The Great Festival: Celebrating Chinese New Year

1. B) Lunar New Year (1 mark)

Working: Stated in the first sentence of the passage.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

2. False (1 mark)

Working: The passage states the date changes each year based on the moon.

Award 1 mark for the correct answer.

3. C) 12 (1 mark)

Working: Stated in the third sentence of the passage.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

4. C) To sweep away bad luck (1 mark)

Working: Stated in the fourth sentence of the passage.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

5. D) Money (1 mark)

Working: Stated in the fourth sentence of the passage.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

6. B) The Lantern Festival (1 mark)

Working: Stated in the final sentence of the passage.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

7. C) Red (1 mark)

Working: Inferred from the mention of 'red envelopes' for good fortune.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

8. Rat (or Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig) (1 mark)

Working: General knowledge of the Chinese zodiac.

Award 1 mark for any valid animal from the cycle.

9. It marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring. (2 marks)

Look for: The student must link the festival to the change of seasons or the arrival of spring.

Good: It is called that because it is the start of spring.

Better: It is called the Spring Festival because it marks the end of the coldest part of winter and the start of the new season.

Best: It is known as the Spring Festival because it celebrates the end of winter and the beginning of the lunar spring, symbolising new beginnings.

What moves an answer up: Moving from a simple statement to an explanation of the seasonal transition and the symbolic meaning of the festival.

10. B) Eating dumplings for wealth (1 mark)

Working: Common cultural knowledge associated with the festival.

Award 1 mark for the correct option.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding of the lunar calendar's influence and the symbolic nature of the traditions mentioned. Students should be able to link specific actions, like cleaning, to their cultural purpose.

If your child is stuck

Encourage the child to re-read the passage carefully, as most answers are directly supported by the

text. For the open-ended question, ask them to think about why 'spring' might be a significant time for a new year celebration.

Common mistakes to watch for

Students often assume the date is fixed like Christmas (25th December) and may struggle to differentiate between the lunar cycle and the solar calendar used in the UK.