Year 5 Religious Education Assessment: The Festival of Hanukkah

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the origins, traditions, and significance of Hanukkah within the Jewish faith.

Read each question carefully. Answer in full sentences where required. Ensure you use appropriate religious terminology.

Hanukkah, often called the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish festival. It commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. According to tradition, when the Jewish people returned to the Temple, they found only enough sacred oil to light the Menorah for one day. However, through a miracle, the oil lasted for eight full days. Today, Jewish families celebrate by lighting the candles of a nine-branched candelabra, eating foods fried in oil, and playing games.

Word bank: Menorah · Maccabees · Miracle · Dreidel · Oil · Temple · Festival of Lights · Gelt

1. Why is Hanukkah often referred to as the 'Festival of Lights'? (2 marks)

2. Identify two traditional foods eaten during Hanukkah and explain why oil is a key ingredient in these dishes. (3 marks)

3. Who were the Maccabees, and what role did they play in the history of Hanukkah? (3 marks)

4. Explain the significance of the nine-branched candelabra (the Menorah) used during the festival. Why does it have nine branches instead of eight? (4 marks)

5. Describe the game played with a 'dreidel'. What do the letters on the sides of the dreidel represent in the context of the Hanukkah story? (3 marks)

6. Leo the Lion wants to explain to his friends why Hanukkah is a time of hope. Write a paragraph explaining the importance of the miracle of the oil for Jewish people today, and how it reminds them to remain resilient during difficult times. (5 marks)

7. What is 'Gelt' and how is it traditionally used during the celebration? (2 marks)

8. Nova the Owl asks: 'If a family buys a box of chocolate coins for £2.50 and a new dreidel for £1.25, how much do they spend in total?' (3 marks)

Draw: Draw and label a Menorah showing the correct number of candles lit for the final night of Hanukkah.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine you are visiting a Jewish family during Hanukkah. Write a diary entry describing the atmosphere, the lights, and the feelings of joy during the celebration.