

RE – Vows and commitments

Lesson 2: I can explain how commitment is demonstrated in coming of age rituals.

Key vocabulary: coming of age, voting, ritual, Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah, Judaism, Holy Communion, religious, non-religious.

Last week you committed to something: What was it? My commitment for the next six weeks:

My commitment is:

How well did I commit to my goal since setting it? (out of 5 stars)

Something I need to improve on in order to reach my commitment goal is:

Which trait did I demonstrate last week:

Trait	This means that you will...
Attentiveness	Pay close attention to what you are doing.
Confidence	Believe in yourself and your abilities.
Dedication	Be devoted to the task you've set yourself.
Determination	Stick to your choices no matter what.
Loyalty	Never give up on what you are doing.
Patience	Put up with any delays or setbacks.
Perseverance	Continue even when the task is difficult.
Resilience	Get back up and try again when you fail.
Responsibility	Hold yourself to account for your own success.

There is not one clear definition of the term 'coming of age' but it could be defined as:

- The time when a person legally becomes an adult and is old enough to vote.
- Voting is a commitment to making sure that the country you live in is the best place it can be for everybody who lives there.
- In England, the age when people can place their first vote is 18 years old.

Coming of Age

Ritual (noun):

A set of fixed actions and words performed regularly.

- Around the world, placing your vote in an election for the first time can be seen as a coming-of-age **ritual**.
- It marks your first **commitment** to making sure your country is the best place it can be.
- However, if the voting age is different around the world, this must mean that different countries have a different view of when someone becomes an adult and can make commitments.

What would 'coming of age' mean in terms of a religious point of view? Record your answer:



Coming of Age

- 'Coming of age' in terms of a religious aspect:
 - The age at which a person takes on more of a formal commitment to their family and their faith. Often celebrated through a ritual or ceremony which confirms their commitment.

There are also different **religious** views about when someone becomes an adult. There are special **rituals** that people do when they come of age to show **commitment** to their faith.

Committed Characters – A review:

- In y4 you would have learned about a Bar Mitzvah:



Jeremy
Age: 12



Esther
Age: 11

What do you remember about a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

Bar Mitzvah: A review:



My name is Jeremy. I'm almost 13 years old. When I become 13, I will become a **Bar Mitzvah**.

In my Jewish faith, when boys become 13 years old they are viewed as old enough to be responsible for their actions. They are responsible for following the commandments given in the Torah, following Jewish traditions and being an active part of the community. At the age of 13, Jewish boys **must** make a **commitment** to their faith. They become a Bar Mitzvah, which means 'son of the commandments'.

Bar Mitzvah: A review:



At the synagogue, the Bar Mitzvah recites a portion of the Torah, the Jewish holy book.

It takes a lot of practise to get the portion right as the Torah is written in Hebrew. The **Bar Mitzvah** needs to **commit** to studying Hebrew so that they can learn how to read the Torah. They need to regularly practise the portion of the Torah they will be reading, making sure they know what each word means.

Bar Mitzvah: A review:



A **Bar Mitzvah** also needs to plan and practise the speech they will be giving at their ceremony. They must regularly attend Shabbat services so that they know lots about their faith and have learned everything they can about it before becoming a **Bar Mitzvah**.

Bat Mitzvah: A review:



My name is Esther and I am 11 years old. Just like Jeremy, I am Jewish. But my commitment to my faith begins one year earlier than Jeremy's. When I turn 12 years old, I will become a **Bat Mitzvah**.

In Judaism, when she is 12 a girl is old enough to commit to following the commandments given in the Torah and following Jewish traditions. When I make this commitment I will become a **Bat Mitzvah**, which means 'daughter of the commandments'.

Bat Mitzvah: A review:



Just like Jeremy, I will celebrate my **Bat Mitzvah** at the synagogue.

My family will watch me recite a portion of the Torah. I must **commit** to practising every day to make sure that I get it right. I have already been learning Hebrew for two years to prepare. I have practised my speech and attended the Shabbat service every week so that I know a lot about my faith.

Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah:



How do Jeremy and Esther show commitment through his coming-of-age ritual?

Committed Characters

- Let's meet some other people who are ready to take part in their first coming-of-age ritual.



Zainab
Age: 17



Mei
Age: 7

Committed Characters

- My name is Zainab. I am 17 years old. I am about to **vote** for the first time in the UK elections.
- To make sure that you make the best choice, you can research all of the different parties and decide which one will make the country the best place it can be.
- Placing your first vote isn't as simple as putting a cross in a box. It involves a lot of research, thought and reflection before the day.



- My name is Mei and I am seven years old. I am **Catholic**. When I was born, my parents made my first **commitment** for me – they baptised me.
- Now that I am seven years old, the Catholic church thinks that I have reached the **Age of Reason**. This means I am responsible for my thoughts, actions and choices. I am now old enough to make the first of my own commitments to my faith. I have been invited to take my **First Holy Communion**.



Committed Characters

- First, I must make my first confession. I must think about anything I have done wrong and confess these things to a priest. The priest prays for me so that God will forgive my sins and give me a fresh start. I need to promise to try my best not to do anything wrong from now on.
- Then I need to go to lessons. These lessons will teach me all about the Bible and the beliefs of the Catholic church. When I have a good understanding of what I am **committing** to, I will be allowed to make my First Holy Communion, where I will receive the symbolic gifts of bread and wine.



Committed Characters

In a few years, when I am 14, I will need to make another **commitment** to my faith. It's almost like I will come of age for a second time. This time, I will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. I will **commit** again to following the commandments of God as they are written in the Bible. I will commit to living as Jesus taught me to and I will show Christian values in all that I do.



Comparing commitments:

Think about these questions. You may want to discuss with an adult:

- What **coming-of-age ritual** will you take part in?
- What do you need to do before your **ritual**?
- How will you show **commitment** through your actions?
- How will you know that you are fully **committed**?

Task: Thinking about the questions from the previous slide, you are going to write a coming of age ceremony from the perspective of the child who will experience it.



Write a diary entry from one of these perspectives.

Make sure you include:

- *What commitment you are about to make.
- *What is involved in the commitment ceremony.
- *The qualities or traits of commitment you will need to demonstrate.
- *The impact of the coming of age ceremony will have on your life.



Challenge:

Talk about another religious or non-religious coming of age ceremony / ritual. How is it similar? How is it different?