Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To explain the significance of Diwali and describe how it is celebrated by practising Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains, using high-level vocabulary and structured arguments.

Use this writing frame to compose a detailed explanation of Diwali. Ensure you use technical terminology and provide justification for the traditions you describe. Refer to your research on the symbolism of light and the importance of community and reflection.

Diwali, widely known as the Festival of Lights, serves as a profound period of spiritual renewal and joyous celebration for millions of people across the globe.

Word bank: dias · Rangoli · Lakshmi · triumph of light over darkness · significance · symbolism · consequently · furthermore · in contrast · spiritual reflection · tradition · community

1. Introduction: Define Diwali and its primary significance. Start by saying: 'Diwali represents a time when...' (2 marks)

2. The Symbolism of Light: Explain why light is central to the festival. How does the lighting of dias represent the inner soul? Start by saying: 'The ritual of lighting small clay lamps, known as dias, is deeply symbolic because...' (3 marks)

3. Cultural Traditions: Describe the preparations made in the home, such as cleaning and Rangoli patterns. Explain why these actions are important. Start by saying: 'To welcome prosperity, families prepare their homes by...' (3 marks)

4. Community and Reflection: How does Diwali impact the local community and family bonds? Start by saying: 'Beyond the vibrant displays, Diwali acts as a catalyst for...' (3 marks)

5. Compare and Contrast: In what ways might the celebration of Diwali differ between various religious groups, such as Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains? Start by saying: 'While the core theme of light remains constant, religious perspectives vary; for instance...' (4 marks)

6. Justification: Why do you think festivals like Diwali remain so significant in modern, multicultural societies? Start by saying: 'I believe the enduring legacy of Diwali is significant because...' (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining the meaning of Diwali to Nova the owl. Write a short, persuasive poem or a reflective journal entry from her perspective, focusing on the concept of 'inner light' and what it means to dispel ignorance. Justify why this message is relevant to both humans and the natural world.