

Year 5 English Assessment: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the Diwali story, explore narrative themes, and apply descriptive writing techniques.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences where required and check your spelling and punctuation.

Diwali, the festival of lights, is celebrated by millions of people across the globe. At the heart of this ancient celebration is the story of Rama and Sita. After living in exile for fourteen years, the prince Rama returned to his kingdom of Ayodhya. To guide him home on the darkest night of the year, the people lit thousands of clay lamps, known as diyas, lining the streets and rooftops. The golden glow of the flickering lamps symbolised the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Today, families clean their homes, decorate floors with colourful patterns called rangoli, and share sweets to mark this time of hope and new beginnings.

Word bank: triumph · exile · diya · virtue · celebration · legend · symbolism · righteousness

1. Why did the people of Ayodhya light thousands of lamps for Rama's return? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Using the text, explain what the lighting of the diyas symbolises. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Identify two ways in which families prepare for or celebrate Diwali today, as mentioned in the passage. (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Find a word in the text that is a synonym for 'banishment' or 'being sent away'. (1 mark) (1 mark)

5. Zara the zebra loves patterns. If a family wanted to buy 5 packets of coloured powder for rangoli at £2.50 each, how much would they spend in total? Show your working. (3 marks) (3 marks)

6. Explain why the story of Rama and Sita is considered a 'legend'. What makes it different from a modern news report? (4 marks) (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are standing in the streets of Ayodhya as Rama returns. Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 80-100 words) using your senses to describe the scene. Include adjectives and at least one simile. (6 marks) (6 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional diya lamp with a glowing flame, surrounded by a complex rangoli pattern as Zara the zebra might design.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research: Find out why Diwali is celebrated at different times each year according to the lunar calendar and write two sentences explaining your findings.