

Exploring the Sikh Faith: Values and Traditions

Learning objective: To understand the core beliefs of Sikhism, including the concept of equality, the significance of the Guru Granth Sahib, and the practice of Seva (selfless service).

Use this writing frame to construct a detailed account of your learning regarding Sikhism. Ensure you use formal, academic vocabulary and provide evidence to justify your explanations.

Sikhism is a monotheistic faith that originated in the Punjab region of India, teaching that all human beings are equal regardless of their background or status.

Word bank: Monotheism · Equality · Guru Granth Sahib · Seva · Community · Langars · Humility · In addition · Furthermore · Consequently · For instance · On the contrary

1. The Concept of One God: Explain how the Sikh belief in 'Ik Onkar' (One God) influences the way followers treat other people. Start your response with: 'The fundamental belief in one creator leads Sikhs to...', (3 marks)

2. The Guru Granth Sahib: Describe why the Guru Granth Sahib is treated with such immense respect within the Gurdwara. Use the sentence starter: 'The Guru Granth Sahib is revered as the living word of the Gurus because...', (3 marks)

3. The Practice of Seva: Justify why Seva (selfless service) is considered a vital aspect of a Sikh's daily life. Consider the impact on the community: 'Seva is a fundamental pillar of Sikhism because...', (4 marks)

4. Langar: Compare and contrast the purpose of the Langar with other community dining traditions. Start with: 'The Langar is a unique tradition that promotes equality by...', (3 marks)

5. Reflection on Equality: What might happen if the principle of equality were removed from Sikh teachings? Explain your reasoning: 'If equality were not a central tenet of the faith, the Sikh community might...', (4 marks)

6. Synthesis: Summarise the main message of Sikhism in one sophisticated paragraph. Begin with: 'In conclusion, the core essence of the Sikh faith focuses on...', (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are interviewing a member of the Sikh community about the importance of the Five Ks (Panj Kakar). Write three challenging questions you would ask to deepen your understanding of their symbolic significance.