Exploring the Meaning of Easter

1. On Good Friday, Christians remember the Crucifixion of Jesus. On Easter Sunday, they celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. (2 marks)

Working: Recall of Holy Week events.

1 mark for identifying Crucifixion on Good Friday; 1 mark for identifying Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

2. Lent is a time of reflection and preparation because it represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, allowing Christians to focus on prayer and self-discipline before Easter. (2 marks)

Look for: Mention of the 40-day period and the focus on prayer, repentance, or preparation for the events of Easter.

Good: It is a time to think about Jesus and get ready for Easter.

Better: Lent is 40 days long and Christians use this time to pray and reflect on their lives before Easter arrives.

Best: Lent mirrors the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, so Christians use this time for reflection, prayer, and self-discipline to prepare their hearts for the celebration of the Resurrection.

What moves an answer up: Moving from a simple statement to a 'best' answer requires linking the historical context (the desert) to the personal practice (prayer/discipline).

3. 3 eggs. (1 mark)

Working: 15 ÷ 5 = 3.

Correct calculation.

4. An egg is a symbol of new life because, although it looks still on the outside, it contains the potential for a new living creature to emerge, mirroring the Resurrection. (2 marks)

Look for: The connection between the shell/hatching and the concept of life emerging from what appeared to be 'dead' or dormant.

Good: Eggs are a symbol of new life because they hatch into chicks.

Better: Eggs represent new life because a chick comes out of the shell, which reminds Christians of Jesus rising from the tomb.

Best: The egg is a powerful symbol of new life because it represents the tomb; just as a chick breaks out of the shell, Jesus broke free from the tomb during the Resurrection.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer explicitly connects the biological metaphor to the theological event of the Resurrection.

5. Easter Sunday is a 'moveable feast' because it falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. (2 marks)

Working: Application of the lunar calendar rule.

Must mention the full moon and the spring equinox.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding of the contrast between the solemnity of Good Friday and the celebratory nature of the Resurrection. Students should be able to link symbols like the egg to the core Christian belief of new life.

If your child is stuck

Encourage the child to think about the 'story' of Easter: the sadness of the Friday and the joy of the Sunday. For the maths, remind them that 'sharing equally' always means division.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often confuse the dates of Easter (thinking it is always the same date) or struggle to explain the symbolism of the egg beyond just 'it's a spring thing'.