

'Diwali is an important festival'



Here are a number of reasons why a Hindu believes Diwali is an important festival. Using the Diamond Nine grid, rank them from which you think is the most significant reason to least significant reason. Explain your most and least choices.

The festival allows us to spend time with our family and gives us a sense of belonging through sharing it with the rest of the community.

The festival encourages us to give gifts and cards to family and friends to show that we care about them.

I live in South India and during the festival we invite Lakshmi into the home in the hope that she will bless us with wealth and fortune for the coming year.

I live in North India and the festival is our way of remembering the story of Rama and Sita, found in the Ramayana, in which good triumphs evil through devotion.

Diwali allows us to make a fresh start for the New Year. We clean and decorate our homes, buy new clothes and settle our debts.

I live in South India and the festival is our way of remembering the death of Narakasura (an evil demon) at the hands of Krishna and his wife, Sathyabhama.

The religious ceremonies associated with the festival allow us to forget the stresses of everyday life and focus on spiritual development.

The gifts, parties and celebrations give us a lift in our mood. As a result we feel better about ourselves and those around us.

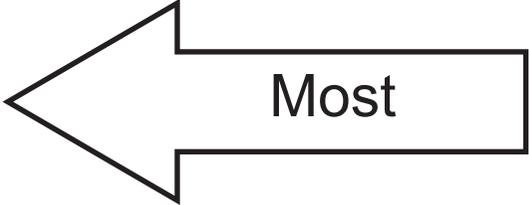
The ceremonies enable us to conform to and strengthen our faith; it helps us perform our daily duties.

Extension: Hindus in Britain also celebrate Diwali. Find out what British Hindus do to celebrate Diwali using the Internet. Draw a table to show the similarities and differences in the way this festival is celebrated in India and in Britain.

Diamond Nine

Cut out and glue the arguments from most significant to least significant.

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Challenge Yourself!
Arrange the arguments according to which you think a religious devotee would say was the most significant to least significant. Explain your most and least choices.

