

Year 4 English Assessment: The Significance of Easter

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the narrative structure, historical themes, and symbolism associated with the Easter story.

Read the passage carefully and answer all questions in full sentences. Ensure your spelling and grammar are accurate. Total marks available: 25.

Easter is a significant period in the Christian calendar, marking the culmination of Holy Week. The narrative begins with the arrival in Jerusalem, followed by the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, which are observed with solemn reflection. The story reaches its turning point on Easter Sunday, which celebrates the resurrection. Beyond the religious narrative, the season is often associated with the arrival of spring, symbolising new beginnings, growth, and hope. Many families mark this time with specific traditions, including the sharing of meals and the exchange of gifts, reflecting a period of joy and community renewal.

Word bank: tradition · symbolism · reflection · narrative · resurrection · solemn · renewal · commemoration

1. Identify two specific days mentioned in the passage that are part of the Easter narrative. Explain why these days are considered important. (2 marks)

2. Based on the text, what does the arrival of spring represent in the context of Easter? Use evidence from the passage. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey is trying to calculate the cost of a community feast. If he buys 4 hot cross buns at 80p each and 3 chocolate eggs at £1.50 each, what is the total cost? Show your working out. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the mood of Good Friday with the mood of Easter Sunday as described in the text. Justify your answer. (4 marks)

5. Explain why symbols such as eggs or spring flowers are often used during this season. How do they connect to the themes of the story? (4 marks)

6. Nova the owl is writing a journal entry about the importance of hope. Write a paragraph (5-7 sentences) describing a time you felt hopeful or explaining why hope is an important theme in stories of renewal. (5 marks)

7. What might happen to the significance of the Easter season if the connection to spring were removed? Argue your perspective. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of 'renewal' that does not include standard confectionery, focusing instead on the natural world or a scene of community kindness.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine you are Pip the bookworm. Write a formal letter to a friend explaining the historical importance of Easter traditions and why they are preserved through generations.