Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the key beliefs, practices, and significance of Diwali within Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism.

Read each question carefully. Use your best handwriting and explain your answers fully to show your depth of knowledge.

Diwali is a vibrant festival celebrated by millions of people across the world. Often called the 'Festival of Lights', it signifies the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. Families decorate their homes with oil lamps called diyas, create colourful patterns on the floor known as rangoli, and share delicious sweets with their friends and neighbours.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Rama · Sita · Light · Darkness · Celebration · Goodness · New beginnings

1. Identify two ways families prepare their homes for the festival of Diwali. (2 marks)

2. Explain why light is considered the most important symbol of Diwali. Why do you think people choose to light diyas during this time? (3 marks)

3. Max the monkey is confused. He thinks Diwali is only about fireworks. Use your knowledge to correct him and explain the deeper meaning behind the festival. (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how Diwali might be celebrated in a family home compared to how a birthday is celebrated. Mention at least one similarity and one difference. (4 marks)

5. Nova the owl wants to know: If Diwali represents 'light over darkness', what might this mean for how people treat each other during the festival? Give an example. (3 marks)

6. Imagine you are explaining the significance of Diwali to a friend who has never heard of it before. Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) describing the traditions and the message of hope it brings to families. (5 marks)

7. Justify your answer: Why is it important for communities to come together to celebrate festivals like Diwali? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional rangoli pattern. Use geometric shapes and symmetrical designs to show how patterns represent joy and order during the festival.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: What might happen if a family chose not to light any diyas during Diwali? Would the meaning of the festival change for them? Justify your reasoning.