

Religious Education Assessment: The Festival of Diwali

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the significance, traditions, and symbolism of Diwali within Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism.

Read each question carefully before writing your answer. Ensure your responses are clear and use appropriate vocabulary. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

Diwali, often known as the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration observed by millions of people across the world. While the historical stories differ between faiths—such as the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya in Hinduism, or the celebration of Bandi Chhor Divas in Sikhism—the central theme remains the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Families prepare by cleaning their homes, creating intricate floor patterns, and lighting oil lamps to welcome positivity and goodness.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Dharma · Light · Prosperity · New Beginnings · Mandir

1. Identify two ways in which families traditionally prepare their homes for the festival of Diwali. (2 marks)

2. Explain the symbolic meaning behind lighting 'diyas' (clay lamps) during the festival. (2 marks)

3. Zara the zebra loves patterns. Describe the purpose of a Rangoli and explain why it is placed at the entrance of a home. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how different faiths might view the significance of Diwali. Why might the stories differ, yet the celebration remain similar? (4 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant remembers that Diwali is a time for 'new beginnings'. Justify why setting goals or 'starting fresh' is a common practice during this festival. (4 marks)

6. What might happen if a community decided to stop celebrating Diwali? Discuss the impact this would have on the cultural identity and social cohesion of that community. (5 marks)

7. If you were organising a Diwali celebration, how would you use light and colour to represent the idea of 'good overcoming evil'? (5 marks)

Draw: In the space below, design your own symmetrical Rangoli pattern. Use geometric shapes and think about which colours represent joy and light.



Extension challenge: Reflect on the phrase 'Light over Darkness'. Write a short poem (4-6 lines) that captures this theme, or explain how you can apply this concept of 'light' to your own life when facing a difficult challenge. Total: /25