Springtime Traditions: The Story of Easter

1. The two signs of spring mentioned are daffodils blooming and nature beginning to awaken after the cold winter. (2 marks)

Working: Evidence found in paragraph 1: 'daffodils bloom and nature begins to awaken after the cold winter.'

Award 1 mark for each correct sign identified (max 2).

2. The date changes because it is linked to the lunar cycle and the spring equinox. (2 marks)

Working: Evidence found in paragraph 2: 'it is linked to the lunar cycle and the spring equinox.'

Award 1 mark for mentioning the lunar cycle and 1 mark for mentioning the spring equinox.

3. Chocolate eggs are a fitting symbol because they represent new life and the joy of the changing season. (3 marks)

Look for: The student must link the symbol (eggs) to the concept of 'new life' or 'changing season' using the text.

Good: They represent new life and the joy of the season.

Better: They are a good symbol because the text says they represent new life and the joy of the changing season.

Best: Chocolate eggs are considered a fitting symbol because, as the text states, they 'represent new life and the joy of the changing season' as nature wakes up.

What moves an answer up: Moving up requires direct quotation or specific reference to the text's explanation of the symbolism.

4. The author shifts from the religious observance of the resurrection to cultural traditions like chocolate eggs, egg hunts, and sharing hot cross buns. (3 marks)

Look for: The student should identify the transition from the religious 'resurrection' to the social/cultural activities.

Good: The author starts with religion and then talks about fun things like egg hunts.

Better: The author moves from the religious focus on the resurrection to cultural traditions like giving chocolate eggs and sharing hot cross buns.

Best: The author shifts from the religious 'observance' of the resurrection to the 'cultural traditions' that have evolved, such as egg hunts and eating hot cross buns with the community.

What moves an answer up: Moving up requires using the specific terminology from the text to contrast the two perspectives.

5. Yes, they are important because they bring communities together and help people appreciate the changing season. (2 marks)

Look for: The student must provide an opinion supported by a reason related to community, family, or the season.

Good: Yes, because they are fun for children to do in the garden.

Better: I think they are important because they bring families and communities together to share in the joy of spring.

Best: I believe these traditions are important because they help communities come together and provide a way for people to pause and appreciate the lengthening days of spring.

What moves an answer up: Moving up requires connecting the activity to the broader social or seasonal themes mentioned in the passage.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates the ability to locate specific facts in the text and use those facts to support an inference about the cultural significance of the festival.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to highlight the sentences in the text that mention 'religious' and 'cultural' to help them see the structure of the passage.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often confuse the 'lunar cycle' with the 'solar cycle' or struggle to explain the symbolism of the egg beyond just saying it is 'tasty'.