Religious Education: Understanding Pilgrimage

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the meaning, purpose, and significance of pilgrimage within different world religions.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you express your ideas clearly. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

A pilgrimage is a significant journey undertaken by a believer to a place of religious importance. People go on pilgrimages for many reasons: to show devotion, to seek healing, to say sorry for mistakes, or to feel closer to the divine. Whether it is walking to a remote shrine or joining a large gathering in a city, the act of travelling is often considered a spiritual experience that changes the person who completes it.

Word bank: Sacred · Journey · Reflection · Devotion · Community · Transformation · Hajj · Lourdes · Varanasi · Holy

1. Define the term 'pilgrimage' in your own words. (2 marks)

2. List two reasons why a believer might choose to go on a pilgrimage. (2 marks)

3. Name one specific place of pilgrimage and identify the religion associated with it. (2 marks)

4. How might a pilgrimage affect a person's daily life once they return home? (3 marks)

5. Explain why the journey itself is often just as important as arriving at the destination. (4 marks)

6. Nova the owl is planning a trip to a sacred site. She says, 'I am going to learn about myself and my faith.' Discuss how the physical challenges of a pilgrimage (such as walking long distances) might help a person focus on their spiritual goals. (5 marks)

7. Compare and contrast a pilgrimage with a standard holiday. How are the intentions behind these two types of travel different? (7 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbol or an object that represents a pilgrimage to you. Label your drawing with one word that describes the feeling of the journey.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out about the 'Camino de Santiago'. Write a short paragraph explaining why people still choose to walk this ancient route today.