _____ Work (____) _____ - _____ Fax: (____) _____ -

_____ Pager (____) _____ - _____

Place of Birth: _____ Birthday: _____ License or Passport #: _____

From which Religion: _____ If converted: By whom: _____

Are you **still affiliated with the old religion:** Y _____ N _____ ?

Education level _____ **Name of School** _____

1) 2) Previous marriages; if widowed or divorced: (document) of a (previous) marriage and/or divorce.

Date of marriage: _____ where: _____ Officiated by: _____

Children of previous marriage(s): (Names / Ages) _____

Location of Children _____

Have you applied before _____ where _____ **Name of Rabbi** _____ ?

Are You Affiliated with Any Synagogue? _____ References & phone # _____

3) Family: Father's Name: English _____ Was He Born Jewish _____

Mother's First Name: English _____ **was she** Born Jewish _____

Address of parent's _____ Tel #: (____) _____

Any Jewish ancestry in your maternal lineage _____

Father's Occupation: _____ Mother's Occupation: _____ ar _____ ur _____

parents still married _____ when you were born? _____ or _____

Names of Siblings: _____ One Tel# _____

Does your family consent to the Conversion? _____

Are you doing this conversion for marriage? _____

A non-refundable deposit of \$250.00, must be included with this application, for review and the initial fee. _____

I affirm that all the above is true and correct. Signature of applicant & Print

X _____ **Date** / / _____

For more information, contact our office at: (323) 939-0298.



1. IN WHAT RELIGION WERE YOU RAISED / EDUCATED?
2. WHAT RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES / ACTIVITIES / AFFILIATIONS ARE THERE IN YOUR PARENTS HOME? WHAT IS (was) THE EXTENT OF YOUR/ PARENTS OBSERVANCE?
3. RELATE YOUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN DETAIL.
4. HOW MUCH OF AN INTEREST DO YOU STILL HAVE IN THAT RELIGION?
5. WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT RELIGION? HOW DOES IT EXPRESS ITSELF?
- 6.
7. IF DIFFERENT FROM FORMER BELIEF, WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE CHANGE?
8. RELATE YOUR RELIGIOUS JOURNEY to Judaism, EXPERIENCES, DOUBTS, QUESTIONS, THEOLOGY, RELATIONSHIP TO G-D ETC...
9. HOW LONG HAVE YOU CONSIDERED CONVERSION? DETAIL YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ABOUT THIS. If you are requesting conversion of the own free will we stayed Jewish at all costs circumstances and conditions you promise to keep and establish a Jewish home raise and educate your children in the Jewish Torah
10. WHAT OR WHO BRINGS YOU TO JUDAISM? DO YOU HAVE ANY PERSONAL MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS WITH A PERSON OF THE JEWISH FAITH? IF YES DESCRIBE IN DETAIL. We discourage conversions completely unless the person shows true love and adherence to Hashem and in his Torah.

16. Are you attending prayers, HAVE YOU EVER TRAVELLED TO ISRAEL? _____ IF YES, FOR WHAT PERIOD OF TIME? _____ DETAIL HOW AND WHERE YOU SPENT YOUR TIME, YOUR IMPRESSIONS, THOUGHTS, FEELINGS. Have you experienced holidays, kosher shopping, making a kosher meal, did you visit a Jewish bookstore year of experience giving charity to whom,

