

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To explain the significance of Diwali and describe how it is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains.

Use the following writing frame to structure your non-chronological report. Ensure you include technical vocabulary and clear explanations of the traditions observed during the festival.

Diwali, often referred to as the Festival of Lights, is a vibrant and significant celebration observed by millions of people across the globe.

Word bank: significance · commemorate · tradition · symbolise · victory · prosperous · furthermore · consequently · in addition to · illuminated

1. Introduction: Define what Diwali is and explain why it is held at different times depending on the lunar calendar. Start by writing: Diwali is a five-day festival that signifies... (2 marks)

2. The Legend: Summarise the story associated with Diwali (such as the return of Rama and Sita). Explain why this story is important to believers. Start by writing: For many, the festival commemorates the story of... (3 marks)

3. Traditions and Customs: Describe how homes are prepared, including the use of Rangoli patterns and Diya lamps. Start by writing: Families prepare for the festival by... (3 marks)

4. Significance of Light: Explain the metaphorical meaning of light conquering darkness. Why is this message relevant today? Start by writing: The lighting of lamps is not just decorative; it symbolises... (3 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: How might the celebrations of Diwali differ between a family living in India and a family living in the UK? Start by writing: While the core traditions remain the same, celebrations can vary because... (4 marks)

6. Conclusion: Justify why Diwali continues to be an important community event in modern British society. Start by writing: In conclusion, Diwali is a time for... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter visiting a community celebration. Write a reflective diary entry from the perspective of an attendee. Include a detailed description of the sensory experiences (sights, sounds, and smells). Then, justify why the concept of 'new beginnings' is a central theme of the festival by comparing it to other cultural celebrations you have studied.