

Exploring Sacred Spaces: A Writing Frame

Learning objective: To describe and compare the features of places of worship, explaining their significance to believers.

Use this scaffold to structure your report on a place of worship you have studied. Ensure you explain why certain features are important to the people who use them.

A place of worship is more than just a building; it is a dedicated space where individuals and communities come together to connect with their faith.

Word bank: significance · reverence · sanctuary · symbolism · architecture · tradition · furthermore · consequently · in comparison · venerated · community

1. Introduction: Name your chosen place of worship and explain its primary purpose. Start by saying: 'The place of worship I have chosen to investigate is...' (2 marks)

2. Key Features: Describe two significant physical features (such as stained glass, a minaret, or a central altar). Start by saying: 'Within this building, one can observe... which represents...' (3 marks)

3. Rituals and Actions: Explain what people do when they visit this space. Start by saying: 'When believers enter this space, they often participate in... because...' (3 marks)

4. Comparison: Compare this place to a different type of worship space you have studied. Start by saying: 'In contrast to a [other place], this building focuses on...' (3 marks)

5. Significance: Justify why these buildings are so important to their communities. Start by saying: 'I believe these spaces are essential because...' (3 marks)

6. Reflection: What might happen if this place of worship were suddenly removed from the community? Start by saying: 'If this space were no longer accessible, the community would likely feel... because...' (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an architect commissioned to design a new, inclusive place of worship. Write a proposal explaining which symbolic shapes, colors, or natural elements you would include and justify why these choices would help people feel a sense of peace or connection.