



WEST COAST RABBINICAL COURT OF BEVERLY HILLS- RABBI GABRIEL COHEN Rav''d
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. I 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 CONVERSON 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 YUOU 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 Sfarad

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

A) IDEOLOGY

1 – HASHEM

1.1 – The Almighty, the Creator, What Does Hashem mean to me

1.2 – Monotheism. The unique one.

1.3 – Avoda Zarah, idolatry,

Golden calf, Eliyahu Hanavi at Mount Carmel, Sorcery, Witchcraft

2 – What It Means to Be a Jew

2.1- Making His will my will

2.2 –The Chosen People, what makes Judaism different from other religions

2.3 -The beauty of our Torah

2.4 - Reward and punishment

2.5 - Olam Hazei, Olam Haba: This world, future world

2.6 – Israel, our Holy Land

2.7- Awaiting Mashiach

2.8 - Tchiyat Hametim: Ressurrection of the dead

2.9- Chiyuv Karet.

2.10- Difficulties of being a Jew

2.11- Hashgacha Pratit

2.12– Different Groups in Observance and Tradition

Orthodox, Conservative, Reform

Tzedukim, Prushim, Charedim, Zealots (anti Romans and Greeks)

2.13 Kohanim, Leviim, Israelites.

2.14 -Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews

3 – The Rambam and his Thirteen Principles of Faith

3.1 – Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimonides

3.2 – The Rambam’s Thirteen Principles of Jewish Faith-Yigdal.

4 – The Tanach, What is the Tanach

4-1 Torah: Summarize each of the five books of Moses

Chumash, Sefer Torah, Parashah, Haftarah

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

4-2 Neviim: Develop in detail

Joshua . Judges: mention at least 10 Judges and their stories

Samuel, Saul, Jonathan, King David

Kings: King Solomon, Northern and Southern Kingdoms

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel,

The Twelve Prophets, (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Ovadia, Jonah, Micha, Nahum,

Habakkuk, Tzephania, Chagay, Zecharya, Malachi

4-3 Ketuvim and the Megilot: develop in detail

Psalms, Proverbs, Job, The Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes,

Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles.

4-4 The (Oral Torah), Mishna The Gemara- Talmud, Shas, Masechet ,Midrash,

Tanaim, - Amoraim, Midrash Halacha , Agadah

4-5 -The Geonim

4-6 – Rambam, Rif, The Rosh, Halacha, Responsa

4-7– Shulchan Aruch

4-8– Zohar, 9– Kabala

4-10 –Hagada

4-11 –Books of Ethics: Pirkei Avot, Orchos Tzadikim, Mesilat Yesharim, Chovot Halevavot

5– The 613 Mitzvot

5.1 – Ben Adam Lamakom, Love of Hashem, Emunah, Faith in Hashem, Yirat Shamayim, Torah Learning, eating Kosher, posting a Mezuzah.

5-2- Ben Adam Lachavero: Kibud Av Vaem , Kibud Morim, doing kindness: Loving our fellow Jew, visiting the sick, taking care of orphans and widows, Tzedaka: Charity, Maaser.

5-3- Positive and Negative commandments

5-4 - Mideoraita and Miderabanan

5-5The Ten Commandments, and all Halachot

The three cardinal sins: yehareg veal Yaavor.

5-6- What is the law you admire the most?

5-7 – Mention 10 negative mitzvot

5-8– Mention 15 Positive Mitzvot that are performed not as often, like once a month

or once a year, even once every few years

5-9 – Yetzer Hatov and Yetzer Harah

5-10 – Lashon Harah

6– Teshuva, Tefillah, Tzedaka

6.1 – Teshuva

6.2 – Tefillah

6.3 - Tzedaka

7 – Converts

7.1 – What Judaism Means to Me

7.2 – Prophets of other religions claiming to be the Mashiach

What do they mean to me, how they influence my life.

7.3 – History of Converts

Ruth, Rahav, Yitro, Nero, Onkelos, Avraham Ben Avraham, Antoninus

7.4 - What is the most beautiful law in the Torah

7.5 - What law shouldn't have been imposed.

7.6 - Where does it say that converts should be accepted into Judaism?

7.7 - The Seven Noahide laws.