11. DESCRIBE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF JUDAISM.

LIST READINGS IN JUDAICA: TITLE AUTHOR

11. DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCES THROUGHOUT YOUR SCHOOL YEARS.
12. WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FAMILY? CLOSE TIES AFTER CONVERSION CAN HINDER YOUR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.
13. HOW DID YOU RELATE TO YOUR FRIENDS, TEACHERS, ETC DETAIL YOUR WORK EXPERIENCES, LIKES, DISLIKES, RELATIONSHIPS WITH SUPERIOR, PEERS.
14. DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY OF ORIGIN (FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHERS, SISTERS) AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH MEMBER.
15. HOW DID YOUR FATHER INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE?
16. HOW DID YOUR MOTHER INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE?
17. ARE YOU PRESENTLY UNDER A DOCTORS OR THERAPISTS CARE? IF YES ,WHY.
18. DESCRIBE YOUR STATE OF HEALTH.
19. WHEN AND WITH WHOM DID YOU HAVE YOUR LAST COMPLETE PHYSICAL CHECK-UP?
20. ARE YOU ON ANY MEDICATION? ?WHAT ,IF YES
21. IS THERE OR HAS THERE BEEN ANY SERIOUS ILLNESS IN YOUR FAMILY?
22. WHO IS YOUR SPONSORING RABBI IF ANY: NAME ADDRESS PHONE NUMBER

(2)-REFERENCES

ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	NAME
NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER

23. WHEN IS YOUR BEST TIME FOR INTERVIEWING? ANY STATEMENT YOU WISH TO MAKE TO THE COMMISSION _____

SIGNATURE _____

Education / study / practice/Material requirements

1)The Applicant must live next to a Synagogue where they go for prayers

2. Close contact with a Rabbi for classes and guidance

A must visit kosher stores and jewish lady's clothing store

Purchase 3 sets of books at bookstores in Atara's pico area there 613 mitzva store shmuli's or brengo

3. Read through TANAKH, Art scroll edition

CODE OF JEWISH LAW, Ganzfried or Davis(preffered)

SIDDUR. Art scroll Sfard

the procedure is

read between 200 to 300 pages

put "posts its" on each page and make a note or a question. So that when you come for the class we will review those questions.

write at least one question on each page of the siddur and one on each chapter in the Tanach and chapters of kitzur.

it would be great if you can type them so that you can include the answers when you get them.

Don't hesitate to call me or send an e-mail on questions that need immediate answers.

While reading and understanding these books you could do the 45 topics.

THE PROCESS OF CONVERSION TO JUDAISM

The decision to convert to Judaism, must be that you are ready to embrace all of its laws and customs, and it will affect virtually every aspect of your life: where you live, what and where you eat; where and how you socialize; the relationships you will have with family members; where your children will go to school, camp, etc.; what kind of work you do and the expectations of the workplace in terms of work hours, travel, socializing, etc.

It is a commitment that cannot be made without extensive thought, learning and preparation. The process of conversion to Judaism is a lengthy one. Before Beis Din will approve the conversion, we must be positive that you are fully committed to observing all of the laws and precepts of Judaism, that you are fully integrated into the Jewish way of life and are comfortable in the Jewish community – that you will be able to live a full, happy and productive life as a Jew.

The following outlines the steps that are involved and what will be expected of you in the process of conversion:

1.

* Please note that if you are, or become involved in a relationship with a Jewish partner, both partners in the relationship will need to be involved in the conversion process, and both must be committed to living a fully observant Jewish life. If, we are not made aware of a Jewish partner, we may cancel the process.

2.

* Before you can complete the process of conversion, you must be fully committed to keeping all of the laws of Judaism that you learned and read. practice the requirements of Jewish daily life. the laws of Shabbos [the Sabbath] and Yom Tov [the holidays] in an observant home, as deemed appropriate by the Beis Din. observing kosher in and out of the home and which Rabbi will kosher your home. the laws of family purity and be prepared to observe these laws. You will be required to be fully observant before the actual conversion takes place.

3. There is a fee of \$_____.00 for the conversion process, which the Rabbi will discuss with you In addition you will incur the cost of any learning arrangements you might make – private lessons, etc.

