

Exploring Sacred Spaces: A Reflective Guide

Learning objective: To describe and compare the features, significance, and atmosphere of different places of worship.

Use this scaffold to structure your descriptive report. Remember to use ambitious vocabulary and provide reasons for your observations. Ellie the elephant reminds you: 'A great report remembers the details that make each place unique!'

As I stepped through the threshold of the building, I was immediately struck by the profound sense of stillness that seemed to echo off the walls.

Word bank: reverent · architectural · sanctuary · significance · atmosphere · consequently · furthermore · in contrast · symbolism · tranquillity

1. Introduction: Identify the place of worship you are describing and explain why it is a significant location for its community... (2 marks)

2. Sensory Details: Describe the atmosphere of the space. How do the lighting, sounds, and physical surroundings influence how a visitor might feel? (3 marks)

3. Key Features: Select two specific artefacts or architectural features. Explain the religious or spiritual symbolism behind each one... (4 marks)

4. Comparison: Compare and contrast this place of worship with another one you have studied. What are the main similarities and differences? (4 marks)

5. Reflection: Justify why places of worship are considered important to people, even those who may not visit them frequently... (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your findings. What might happen if these spaces did not exist in a community? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an architect commissioned to design a new, modern place of worship. Write a brief proposal explaining how your design would encourage a sense of peace and community. Use the phrase 'The architectural layout reflects the belief that...' in your proposal.