

Year 6 English Assessment: The Significance of Easter Traditions

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of narrative structure, descriptive language, and the cultural significance of the Easter story and its associated customs.

Read the text carefully and answer all questions in full sentences. Ensure your spelling and punctuation are accurate.

As the spring equinox passes, the natural world begins a cycle of renewal. Ellie the elephant, with her vast memory for history, explains that Easter is a time when many cultures reflect on themes of hope and new beginnings. Historically, the story centres on a period of challenge followed by a joyful return, symbolising the light returning after darkness. In the UK, this is marked by various traditions: the giving of eggs represents new life, while the hot cross bun, marked with a cross, serves as a reminder of ancient observances. For many, it is a time to gather with family, share a meal, and appreciate the changing colours of the landscape as winter gives way to spring.

Word bank: tradition · significance · symbolism · resurrection · reflection · renewal · commemoration

1. According to the passage, what does the symbolism of an egg represent during the Easter period? (2 marks)

2. Identify two traditions mentioned in the text that are commonly observed in the UK during Easter. (2 marks)

3. Explain why Ellie describes Easter as a time of 'renewal'. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

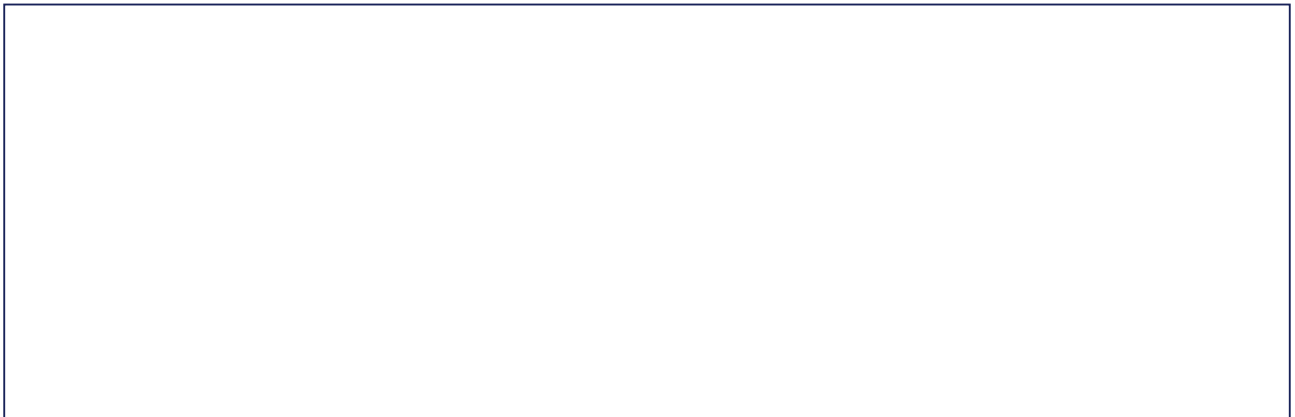
4. How does the author use the changing seasons to mirror the themes of the Easter story? (4 marks)

5. Why might people choose to gather with family during this time? Discuss the importance of community and shared traditions. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Write a descriptive paragraph (approx. 80-100 words) about the arrival of spring. Use at least three words from the word bank and focus on sensory details to create a vivid image for the reader. (5 marks)

7. Based on the text, what is the 'light' being referred to in the phrase 'the light returning after darkness'? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents 'renewal' in nature, incorporating one traditional symbol mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Research one other country's Easter tradition and write a comparison paragraph explaining how it is similar or different to the UK customs described by Ellie.