

Could You Pass the Conversion Test - Section #1 - Weekday Living:

Section #1 - Weekday Living - Class #4 - Morning Prayer - Part 2:

Morning Prayers:

E. When to Pray - Zmanim: (good resource: myzmanim.com)

1. Sha'os Zmanios - concept of Halachik hours
2. Alos Hashachar - Dawn - earliest time to say Shacharis - but not ideal
3. Earliest Time for Talis & Tefilin & Saying the Shema
4. Neitz Hachama - Sunrise - optimal time to start the Amida
5. End of 3rd hour in the day - Latest time to say the morning Shema in its proper time
6. End of 4th hour in the day - Latest time to say Shacharis in its proper time
7. Midday - Latest time to say Shacharis at all
8. Midday + 1/2 hour - Earliest Time to Daven Mincha
9. 1 1/4 hour before sunset - Plag Hamincha - earliest possible time to say Maariv & Shema
10. Shkiyas Hachama - Sunset - latest time to finish Mincha (according to most opinions) and the daytime Shema.
11. Nightfall - 3 Stars emerge - ideal time to say the evening Shema & evening prayer.
12. Midnight - latest time to say the evening Shema according to the Halacha

F. Blessings on the Torah & Morning Blessings:

1. Optimally, should all be recited while standing
2. First 3 morning blessings:
 - washing hands
 - Thank Hashem for creating a wondrous body
 - Thank Hashem for creating our soul
3. Torah blessings:
 - Thanking Hashem for commanding us to study Torah;
 - We pray that we should find our Torah study pleasant , and that we merit that we and our offspring merit to study Torah for its own sake
 - Thank Hashem for choosing us from among the nations, and giving us His Torah
 - followed by saying 3 short selections of Torah
4. Balance of Morning Blessings, where we thank Hashem for:
 - Understanding
 - Not being a gentile
 - Not being a slave
 - Not being a woman / being created according to Hashem's will
 - Sight
 - Clothes
 - Movement
 - Standing
 - Firmly on ground
 - Shoes / all of my needs
 - Steps
 - Belt / demarcation between upper & lower part of body
 - hat / not to walk arrogantly
 - Strength to withstand the Galus
 - Being fully awake, we state our goals for the day
5. These blessings may be said before dawn and can be said all day long.
6. You may do other activities after saying these prayers, and, if necessary, say the rest of your prayers later on in the day.