B) AHAVAT HASHEM- LOVE OF HASHEM

1-The Siddur-Prayer book.

1-1 - Structure of the prayer book. From the moment we wake up till we go to sleep we connect and express our thoughts and feelings to Hashem.

1-2- Kippah, Talit, Tefillin, Tzitsit. When do we put them on, their Brachot.

1-3 Major elements of the services. Why should one pray, what prayer replaces.

1-5- There are three Prayers Shachrit Mincha Maariv(Arvit)

Shachrit consists of Birkat Hashachar: Mode Ani, Netilat Yadaim , Asher Yatzar, Elokai, Adon Olam, The 15 and Torah Blessings,

Korbanot. Hodu . Baruch Sheamar, Ashre, Yishtabach, Barchu.

Blessing of Shema. Shema, Shmone Esre, Amida, Tachanun.

Torah Reading,

Ashre, Uva Letzion, song of the Day, Kave, Aleinu

Mincha. Korbanot. Ashre, Shmone Esre, Amida, Tachanun.

Ashre, Uva Letzion, song of the Day, Kave, Aleinu

Maariv (Arvit) Barchu. Blessing of Shema. Shema, Shmone Esre, Amida, Aleinu

1-6 – Prayers and their sequence in the order of importance

1-7 – Special prayers for Shabbat and Holidays, Mussaf, Rosh Chodesh (Hallel), Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur

1-8- Special blessings over food before and after eating,

Boreh Nefashot, Birkat Meein Shalosh. Birkat Hamazon,

1-9– Various Blessings: Birkat Hanehenim, Birkat Hamitzvot, candlelighting, handwashing, after the use of the restroom: Asher Yatsar.

1-10- Torah reading: Aliyot laTorah: Kohen, Levi, Israel, on Shabbat and other times: Week days, , Holidays.

1-11 – Synagogue structure Rabbi, Hazzan, Cantor, Shamash, Who runs the Shul,

Chores of each person are according to his position.

1-12 – Ner Tamid, Bima , Aron Hakodesh, Amud,

1-13 - Minyan

2- – Women’s Role in Judaism- Their special Mitzvot

2-1 Niddah (laws of Taharat Hamishpacha).

2-2– Shabbat and Holidays Candle Lighting

2-3– Baking Challah

2-4 Proper dress code, Hair coverings, modest clothing

C) SEASONS

1– The Beauty of Shabbat

1-1-Why do we keep Shabbat: Hashem rested, so do we.

It testifies that Hashem created the world.

1-2-Importance of Shabbat in our lives

1-3-The 39 forbidden works and its derivatives, muktze

1-4-Preparing for Shabbat, grocery list, meal planning, Challah baking, house preparations

1-5-Kosher inventions for Shabbat, Appliances, cooking and warming food

1-5-Oneg Shabbat

1-6-Eruvei Chatzerot and Eruvei Tchumim, Eruv of the city, Eruv Tavshilim

1-7-Charity and Candle Lighting

1-8-Friday night Services, Special welcoming prayers for Shabbat, Lecha Dodi

Shalom Alechem, Eshet Chayil

1-9-Kidush, Children's Blessings, Hamotzi with two Challas, Meal, Shabbat

Songs and Birkat Hamazon (Bentching)

1-10-Shachrit, Torah Reading and the Haftarah, Musaf

1-11-Seudath Sheinit with Kidush, Hamotzi with two Challas, Meal, Songs of

Shabbat and Bentching

1-12-Mincha service

1-13-Sehudat Shlishit, Hamotzi with two Challas, Smaller meal, Songs of

Shabbat and benching

1-15-Havdala Wine, Spices, Fire with blessings and Melaveh Malkah

2– Jewish Holidays and Fasting Days

2-1- Difference between the laws of Shabbat and Holidays (Yamim Tovim)

2-2- Meaning of each Holiday and their symbolism.

2-3- Generally permitted and prohibited laws

2-4 -Month and date the Holiday falls on. Its liturgy and songs.

