

Year 6 English Assessment: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To demonstrate comprehension, inference, and creative writing skills based on the historical and cultural narrative of Diwali.

Read the provided passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences where required. Check your spelling and punctuation.

Diwali, often known as the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration observed by millions of people across the world. At its heart, the festival marks the triumph of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. According to ancient stories, the people of Ayodhya lit rows of clay lamps, known as diyas, to guide Prince Rama home after his long exile. Today, families clean their homes, decorate their floors with colourful rangoli patterns, and exchange gifts. It is a time for reflection, joy, and looking forward to a year of prosperity. As Ellie the elephant often remembers, these traditions have been passed down through generations, reminding us all of the importance of kindness and unity.

Word bank: triumph · symbolise · tradition · navigating · illuminated · celebration · prosperity

1. Identify two reasons why Diwali is celebrated, according to the text. (2 marks)

2. What does the lighting of the clay lamps (diyas) symbolise in the story of Prince Rama? (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one word from the text that describes the appearance of the floor decorations. (1 mark)

4. Explain why families might choose to clean their homes before the festival begins. Use evidence from the text to support your inference. (3 marks)

5. How does the author use the character of Ellie to help the reader understand the significance of the festival? (4 marks)

6. Compare the historical origin of Diwali with how it is celebrated today. What remains the same, and what has changed? (8 marks)

7. Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 80-100 words) imagining you are walking through a city during Diwali. Focus on your senses: what can you see, hear, and smell? Use at least two words from the word bank. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional rangoli pattern or a glowing diya lamp that captures the spirit of the Festival of Lights.



Extension challenge: Total: /25