

Religious Education Assessment: The Festival of Hanukkah

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the historical significance, traditions, and symbolism of the Jewish festival of Hanukkah.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of the Hanukkah story and the practices of the Jewish community to provide thoughtful, accurate answers. Remember to use appropriate vocabulary.

Hanukkah, often known as the Festival of Lights, is a significant Jewish celebration that lasts for eight days and nights. It commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. According to tradition, when the Jewish people returned to the Temple, they found only enough pure oil to light the sacred lamp for one day. However, a miracle occurred, and the oil lasted for eight full days.

Word bank: Menorah · Hanukkah · Maccabees · Miracle · Dreidel · Oil · Temple · Dedication · Gelt

1. Identify the primary historical event that Hanukkah commemorates. Why was the Temple being rededicated? (2 marks)

2. Explain the significance of the number eight in relation to the Hanukkah miracle. (2 marks)

3. Name the special nine-branched candelabra used during Hanukkah and describe its specific purpose. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the traditional foods eaten during Hanukkah (such as latkes) with the historical reason they are chosen. Why is oil important in these recipes? (4 marks)

5. Describe the rules of the game played with a dreidel. What do the four Hebrew letters on the sides represent? (3 marks)

6. Justify why Hanukkah is often referred to as a 'Festival of Lights' and how this relates to Jewish values of hope and perseverance. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are explaining the meaning of Hanukkah to someone who has never heard of it. Describe the story of the Maccabees, the importance of the light, and how families celebrate today. Use at least four words from the word bank. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a Hanukkiah, showing the 'shamash' (helper candle) and the eight candles representing the days of the miracle.



Extension challenge: Nova the owl is curious about how traditions change over time. What might happen to the way Hanukkah is celebrated if the original story was forgotten? Explain your reasoning in a short paragraph, considering the importance of passing history through generations. Total: /25