The Festival of Lights: A Hanukkah Challenge

1. B) 8 (1 mark)

Working: The passage states: 'Hanukkah... lasts for eight days and nights.'

1 mark for correct selection.

2. False (1 mark)

Working: The passage states it commemorates the rededication of the 'Second Temple'.

1 mark for correct identification.

3. C) Menorah (1 mark)

Working: The passage identifies the 'nine-branched Menorah'.

1 mark for correct selection.

4. Latkes (1 mark)

Working: The passage mentions 'latkes (potato pancakes)'.

1 mark for correct spelling.

5. They are eaten to remember the miracle of the sacred oil that lasted for eight days. (2 marks)

Look for: Linking the food to the miracle of the oil.

Good: Because the oil lasted for eight days.

Better: Families eat fried food to celebrate the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days in the Temple.

Best: Foods fried in oil are eaten to commemorate the miracle where only one day's worth of sacred oil lasted for eight full days.

What moves an answer up: Moving from a simple statement to a full explanation using evidence from the text.

6. B) The Maccabees (1 mark)

Working: The passage states: 'when the Maccabees reclaimed the Temple'.

1 mark for correct selection.

7. C) Dreidel (1 mark)

Working: The passage mentions 'a spinning top called a dreidel'.

1 mark for correct selection.

8. C) 9 (1 mark)

Working: The passage refers to the 'nine-branched Menorah'.

1 mark for correct selection.

9. The miracle was that there was only enough oil to keep the lamp lit for one day, but it stayed lit for eight days. (2 marks)

Look for: Explaining the contrast between the small amount of oil and the long duration of the light.

Good: The oil lasted for eight days when it should have run out.

Better: The Maccabees only had enough oil for one day, but miraculously it burned for eight days.

Best: The miracle refers to the sacred oil in the Temple; despite only having enough to last for one day, it burned for eight full days.

What moves an answer up: Adding detail about the 'sacred oil' and the 'Temple' context improves the answer.

10. B) Jerusalem (1 mark)

Working: The passage states: 'rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.'

1 mark for correct selection.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding of the link between the historical miracle of the oil and the modern traditions of food and light.

If your child is stuck

Encourage the child to re-read the second sentence of the passage, which explains the origin of the miracle.

Common mistakes to watch for

Confusing the number of days the festival lasts (8) with the number of branches on the Menorah (9), and forgetting that the oil was for the Temple.