4. At these meetings the Rabbis will want to know details of how you are progressing, what you are learning and with whom, how you are living, are you connected with a sponsoring Rabbi, a synagogue, etc. **A sponsoring Rabbi is one that feels you are a true candidate and one that vouches on your progress throughout your conversion. I am sure your Rabbis could be your teachers but there is a special program that we require no matter how much you learn extra.**
5. Couples living together must separate for a period of three months prior to conversion. You will be advised when to separate and will be responsible to inform the Beis Din of the arrangements for separation.
6. When all of these things are in place, and you are ready, you will take the Conversion Test. This is an extensive written test covering every aspect of Jewish life and observance. When the Rabbis will go over your test they will advise you if you are ready for conversion or if they feel there are areas that require further attention.
7. Once approved, a date will be scheduled for the actual conversion. This involves for men circumcision and '*tevilla*' – immersion in a kosher mikveh. you should now decide on an appropriate Hebrew name.
8. If you are involved in a serious relationship and intend to marry, arrangements will need to be made for the marriage. It will be necessary to wait a minimum of seven complete days after the conversion before the marriage (if you have observed already the 3 months separation); however it is best to have the wedding as soon as possible after that time.
9. Once the *tevilla* is done, we will prepare your Certificate of Conversion. This is held in our office for a period of one year after the conversion. You will be asked to come back to Beis Din after one year, at which time, all being well, your Certificate of Conversion will be released to you.
10. When a person converts to Judaism, the Rabbis of the Beis Din become in a sense 'responsible' for that person. Therefore the Beis Din may want to meet with you periodically to make sure that you are well and happy, and that you are living a full Jewish life in accordance with the laws of Judaism.
11. At any point in the conversion process, Beis Din has the right to refuse to allow you to proceed further should it be felt that you are not a suitable candidate for conversion.

We are available to answer questions, guide and assist you at any time during the process.
I have read and understand the information in this document.

Signature

Date

All the best
Rabbi Cohen

Practice Test from the 45 topics

- **HASHEM**

- 1) Hashem is one- Explain monotheism- To attach ourselves to Him.
- 2) What is Avodah Zarah? Elyahu Mt Carmel

In what ways is the Jewish Religion different from all religions.

- 3) What was Jesus in Judaism-person-prophet-atheist-son of- messiah.
- 4) Do you believe in him or any other person/prophet not stated in Tanach

Creation Of The world-Hashem is in every detail of creation. Connection Of Hashem with people through prophecy-Choosing Abraham as father of the nation- Sacrifice of Isaac-Exodus from Egypt, Receiving the Torah on Mt Sinai. reward and punishment-next world –Moses the true prophet, false prophets.Teshuvah, Hashgacha Pratit, true justice.

- 3) 13 principles of faith of Maimonides

- A JEW, What is a Jew? A Jew without Torah and observance is not a Jew. Giving up our life for Hashem. Why do we deserve to be called the chosen people. Main stories from Tanach. The meaning of jews are responsible for each other.

The different groups of Judaism Sephardic and Ashkenazic religious or nonreligious conservatives, reform, atheists other levels, Chassidic. There are many beliefs different than all . Sadukim, Baytusim,Prushim,

Study of basic concepts of Jewish ethics and values

1. Pirkei Avos
2. Orchos Tzadikim, introduction
3. Mesilas Yesharim, introduction and chapters one and two

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- Kohen, Levi, Yisrael,

Is it difficult to be a Jew?. What does it mean to be the chosen people?

Yetzer Hatov – Yetzer Horah-lashon harah bad or dirty.

What does it mean to convert. A Ger and Giyoret-Ruth mother of the Royal Dynasty and of Mashiah. Unkelos, Akiba

Are you sure you want to convert

How are we suppose to relate to a convert. How is the conversion process done. Bris and Mikveh.

- **DESCRIBE OUR HISTORY IN DETAIL**

- 5) The Avos and Imahos-The Covenant with Hashem. Nevuah Revelation.
- 6) Galus Mitzrayim
- 7) Receiving the Torah at Har Sinai
- 8) The Bet Hamikdash

9) The various Galuyos:

- a. Bavel, destruction of Jerusalem. Second time by Romans – The Roman empire against Jews and Christians, Nero, Titus, Charlemagne protecting jews? Spain and crusades 1096, King of Khazar, the Cossacks, Shabbtay Zvi,

- b. The split of Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jewry

10) THE TORAH- Who wrote the Torah, Nach Talmud midrash etc.

