A Festival of Lights: Understanding Hanukkah

Learning objective: To explain the significance, traditions, and history of Hanukkah within the Jewish faith.

Use the prompts below to write a detailed report about Hanukkah. Ensure you include historical context, the meaning of the menorah, and the importance of family traditions.

Hanukkah, often referred to as the Festival of Lights, is a significant eight-day Jewish celebration observed by families all around the world.

Word bank: traditionally · commemorate · miraculously · significance · furthermore · nevertheless · in addition to · symbolises · celebration

1. Historical Background: What is the historical event that Hanukkah commemorates? Start your paragraph by saying: The festival of Hanukkah dates back to... (3 marks)

2. The Menorah: Why is the menorah (or hanukkiah) central to the celebration? Start your paragraph by saying: A key tradition during Hanukkah is the lighting of the nine-branched menorah, which represents... (3 marks)

3. Traditions and Food: What are some common ways families celebrate together? Start your paragraph by saying: During the eight days of Hanukkah, families participate in various customs such as... (2 marks)

4. Personal Reflection: Why is this festival important to the Jewish community today? Start your paragraph by saying: Hanukkah remains a vital part of Jewish identity because... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: How would you summarise the message of Hanukkah in one sentence? Start your paragraph by saying: In conclusion, the message of Hanukkah is one of hope and... (1 mark)

Extension challenge: Research how the 'dreidel' game is played and write a short set of instructions for a friend on how to play it using your own words.