

Workshops in High Schools

The society conducts workshops in Jewish law in high schools throughout Israel. These workshops present students, teachers and supervisors with contemporary dilemmas; expose them to classical Jewish sources and culminate with a mock trial in which students assume various roles.

As integrated, multifaceted educational experiences, these workshops contribute to participants' intellectual and cultural growth in many ways:

- Students are exposed to the values of justice and equity, human dignity, the rule of law and social justice—not as abstract terms but in relation to social and ethical issues.
- The joint learning framework brings students to deal directly with Talmudic and related sources—texts usually avoided due to their unusual nature and unfamiliar language.
- The challenge of reaching judicial-moral decisions requires students to analyze issues and arguments and to think clearly.
- Students grow in their abilities to express themselves, argue persuasively and distinguish between the essential and the unimportant in moral-legal discourse.
- Students gain an awareness of the nature of Jewish law and its relevance in solving contemporary questions.

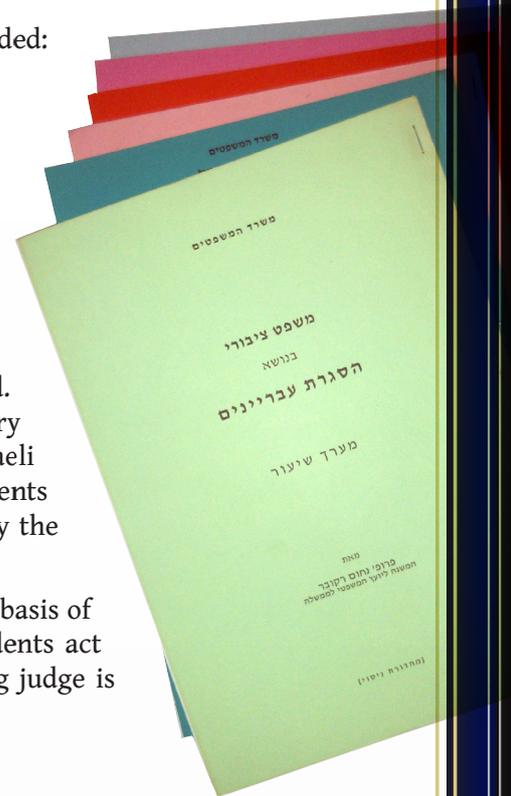
The subjects covered at these educational workshops have included:

- Human Dignity and Freedom
- Self-Defense – How Far Can It Go?
- Endangering One's Own Life to Save Another
- Sacrificing One Individual For the Sake of Many
- Extradition
- Ecology vs. Technology

Students are divided into discussion groups of 15-20 each. The moderators are law students. Each workshop lasts about 5 hours.

At the beginning of the workshop, a factual story is presented. The story portrays a moral dilemma bearing on contemporary social problems and current events. Afterwards, sources of Israeli Law and Jewish law are studied in a dynamic process. The students work in pairs, relating to leading questions and explanations by the moderators.

The highlight of the meeting is a mock trial conducted on the basis of legal arguments developed during the study sessions. The students act as defense lawyers, as prosecutors and as judges. The presiding judge is usually a professional judge or lawyer.



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