Religious Education: Understanding Prayer

Learning objective: To understand the purpose, methods, and significance of prayer across different world religions.

Read each question carefully. Answer in full sentences where appropriate. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

Prayer is a significant practice in many world religions. For many, it is a way to communicate with the Divine, express thanks, or ask for guidance. Some people pray in silence, while others use set words or rituals. Prayers can happen in a dedicated place of worship, at home, or anywhere a person feels a sense of connection. For some, prayer is a daily routine; for others, it is an occasional response to life's events.

Word bank: worship · meditation · gratitude · petition · sacred · reflection · community · devotion

1. Define the term 'petition' in the context of prayer. Give one example of what someone might ask for in this type of prayer. (2 marks)

2. Identify two different locations where people might choose to pray and explain why these places might be chosen. (3 marks)

3. Max the monkey believes that everything has a pattern. Describe how prayer might follow a pattern or structure for a religious believer. (2 marks)

4. Explain why some people choose to pray in a group or community rather than by themselves. What are the benefits of this? (3 marks)

5. Compare two different ways of praying. For example, compare silent reflection with the use of ritual movements or set words. (4 marks)

6. Some people find that prayer brings them peace, even if they do not follow a specific religion. Why might the act of stopping to reflect on life be beneficial for someone's well-being? (6 marks)

Draw: Draw a quiet, peaceful space where a person might go to pray or reflect. Include symbols that represent calmness, such as a flickering candle, a plant, or a view of the stars as Nova the owl would see them.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine you are Pip the bookworm. Write a short poem about the importance of being thankful and how prayer or quiet reflection helps us appreciate the small things in life.