

Exploring Perspectives on Prayer: A Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the significance of prayer within different religious traditions and reflect on its purpose and practice.

Use this fact-file to record your research on how prayer is understood in various world religions. You may use library books or approved school resources. When answering the deeper thinking questions, consider how personal beliefs, community, and tradition influence the act of prayer.

Word bank: devotion · meditation · supplication · intercession · ritual · communion · reverence · gratitude · contemplation

1. Definitions and Purpose: Define what prayer is and identify three different reasons why a believer might choose to pray. (3 marks)

2. Comparison of Practice: Compare and contrast how prayer is performed in two different religions. What are the similarities and differences in their physical actions or settings? (4 marks)

3. Explain why many religions have specific times or structured patterns for prayer. What does this suggest about the importance of routine in a believer's life? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Does prayer have to be a formal, spoken act to be meaningful? Discuss the concept of silent or internal prayer. (4 marks)

5. What might happen if a community stopped practising their traditional forms of prayer? How could this affect their sense of shared identity? (4 marks)

6. Personal Synthesis: If you were to design a space for quiet reflection or prayer, what features would it include and why? Explain your design choices. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a letter to Ellie the Elephant, who is curious about why humans pray. Write a thoughtful response explaining the different ways prayer can bring comfort or focus to an individual's daily life.