- From Hashem through Moshe on Har Sinai. Lashon Hakodesh, Torah leads to true freedom,

11) Name The Parshiyot, the prophets, the writings 24 books in all.

12) The Torah is the five books of Moses Genesis exodus Leviticus numbers Deuteronomy

13) There were 48 prophets and 7 prophetesses. Joshua, Samuel kings Daniel Ruth and Esther Ezra Nehemiah Iyov are the highlights of Jewish history Major poems and events . Eshet Chayil, cry of David when Saul and Yonatan died, justice of Salomon, Alexander the Great and Shimon the just, Thalami the king and the translation of the Torah

14) The oral law, Mishna, the six orders, Gemarah – Midrahsim, Talmud. Tanaim, Amoraim, Geonim, Rif, Rashi, Rambam, Rosh, Rashba, Tur, shulchan Aruch, Responsa , Zohar, Kabbalah, Agada,

15) Pirke Avot. Ethics. Advice of our Father, desires, kindness, forgiveness,

16) Love your friend as yourself.

17) Business ethics and righteousness.

18) Name three or more great personalities that influenced the final Halacha that we follow today.

• HALACHA

19) Torah laws and ethics

- a. The ten commandments

- b. Hilchos kriyas hatorah

- Following the Parshah of the week

- How often do we take out the Torah

- How many people go up to the Torah, Cohen, Levy Yisrael.

- A Shul, Rav, Ner Tamid, Minyan, Kippah, Why do we have to keep the Torah and Mitzvot of Hashem and fellowmen.

20) The top ten most frequently performed Mitzvot:

21) 1) Loving Hashem all the time

22) 2) Birkat Asher Yatsar

23) 3) The Brachot before and after eating

24) 4) Davening three times a day

25) 5) Saying Shema three times a day

26) 6) Loving your fellow Jew, all the time

27) 7) Learning Torah all the time

28) 8) Eating Kosher

29) 9) Kibud Av Vaem

30) 10) Kibud Morim

31) The least frequent Mitzvot:

32) 1) Birkat hachama, once in twenty eight years

33) 2) Pidyon Peter Chamor

34) 3) Shmita

35) 4) Trumot Umaasrot, Peah, leket, Shichcha which are agricultural Mitzvot.

36) 5) Birkat Hagomel

37) **6) Brachot on Mitzvot on once a year:** Biur Chametz, Achilat Matsa, Achilat maror, Netilat lulav, Lishmoa Kol Shofar,

38) 7) Kiddush Levana, Once a month

39) 8) To write your own Sefer Torah,

40) 9) to make a fence for your roof

41) **PRAYERS.** Why should a person Pray. **SIDDUR MACHZOR HAGGADAH** Sacrifices, Knesset Hagedola, Mode Ani, Asher Yatzar, 15 morning blessings, Adon Olam, The three prayers Amida 18 Shmone esre a day, four times we say Shema twice with blessings, Tachanun, Tefillah: Tallit, Tzitzit, Tefillin, Psalms of praise, Shema, Shachrit Mincha, Arvit Maariv. Kaddish, on Shabbat we add Nishmat, moussaf, Birkat Kohanim,

Recommended text: The World of Prayer

1. Requirements

2. Priorities

3. When & in what manner talking is prohibited

4. Knowing way around the siddur

5. Additions and omissions on special occasions

6. Understanding and ability to read basic Tefillos including:

A. All of the Amidas

B. Shma Yisroel (all paragraphs)

42) **C. Blessings before eating and after eating MEALS AND SNACKS** all blessings: fruits vegetables cakes cookies and Bread washing, Hamotzi Hagefen Blessing after meal. Blessings before foods & after, 7 special fruits, 2. Bracha Acharona Birkat Hamazon, Al Hamichya Borei Nefashos. Leading Birkas Hamazon

43) What are the main parts of prayer in the order of importance.

There are specific levels of prayers and they are put in specific sequence. What are the special prayers for Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh, holidays, Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Hallel

44) It is a good practice to review the prayers before each specific occasion

a. Siddur, Machzor, Yaaleh Veyavo.

