Journeys of Faith: Exploring Pilgrimage

1. A pilgrimage is a special journey taken by a believer to a place they consider to be holy. (2 marks)

Working: Definition provided in the instructions.

Award 1 mark for identifying it as a journey, and 1 mark for mentioning it is to a holy place.

2. Two reasons someone might go on a pilgrimage are to show their love for their faith and to say thank you. (2 marks)

Look for: Two distinct reasons from the text (love for faith, saying thank you, or finding peace).

Good: They go to show love and say thank you.

Better: People go on a pilgrimage to show their love for their faith and to say thank you for something.

Best: A person might choose to go on a long journey to show their love for their faith, or they might go to say thank you or find peace.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer uses full sentences and includes all potential reasons mentioned in the text.

3. I would choose to visit the seaside in Cornwall because it is a place where I feel very calm and happy. (3 marks)

Look for: A specific location and a clear, personal reason for why it is special.

Good: I would go to the park because it is fun.

Better: I would choose to go to the seaside because it is a beautiful place and I like the sound of the waves.

Best: I would choose to visit the seaside in Cornwall because it is a place that makes me feel peaceful and happy, which is why it is special to me.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer connects the choice of location to a specific feeling or reason.

4. The difficulty of the walk might make the person feel more proud or relieved when they finally arrive at the holy place. (2 marks)

Look for: An understanding that the effort makes the arrival feel more significant or rewarding.

Good: They might feel tired but happy.

Better: The long walk makes the person feel proud because they worked hard to get there.

Best: Because the walk is difficult, the person might feel a sense of achievement and relief when they finally arrive at the holy place.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer explains the emotional connection between the effort of the journey and the feeling of arrival.

5. It is about both, because the journey allows the person to think and prepare, while the final place is the goal of their faith. (3 marks)

Look for: An argument that acknowledges the importance of the process (the journey) and the destination.

Good: I think the place is more important because that is where they want to go.

Better: I think the journey is important because it shows they are serious, but the place is the goal.

Best: I think both are important. The journey is a time to think and show commitment, while the final place is the holy destination they have worked hard to reach.

What moves an answer up: The 'best' answer balances both parts of the question with a clear explanation.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates an understanding that pilgrimage is an intentional, meaningful act rather than just a holiday. Pupils should be able to link the physical effort of the journey to the spiritual intent.

If your child is stuck

Ask your child to think about a time they worked hard to reach a goal, like finishing a long book or climbing a hill. Ask them how they felt when they finally reached the end.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children may confuse a pilgrimage with a standard holiday or trip. Remind them that a pilgrimage is specifically linked to faith and a 'holy' destination.