

# 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)**

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

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**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)**

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**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)**

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

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**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)**

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**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.*