Bircas Hanehenin (Blessings on things that we have pleasure from): good smells and good sights and other blessings

3. Various blessings, such as thunder, oceans, gomel, etc.

b. Teshuva, Tefillah, and Tzedaka, orphans, widows,

45) Jewish garments

a. Tallit, Tzitzit, Tefillin

Head coverings for men and ladies A. For Men

1. Blessings on the Torah

2. Kiddush & Havdalah

B. For Women: Required Text Halichos Bas Yisroel (Feldheim)

1. Haircovering

2. General Tznius (kol isha, etc)

3. Modesty in dress

46) Jewish objects

a. A Mezuzah,- What is inside a Mezuzah

- How many doorposts in a home require a Mezuzah?

- Charity(Tzedaka) doing for others praying for others

KASHRUT: the different species of animals birds and fish.

b. Name the different descriptions of Kosher: animals, fish, birds. Say examples

c. To make an animal Kosher and fit for eating it needs slaughtering, then soaking salting and washing . Can you buy Meat from an Arab store and Kosherize it at home.

d. Keeping a kosher life to be holy and set apart, slaughtering, Shochet, separation between meat and dairy, meat & fish, dairy, Liver, Blood, Parve, Taref, Non kosher wine,

Bishul Akum1.

Understanding of kosher and glatt kosher meats

2. Understanding of kosher cheese and cholov yisrael

3. Separation of meat and milk and waiting in between

4. Common kitchen "shailos"

5. Kashering

6. Tevillas Keilim

7. Taking Challah

8. Bugs

9. Meat & fish

10. Kosher fish

11. Stam Yeinam

12. Bishul Akum

47) Trumot & Maasrot, Challah, Bikurim, Maaser Ani, and all sorts of charity.

48) Many foods are labeled with a Kosher symbol from different Rabbinical groups.

49) Foods from Israel or in Israel must have extra supervisions because of the laws that are specific for the land of Israel.

50) Foods cooked by a gentile: Wines that were made by gentiles (Yayin Nesech/Yayin Stam)

JEWISH FESTIVALS differences between **Shabbos & YomTov** The Shabbos Kitchen and The Shabbos Concepts and examples of 39 Melachos

2. D'Oraissa & D'Rabbanan

3. Categories of Muktzta

4. Cooking and warming foods

5. Candle lighting

6. When cooking is permitted on Yom Tov

7. Kiddush, Havdalah, Lechem Mishnah, etc.

8. Medicine use

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51) Shabbat

a. The 3-5 reasons and importance of Shabbat.

b. Whats the connection between Shabbat and the creation of the world?

c. What is the connection between Shabbat and the exodus from Egypt?

d. How does Shabbat help the life of people?

e. Oneg Shabbat

f. Preparation – Sample Shabbat Table, Grocery List

g. What kind of ovens and appliances are best used for Shabbat?

h. 26 – Hour day – candles The Highlights of the prayers and songs.

i. Children's blessing, Netilat Yadayim

j. Candle lighting, blessing, prayer, charity.

k. Friday night meal, Shalom Aleichem, Eshet Chayil, Kiddush – washing 2 Challahs- Meal, Songs of Shabbat, and Bentching.

l. The prayers, reading of the Torah, Haphtarah.

m. Day meal Kiddush washing 2 Challahs-Meal , Songs of Shabbat, Bentching , Shalosh seudos, Third meal 2 Challahs- Meal Songs of Shabbat,, Bentching

n. Eruvei Chatzerot and Eruvei Tchumin

o. Emergencies, medicines and medical care on Shabbat

All derivations from these 39 works are also not allowed. The rabbis added many prohibitions in order not to come to doing the real Sin. Example: Muktzta, Mar'is ha'ayin, etc.

p. Cooking and warming food

q. Rabbinic Prohibitions

r. HAVDALAH wine spices fire blessing, Melaveh malka,

52) Jewish calendar year

a. Rosh Chodesh, Kiddush Levana.

