A Journey of Faith: Exploring Pilgrimage

Learning objective: To explain the meaning and significance of pilgrimage within religious traditions.

Use this writing scaffold to structure your explanation of what a pilgrimage is. Consider why people choose to go on these special journeys and how they might feel when they arrive at their destination. Refer to the word bank to help you link your ideas together.

A pilgrimage is a special, purposeful journey that a believer takes to a place they consider to be sacred.

Word bank: furthermore · significant · spiritual reflection · consequently · devotion · sacred site · in addition to · transformative

1. What is a pilgrimage and why might someone decide to go on one? Start your paragraph by saying: A pilgrimage is more than just a holiday because... (2 marks)

2. How do pilgrims prepare for their journey? Start your paragraph by saying: Before setting off on their journey, a pilgrim might prepare by... (2 marks)

3. What activities do pilgrims take part in when they arrive at the sacred site? Start your paragraph by saying: Upon reaching their destination, many pilgrims choose to... (2 marks)

4. How might a pilgrimage change a person's life or perspective? Start your paragraph by saying: Returning home after a pilgrimage can be a life-changing experience because... (3 marks)

5. Compare this to a journey you have taken. Start your paragraph by saying: My own journey was different to a pilgrimage because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific pilgrimage site, such as Lourdes, Varanasi, or Makkah. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a pilgrim arriving at that location for the first time.