A Celebration of Light: Writing About Hanukkah

Learning objective: To write an informative explanation about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, using descriptive language and clear structure.

Use the prompts below to build your explanation. Ensure you use the word bank to help connect your ideas logically. Remember to explain the meaning behind the traditions.

Hanukkah, often known as the Festival of Lights, is a significant Jewish celebration that is observed by families across the world.

Word bank: furthermore · traditionally · symbolising · consequently · in addition · the miracle of the oil · commemorate · eight nights · menorah

1. Introduction: What is the historical origin of Hanukkah? Start with: 'The festival began to commemorate...' (2 marks)

2. The Menorah: Explain the importance of the nine-branched candelabra. Start with: 'Central to the celebrations is the menorah, which...' (2 marks)

3. Traditions and Food: Describe common customs, such as eating fried foods. Start with: 'During the eight nights, families often gather to...' (2 marks)

4. The Dreidel Game: Explain how this game is played. Start with: 'Another popular tradition involves playing with a dreidel, which is...' (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why this festival is important to the Jewish community today. Start with: 'In conclusion, Hanukkah is a time for...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research and write a paragraph explaining how other religious festivals, such as Diwali, also use light as a central symbol. How are they similar?