Hinduism: Beliefs, Traditions, and Dharma

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of Hindu beliefs, including Brahman, the Trimurti, and the importance of dharma and festival traditions.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Hindu teachings to provide clear and accurate answers. Write in full sentences where required.

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest religions, originating in the Indus Valley. Hindus believe in one supreme power called Brahman, who is represented in many different forms. The Trimurti consists of three main deities: Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver, and Shiva the Destroyer. Hindus strive to live according to dharma, which means living a life of duty, virtue, and moral order. Many Hindus visit a mandir for worship and celebrate festivals such as Diwali, the festival of lights.

Word bank: Brahman · Trimurti · Dharma · Karma · Diwali · Mandir · Aum · Moksha

1. Identify two deities from the Trimurti and explain one role each deity performs. (2 marks)

2. What is the meaning of the term 'dharma' in the context of Hindu life? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the festival of Diwali is celebrated and what it represents for Hindu families. (3 marks)

4. How does the concept of 'karma' influence the way a Hindu person might choose to behave towards others? (3 marks)

5. Describe the purpose of a 'mandir' and explain why it is an important place for the Hindu community. (4 marks)

6. Some people believe that all deities in Hinduism are actually just different ways of representing the one supreme power, Brahman. Explain why this concept is central to Hindu belief. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Reflecting on the concepts of dharma and karma, explain how these teachings help a person lead a positive life. Give examples of how these beliefs might affect daily choices. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw the symbol 'Aum' (Om) in the centre of your page and surround it with symbols or items that represent the festival of Diwali, such as a diva lamp.

Extension challenge: Research a specific Hindu festival other than Diwali. Create a short fact file explaining when it is celebrated and what happens during the event. Total: /25