Religious Education Assessment: Chinese New Year Traditions

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of the traditions, symbolism, and significance of the Lunar New Year within Chinese culture.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of religious and cultural practices to provide clear and thoughtful answers. Ensure you use full sentences where required.

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important festival in the Chinese calendar. It is based on the lunar calendar, meaning the date changes each year. The festival is a time for families to reunite, honour ancestors, and celebrate the hope for a successful year ahead. Many customs, such as cleaning the house to sweep away bad luck and decorating with red items, are used to invite good fortune. The celebration concludes with the vibrant Lantern Festival.

Word bank: Zodiac · Red envelopes · Lunar calendar · Prosperity · Symbolism · Lantern Festival · Tradition · Nian

1. Explain why the date for Chinese New Year changes every year compared to a festival like Christmas. (2 marks)

2. Name two colours or items often used during the celebrations and explain what they represent in Chinese culture. (4 marks)

3. Max the monkey is curious about the 'Zodiac'. Briefly explain what the Chinese Zodiac is and how it relates to the years. (3 marks)

4. Why is it important for families to gather together for a reunion dinner during this festival? Refer to the values of community or family. (3 marks)

5. Describe the legend of the 'Nian' and explain how it influences the way people celebrate today, such as the use of loud fireworks or bright colours. (4 marks)

6. Imagine you are explaining the significance of the Lantern Festival to Pip the caterpillar. Write a short paragraph explaining the traditions involved and why it is a fitting end to the Spring Festival celebrations. (5 marks)

7. If a red envelope contains £20, why is the act of giving it considered more important than the amount of money inside? (4 marks)

Draw: In the space below, draw a traditional Chinese lantern and label three features that you have learned about during our RE unit.

Extension challenge: Total: /25