

Exploring Hindu Traditions: A Guided Reflection

Learning objective: To describe and explain key aspects of Hindu beliefs, including the concept of Brahman, the importance of deities, and the significance of festivals like Diwali.

Use the prompts below to structure your writing. Think carefully about how Hindu traditions reflect values such as peace, light, and devotion. Use the word bank to help you connect your ideas clearly.

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest traditions, and it is a rich tapestry of beliefs, practices, and stories that have been passed down through generations.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition to · signifying · on the other hand · devotion · sacred · manifestation · traditionally · symbolises

1. Explain the concept of Brahman in Hinduism. How does this central belief shape the way followers view the world around them? (3 marks)

2. Describe the role of deities within the Hindu faith. Why might a Hindu choose to focus their devotion on a specific form, such as Ganesha or Lakshmi? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the festival of Diwali with a celebration you are familiar with. What is the symbolic meaning behind the lighting of the diyas? (4 marks)

4. Justify why festivals and rituals are important for maintaining a community's cultural and spiritual identity. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a person misunderstood the idea that many deities are different manifestations of one ultimate reality? (3 marks)

6. Reflect on the Hindu value of 'Ahimsa' (non-violence). How could this principle be applied in a modern school setting to improve relationships? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter visiting a Mandir during a festival. Write a descriptive paragraph using at least three pieces of sensory language (sight, sound, smell) to explain the atmosphere to someone who has never been there before. Then, write a short poem in the style of Leo the Lion that explores the concept of light overcoming darkness.