Critical thinking about Jewish festivals

Choose one of the statements given below. Write it into the centre circle. Comment on different Jewish responses from what you have learned: what might they find positive, challenging and intriguing in relation to the statements? Then add what a non-religious, secular response might be.

Sample statements:

‘The new year should start with a big effort to make up for last year’s bad deeds.’

‘We should always take responsibility for any harm we have caused and do what we can to put things right.’

‘Reflection without action is useless. Resolutions are pointless if they do not lead to change for the better.’

‘Humans need the idea of being judged by a higher being to keep them on the right path.’