Celebrating Eid: Traditions and Reflection

1. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan (the month of fasting). Eid al-Adha marks the Festival of Sacrifice during the Hajj pilgrimage. (2 marks)

Working: Evidence from passage: 'Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan... Eid al-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice, occurs during the Hajj pilgrimage.'

1 mark for each festival correctly identified with its purpose.

2. Moon-sighting is important because the Islamic calendar is lunar, meaning the start of the new month and the festival depends on the sighting of the new crescent moon. (2 marks)

Look for: The link between the lunar calendar and the start of the month.

Good: It is important because it tells people when the month starts.

Better: It is important because the Islamic calendar is based on the moon, so they need to see the new moon to know when Eid begins.

Best: Moon-sighting is essential because the Islamic calendar follows the lunar cycle; the sighting of the new crescent moon officially signals the end of the previous month and the start of Eid.

What moves an answer up: Moving from 'good' to 'best' requires explaining the lunar nature of the calendar rather than just stating it is a signal.

3. 1. Attending special prayers at the mosque. 2. Enjoying a celebratory meal with family. 3. Giving to charity or wearing new clothes. (3 marks)

Working: Evidence from passage: 'attend special prayers', 'enjoy a celebratory meal', 'charity', 'visiting family', 'wearing new clothes'.

Award 1 mark for each valid point listed.

4. Zakat is the practice of giving a portion of one's wealth to those in need. It is emphasised during Eid to ensure that everyone in the community can enjoy the celebrations regardless of their financial situation. (4 marks)

Look for: Definition of Zakat and the concept of social equality/support.

Good: Zakat is giving money to poor people so they can have a nice day too.

Better: Zakat is a form of charity where Muslims give money to help those in need, which is important during Eid so everyone can celebrate.

Best: Zakat is the obligatory act of giving a portion of wealth to the needy. It is emphasised during Eid to promote equality, ensuring that even the most vulnerable members of the community can participate in the joy of the festival.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer uses precise vocabulary like 'obligatory' and 'vulnerable' to explain the social purpose.

5. A young person might prepare by buying new clothes, helping to prepare special food, or decorating their home. The atmosphere is joyful, busy, and filled with a sense of gratitude and community spirit. (4 marks)

Look for: Preparation activities and a description of the festive atmosphere.

Good: They might buy new clothes and cook food. The day feels very happy and busy.

Better: In cities like London, a child might go shopping for new clothes and help their family cook. The atmosphere is very exciting and everyone is happy to see their family.

Best: A young person might prepare by choosing new clothes and helping to prepare traditional dishes. The atmosphere is vibrant and warm, filled with the sounds of greetings, the smell of festive food, and a shared sense of gratitude.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer uses sensory language to describe the atmosphere.

6. Eid al-Fitr celebrates the completion of Ramadan's spiritual discipline, while Eid al-Adha commemorates Ibrahim's devotion to God. Both are meaningful as they focus on faith, family, and charity. (5 marks)

Look for: Comparison of the two festivals' origins and their shared values.

Good: Eid al-Fitr is for the end of fasting and Eid al-Adha is for the sacrifice. Both are important for families.

Better: Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha remembers Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice for God. Both are meaningful because they bring families together.

Best: While Eid al-Fitr marks the successful completion of the spiritual discipline of Ramadan, Eid al-Adha reflects on the deep faith and sacrifice of Ibrahim. Both are deeply meaningful as they reinforce core Islamic values of gratitude, charity, and community unity.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer contrasts the specific spiritual significance of each while linking them through shared values.

7. Community is central because Eid is a collective experience. Shared activities like congregational prayers at the mosque, visiting relatives, and sharing meals with neighbours strengthen bonds and reduce social isolation. (5 marks)

Look for: The idea of collective worship and social bonding.

Good: It is central because you see your friends and family and eat together.

Better: Community is important because Muslims pray together at the mosque and visit each other's houses, which makes everyone feel connected.

Best: Community is a central theme because Eid is designed to be a shared experience. Through congregational prayers at the mosque and the tradition of visiting family and neighbours, the festival fosters a strong sense of belonging and mutual support.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer explains the 'why' behind the activities, focusing on 'belonging' and 'mutual support'.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding that these festivals are not just about food, but about spiritual reflection, charity, and community cohesion.

If your child is stuck

Ask your child to think about how they celebrate their own special days—do they share food? Do they see family? How is that similar to the traditions mentioned in the text?

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often confuse the two Eids or assume they are only about food, missing the deeper spiritual significance of Zakat and prayer.