Celebrating Chinese New Year with Max the Monkey

1. Any one of the following: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, or Pig. (1 mark)

Working: The Chinese Zodiac cycle contains 12 animals; the student must name one that is not the Dragon.

Accept any one animal from the traditional 12-year cycle.

2. The envelopes contain money. They are given to bring good luck and blessings for the year ahead. (2 marks)

Working: Recall of cultural tradition regarding red envelopes (hongbao).

1 mark for identifying money, 1 mark for explaining the purpose (luck/blessings).

3. 12 lanterns. (2 marks)

Working: 4 x 3 = 12.

1 mark for the correct calculation, 1 mark for the correct total.

4. It is the most important because it brings the whole family together to share a meal and celebrate their bond. (2 marks)

Look for: The student must identify the importance of family unity or togetherness.

Good: It is important because the family eats together.

Better: It is important because it brings all the family members together for a special meal.

Best: It is the most important part because it reunites the whole family to celebrate their bond and start the new year together.

What moves an answer up: Moving from 'good' to 'best' requires explaining the emotional significance of the reunion rather than just the act of eating.

5. Red represents good luck, joy, and prosperity. (2 marks)

Working: Recall of cultural symbolism.

1 mark for mentioning luck, 1 mark for mentioning joy or prosperity.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding that Chinese New Year is a time for family, luck, and specific cultural symbols. Ensure pupils use the word 'because' to link their ideas.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to think about what makes their own family celebrations special, such as sharing a meal or giving gifts, to help them relate to the traditions.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children may confuse the zodiac animals with common pets or zoo animals not in the cycle. They may also think the money in envelopes is for buying toys, rather than a symbolic gift of luck.