

Reflecting on Traditions: The Lunar New Year

Learning objective: To explain the significance of Chinese New Year traditions and compare them with personal or cultural celebrations.

Use this scaffold to structure a thoughtful explanation of Chinese New Year. Use the word bank to enhance your vocabulary and ensure you justify your opinions with evidence.

As the moon enters its new cycle, millions of people around the world prepare to welcome the Lunar New Year with vibrant celebrations and meaningful rituals.

Word bank: significance · symbolism · tradition · furthermore · consequently · in contrast · prosperity · harmony · meticulously · reverence

1. Introduction: Describe the atmosphere of Chinese New Year. Start with: The arrival of the Lunar New Year signifies a time for... (2 marks)

2. Symbolism and Rituals: Explain the importance of cleaning the home or wearing red. Start with: Many families participate in specific customs because... (3 marks)

3. The Feast: Describe the traditional foods eaten and their meanings. Start with: During the reunion dinner, particular dishes are served to represent... (3 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Explain why traditions are important to different cultures. Start with: Whilst my own cultural traditions differ, I can see that festivals like this are vital because... (4 marks)

5. Justification: Why do you think it is important for communities to keep these ancient traditions alive today? Start with: I believe that maintaining these customs is essential because... (4 marks)

6. Evaluation: What might happen if a community stopped celebrating their cultural festivals? Start with: If these traditions were to vanish, the impact on the community would be... (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova the owl is curious about the calendar! Research the Chinese Zodiac animals. Write a persuasive paragraph explaining which animal you think best represents the 'Year 5' spirit of curiosity and growth, justifying your choice with specific traits of that animal.