

The Springtime Traditions Assessment

Learning objective: To analyse the historical and cultural significance of Easter traditions and evaluate the narrative structure of seasonal storytelling.

Read the passage carefully and answer all questions in full sentences. Ensure your SPaG (spelling, punctuation, and grammar) is accurate. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

As the frost of winter recedes, the arrival of spring has been celebrated for centuries as a period of rejuvenation. In the United Kingdom, the Easter season intertwines ancient customs with historical narratives. Central to this is the concept of new beginnings, often symbolised by the egg, which represents hidden potential and growth. Historically, the period leading up to Easter, known as Lent, was a time of reflection and self-discipline. Many communities observe these traditions by gathering to share stories of hope and resilience. Today, these customs have evolved, blending solemn historical remembrance with modern celebrations of spring, such as the exchange of gifts and the decorating of eggs to represent the vibrant colours of the natural world.

Word bank: significance · symbolism · tradition · renewal · narrative · reflection · interpretation · perspective

1. Identify two symbols mentioned in the text that represent the transition from winter to spring. Explain why these are considered appropriate symbols. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, how has the observance of Lent changed in its purpose over time? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the ancient customs mentioned in the passage with modern celebrations. In what ways do they overlap? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the author uses the word 'intertwines' to describe the relationship between history and modern Easter traditions. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Does the author present the Easter season as a static event or a changing one? Use evidence from the text to support your reasoning. (4 marks)

6. What might happen if societies stopped passing down historical traditions to the next generation? Discuss the impact on cultural identity. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Imagine you are Pip the caterpillar. Write a reflective diary entry about the arrival of spring and the significance of 'renewal'. Use descriptive language and at least three words from the word bank. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a symbolic representation of 'new beginnings' as described in the text. Include a caption explaining your choice of imagery.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Research the etymology of the word 'Easter' and write a brief paragraph comparing its linguistic origins to the themes of spring found in the text.