53) What some general laws of Festivals. Eruv Tavshilim

YOMIM NORAIM-how many days each and what is the main reason for the holiday

Slichot, Hatarat Nedarim,

- Rosh Hashana, The special festive meal with all the different signs, Kingdom of Hashem, Shofar, Selichot, while the Jewish New Year, the inventory of the year, Day of Judgment day of remembrance. Tashlich.

- Fast of gedaliah

- Asseret Yeme Teshuva. Return to God and ask for forgiveness. Shabbat Shuvah

- Yom Kippur, fasting, Kaparot, Kol Nidre. 5 prayers, Vidduy, Yizkor. Avodah of the high priest the Kohen. Neilah, the Shofar.

- SUKKOT: living and eating all the meals in the Sukkah THE Arbah Minim, Etrog lulav hadas Arava,

- Chol Hamoed, Festivities, Simchat Bet Hashoeva,

- Hoshana Rabah , Aravot

- Shmini Atzeret , Prayer for rain, Yizkor,

- Simchat Torah, Hakafot, three Torahs are read in,

b. Chanukah, Lighting the candles, three blessings the first night, the Greeks, the Torah, the Chashmonaim,

c. Fast of 10th of Tevet

d. Tu Bishvat

e. Purim, Parashat Zachor, fast of Esther Mordechai, Haman, Achashverush, The reading of the Megillah, the story of Esther, Matanot Laevyonim, Mishloach manot, Festive meal, several customs of foods and joys.

- PESSACH, Shabbat Hagadol, Bedikat Chamets. Selling the Chametz, Preparing for Passover, dishes foods,

- Seder night, Haggadah, Ma Nishtana, Chamets, Seder Plate, Matza Afikoman.

- The prayer of Dew, Chol Hamoed.

f. Sefirat Haomer – 14th of Iyar, Pessach Sheni, 33 Lag Ba'omer, Pirkei Avot

g. Shavuot, learning through the night, we read the Akdamot, book of Ruth, Dairy meal.

- Rosh Chodesh

54) The Fast Days

a. Fast of Gedaliah

b. 10th of Teves

c. Fast of Esther

d. 17th of Tamuz, the 3 weeks.

e. Tisha B'av, the destruction of both temples & Holocaust

• THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE

55) Birth Shalom Zachor, Bris circumcision, Mohel, Sandak, Wine and blessings, Pidyon Haben, Bar Mitzvah, All have festive Meals washing for bread and the meal

a. Abortion

56) Marriage only between man and women, Abomination otherwise, Aufruf, Bodeken, Chupah, Keddushin, Ring, Ketubah, Chatan, Kallah, Sheva Brachot.

57) Prohibited marriages:

58) Laws regarding Women. Niddah, Purity of a nation. Immersion in a Mikvah

59) Gerushin (Divorce)

60) What is the importance of a woman in a Jewish home?

61) Tzniut and the way of dress. Separation at occasions between men and women, just like at the synagogue

62) Raising and educating children to serve Hashem

63) Reward and punishment, good and evil, the final days, Death, judgment, the next world, blessed is the merciful judge. Examples from Tanach for Reward and punishment.

64) Funeral Burial, onen, Avel 7 days, Shloshim, 30 days. 11 months to 12th months and yahrzeit. Jewish views on immediate burial, respect of the dead, embalming, autopsy, open caskets, cremation, life after death.

Mourning – Kriah, Shiva, Behavior of mourners, Menachamim, Kaddish for mourners, Yahrzeit, Yizkor, Tehiyat Hametim (resurrection of the dead)

What are the largest communities in the world today. Besides New York or Israel.

• MASHIACH. Who is He – When is he coming.

• What is Gan Eden – Gehinam – karet – Skilah – Srepha – hereg – chenek –

• YOUR THOUGHTS

b. What is the most beautiful law that our Torah has?

c. What is a law that our Torah should not have imposed upon us?

d. Where does it say the converts must be accepted?