

Ancient Judaism
Comprehensive Exam List

Primary sources:

- Presumed background:* The Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
1. Hebrew Bible: Ezra-Nehemiah; Daniel
 2. Septuagint: Tobit; Judith; 1 and 2 Maccabees; Sirach (Wisdom of Ben Sira); Wisdom (Wisdom of Solomon)
 3. Pseudepigrapha: *1 Enoch* 1-36 (Book of the Watchers), 83-90 (Book of Dreams); *Jubilees*; *4 Ezra*; *Letter of Aristeas*
 4. Dead Sea Scrolls¹: *Damascus Document* (CD); *Community Rule* (1QS); *Pesher of Habakkuk*; *4QMMT*
 5. Philo: *On the Creation of the World* (selections); *On the Embassy to Gaius*; *Life of Moses*; *On the Contemplative Life* (trans.. Loeb)
 6. Josephus: *Antiquities of the Jews* (choose two books); *Jewish War* 6-7 (trans. Mason)
 7. Mishnah, Tosefta, Yerushalmi, Bavli: choose 1 tractate to read in full in the Mishnah (trans. Danby) and Tosefta; selections from the Yerushalmi (trans. Neusner) and Bavli (trans. Soncino)
 8. Midrash: *Mekhilta de Rabbi Ishmael Pisha* (trans. Lauterbach); *Genesis Rabbah* 1-11 (trans. Freedman); *Lamentations Rabbah* (trans. Rabbinowitz)
 9. Piyyut: either Yannai's piyyutim on Genesis (trans. Lieber) or Yom Kippur piyyutim (trans. Swartz and Yahalom)
 10. Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism: Pliny the Elder, Martial, Tacitus, Juvenal (as found in Menahem Stern, *Greek and Latin Authors on Jews and Judaism*)

Secondary scholarship:

1. Cohen, Shaye J. D. *The Beginnings of Jewishness: Boundaries, Varieties, Uncertainties*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999.
2. Schwartz, Seth. *Imperialism and Jewish Society 200 B.C.E. to 640 C.E.* Princeton:

¹ Recommended translations are Florentino García Martínez and Eibert Tigchelaar, *The Dead Sea Scrolls Study Edition* (2 vols.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997-1998); and Geza Vermes, *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*, Seventh Edition (Penguin Classics, 2011).

- Princeton University Press, 2001.
3. Najman, Hindy. *Seconding Sinai: The Development of Mosaic Discourse in Second Temple Judaism*. Leiden: Brill, 2003.
 4. Collins, John J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
 5. Reed, Annette Yoshiko. *Fallen Angels and the History of Judaism and Christianity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
 6. Newsom, Carol. *The Self as Symbolic Space*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2004.
 7. Rajak, Tessa. *Josephus: The Historian and His Society*. 2nd ed. London: Duckworth, 2002.
 8. Kamesar, Adam, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Philo*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
 9. Hayes, Christine. *Gentile Impurities and Jewish Identities: Intermarriage and Conversion from the Bible to the Talmud*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
 10. Gruen, Erich S. *Diaspora: Jews Amidst Greeks and Romans*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002.
 11. Schäfer, Peter. *The Origins of Jewish Mysticism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011.
 12. Brooten, Bernadette. *Women Leaders in the Ancient Synagogue*. Brown, 1982.
 13. Levine, Lee I. *Visual Judaism in Late Antiquity*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.
 14. Fonrobert, Charlotte Elisheva, and Martin S. Jaffee, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to the Talmud and Rabbinic Literature*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
 15. Boyarin, Daniel. *Intertextuality and the Reading of Midrash*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.
 16. Berkowitz, Beth. *Defining Jewish Difference: From Antiquity to the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
 17. Rubenstein, Jeffrey. *Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition, and Culture*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.
 18. Hasan-Rokem, Galit. *Web of Life: Folklore and Midrash in Rabbinic Literature*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000.