Religious Education Assessment: The Festival of Diwali

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the significance, traditions, and symbolic meanings of the Hindu festival of Diwali.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your answers reflect your knowledge of the festival's themes and traditions. Use the provided word bank to support your responses.

Diwali, often referred to as the Festival of Lights, is a major celebration observed by millions of people across the globe. It commemorates the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. The festival lasts for five days, during which families clean their homes, decorate their doorsteps with intricate patterns, and illuminate their surroundings with small oil lamps. It is also a time for reflection, gratitude, and welcoming blessings for the year ahead.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Dharma · Light · Darkness · Prosperity · New Year · Victory

1. Identify two reasons why families light 'diyas' during the festival of Diwali. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Explain the significance of the 'Rangoli' patterns created at the entrance of homes. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Nova the owl is curious about the theme of 'light over darkness'. How does this theme influence the actions of people during the five days of Diwali? (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the focus on family and community in Diwali with another festival you have studied. (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. Justify why Diwali is considered a time of 'new beginnings' and 'prosperity' for many families. (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Max the monkey has been saving his pocket money of £15.00 to buy decorative items for a community Diwali display. If he buys three sets of LED diyas at £3.50 each, how much change will he have left, and why is the act of sharing these items with the community significant in the context of the festival? (5 marks) (5 marks)

7. What might happen if the traditions of Diwali, such as gift-giving and cleaning the home, were removed from the festival? Explain your reasoning. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a symmetrical Rangoli pattern. Use geometric shapes and vibrant colours to show how these designs bring beauty and a sense of welcome to a home.

Extension challenge: In a detailed paragraph, evaluate the importance of festivals in maintaining cultural identity in a diverse society. Total: /25