Religious Education Assessment: The Festival of Hanukkah

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the traditions, history, and significance of Hanukkah for Jewish people.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Jewish traditions and history to provide detailed answers. Ensure your spelling and grammar are clear.

Hanukkah is an eight-day festival celebrated by Jewish people around the world. It commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. According to historical tradition, when the Jewish people went to light the temple's lamp, they only had enough pure oil for one day, yet the lamp miraculously burned for eight full days. Today, families celebrate by lighting a special nine-branched candelabra, eating foods cooked in oil, and playing traditional games.

Word bank: Menorah · Hanukkiah · Maccabees · Oil · Miracle · Dreidel · Gelt · Temple

1. Explain why Hanukkah lasts for eight days instead of one. Refer to the historical miracle in your answer. (3 marks)

2. What is the name of the special nine-branched candelabra used during Hanukkah, and what is the purpose of the ninth candle (the shamash)? (2 marks)

3. Identify two traditional foods eaten during Hanukkah and explain why oil is a significant ingredient in these dishes. (3 marks)

4. Describe how a game of dreidel is played and what the four Hebrew letters on the sides of the top represent. (4 marks)

5. Max the monkey has been given £5.00 to buy chocolate coins (gelt) for a class celebration. If each bag of chocolate coins costs 80p, how many bags can he buy, and how much change will he receive? (3 marks)

6. Compare how Hanukkah is a celebration of religious freedom. Why might this festival be important to Jewish identity today? Write your answer in full sentences. (5 marks)

7. Define the term 'Maccabees' in the context of the Hanukkah story. (2 marks)

8. List two ways that Jewish families might display their faith during the eight days of the festival. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw and label a Hanukkiah, showing the correct number of candles lit for the second night of the festival.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine you are Pip the bookworm; write a short poem (4-6 lines) about the feeling of light and hope during the festival of Hanukkah.