2-5- Rosh Hashana: Special preparations, Selichot, Yamim Noraim, Special

Festive meal, Tashlich, Special services, Shofar, Aseret Yeme Teshuva

2-6 – Tzom Guedalia

2-7 – Shabbat Teshuva

- 2-8 – Yom Kippur: Kaparot, Fasting and other prohibitions, Kol Nidrei, Vidui, Yizkor, Avodah of the High Priest, Nehila, Shofar.
- 2-9 – Sukkot: Preparation of the Sukkah, Arbah Haminim (Etrog, Lulav, Arava, Hadas) Chol Hamoed
- 2-10 – Hoshana Rabba
- 2-11 – Shemini Atzeret, Prayer of rain, Yizkor
- 2-12 – Simchat Torah, Hakaffot, The reading of three Torahs
- 2-13 – Chanukah, The Menorah and Candle lighting, blessing on the first night, Blessings on the other seven nights. Chanukah story.
- 2-14 – Tzom of Ten of Tevet
- 2-15- Tu Bishvat
- 2-16 – Purim, Story of Purim, Meguilah, Matanot Laevyonim, Mishloach Manot, Fast of Esther, festive meal.
- 2-17 – Fast of the first born on Eve of Pesach
- 2-18 – Pesach: Preparations for the holiday, Bedikat Chametz, Kashering dishes and utensils, Selling of the Chametz, food preparing, Shabbat HaGadol, Hagadah and the Sedder, the four cups of wine, Manishtanah, Seder Platter, Matzah and Afikoman, Special Services, Chol Hamoed Pesach
- 2-19 – Sefirat Haomer
- 2-20– Pesach Sheini
- 2-21 – Lag Baomer
- 2-22 – Shavuot, Book of Ruth, Reading of the Akdamot, Dairy meal
- 2-23 – Tzom, fast of the 17th of Tamuz
- 2-24 – Tzom, fast of Tisha B'Av
- 2-25 – Tu B'Av

Draw a chart indicating each Holiday in its corresponding month.

D) FAMILY LIFE

2- 1 – Birth

2- 2 – Brit Milah

2- 3 – Pidiyon Haben

2- 4 – Bar/Bat Mitzvah

2- 5 – Marriage:, Aufruf, Bedeken, Chupah, Keddushin, Ring, Ketubah, Chatan,

Kallah, Sheva Brachot . Prohibited marriages

2-6 – Taharat ha Mishpaha, Miscarriages and abortion

2-7 – Child Bearing: Raising Children to love and serve Hashem

2-8 – Gerushin (Divorce)

2-9 – Death and Mourning, Taharah, Aninut, Funeral and burial, Embalming, Keeping Shiva,

Behavior of the mourners, Avel, Shloshim, 11 to 12 months of mourning

Autopsy, Open Casket, Prohibition against Cremation.

Olam Habah,

The Seven relatives one mourns for and their equivalent mourning times

Kadish, Yahrzeit, Yizkor, Tehiyat Hametim.

E) KASHRUT

Permitted animals/ fish/ birds.

Give three examples of non kosher animals/fish/ birds.

Kosher slaughtering: Shochet, Shchita

Removing the blood: Soaking and salting, the Kashering process.

Separation between meat and dairy and meat and fish, while cooking, eating. serving

What is pareve.

Kashering utensils

Brachot before and after a meal

Kashut certifications, Different Hashgachot

Keeping a kosher life

Milchek/Dairy, Flaishig/Meat.

Taref, prohibited animals

Kosher wine, Yayin nesech, Yain stam, mevushal

Bishul Akum

Trumot and Maasarot, Challah, Bikurim

Maaser ani and other types of charity

Laws pertaining the land of Israel

F) HISTORY –

1- History of Judaism, from the Exodus to Modern day Jewry

1-1-The different expulsions, the various Galuyot.

1-2-the Diaspora, the First and Second Beith Hamikdash, the Roman Empire.

1-3-The split of Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jewry

1-4-Christianity, Nero, Titus, Charlemagne, Spain and the Crusades, the Cozacks, the Pogroms, 1-5-Holocaust.

1-6-American Jews and other communities around the world today.

2- What influence do the following people have on Judaism:

Tanaim, Amoraim, Geonim, Rif, Rashi, Rambam, Rosh, Rashba, Tur, Rabbi Akiva, Shabbtai Tzi

G) MASHIACH