

Religious Education Assessment: Understanding Diwali

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the significance, traditions, and symbolic meanings of the festival of Diwali.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Diwali to provide thoughtful, detailed answers. Ensure your written responses use appropriate religious vocabulary.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration observed by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains globally. Whilst the stories associated with the festival vary between traditions, the central theme remains the triumph of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Families clean their homes, decorate floors with intricate patterns, and light oil lamps to welcome prosperity and joy.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Light · Darkness · Rama · Sita · Ayoedhya · Goodness · Dharma

1. Identify two ways in which families traditionally prepare their homes for the arrival of Diwali. (2 marks)

2. Explain the symbolic meaning of lighting 'diyas' during the festival. Why is light considered so important in this context? (3 marks)

3. Nova the owl asks: 'Why do you think Diwali is often referred to as a festival of new beginnings?' Justify your answer using examples. (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the significance of Diwali for different groups (such as Hindus and Sikhs). How might their reasons for celebrating differ? (4 marks)

5. Max the monkey is looking at a Rangoli pattern. Explain why symmetry and geometric patterns are often used in these artistic displays during the festival. (3 marks)

6. Extended Writing: 'The victory of light over darkness is a universal theme.' Discuss this statement. How does the story of Rama and Sita reflect this theme, and why is this message still relevant in the modern world today? (9 marks)

Draw: Design a Rangoli pattern that incorporates at least one symbol of nature (like a flower or a sun) and one symbol of light.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: What might happen if the traditions of Diwali were celebrated in a climate where it is dark all day? How would the atmosphere and the use of light change? Write a short reflection on whether the symbolic meaning would remain the same. Total: /25