Patterns of Light: Diwali Rangoli Art

1. Coloured rice, dry flour, or flower petals (any two). (2 marks)

Working: Evidence from text: 'using coloured rice, dry flour, or flower petals.'

1 mark for each correct material identified.

2. Symmetry creates balance by ensuring both sides of the design are identical, which makes the pattern look orderly and visually pleasing. (3 marks)

Look for: The connection between symmetry and visual balance/order.

Good: It makes the design look the same on both sides.

Better: Symmetry is important because it creates balance, making the pattern look neat and organised.

Best: Symmetry provides balance by mirroring shapes across an axis, which creates a sense of harmony and order in the composition.

What moves an answer up: Moving from 'same on both sides' to 'harmony and order' shows a deeper understanding of artistic composition.

3. A radial pattern radiates outwards from a central point, like the spokes of a wheel or the petals of a flower. (3 marks)

Look for: The idea of elements spreading out from a central point.

Good: It is a pattern that goes out from the middle.

Better: A radial pattern starts at a centre point and spreads outwards in all directions, like a sun or a flower.

Best: A radial pattern is arranged around a central point, where all elements are distributed evenly to create a circular, balanced effect.

What moves an answer up: Using terms like 'distributed evenly' and 'circular' adds precision to the description.

4. It is placed at the entrance to welcome guests and is believed to bring good luck to the household during the festival. (4 marks)

Look for: Mention of welcoming guests and bringing good luck.

Good: It is for welcoming people and for good luck.

Better: Families place it at the entrance to welcome guests into their home and to bring good luck during Diwali.

Best: The design acts as a warm, decorative welcome for guests, while also serving a traditional purpose of inviting good luck into the home.

What moves an answer up: The best answer synthesises the social and traditional aspects of the practice.

5. Both rely on geometric principles, such as equal sides or angles, and both require precise placement to maintain their specific shape or symmetry. (4 marks)

Look for: Comparison of geometric properties like equal sides, angles, or symmetry.

Good: They both use shapes and need to be drawn carefully.

Better: Both a Rangoli and a hexagon use geometric shapes and require symmetry to look correct.

Best: Both share a reliance on geometric construction; a hexagon uses equal sides and angles, while a Rangoli uses these same principles to achieve perfect symmetry.

What moves an answer up: The best answer explicitly links the concept of geometric construction to the visual outcome.

6. Sketch: Must show a symmetrical design with a shape and a nature motif. Explanation: Must justify the choice of elements. (9 marks)

Look for: A clear, symmetrical drawing and a logical explanation for the chosen motifs.

Good: I drew a flower and a square. I chose them because they look nice.

Better: I drew a symmetrical flower inside a hexagon. I chose the flower because it is a nature motif and the hexagon for geometry.

Best: I created a radial design using a central lotus flower motif surrounded by a hexagon. I chose these because the lotus represents nature and the hexagon provides a strong geometric frame.

What moves an answer up: The best answer uses the vocabulary from the word bank and explains the artistic intent.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding that Rangoli is both a decorative art and a symbolic

tradition. Students should use the provided vocabulary to explain their reasoning.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to look at the patterns on their own clothes or floor tiles to see if they can spot symmetry. Remind them that 'radial' just means 'like a sunburst'.

Common mistakes to watch for

Students often confuse 'symmetry' with 'identical' without understanding the axis of reflection. They may also struggle to explain the 'why' behind the cultural tradition, focusing only on the visual aspect.