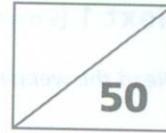


Practice Paper 4**What It's All About**
Skimming for Prediction (Strategy 1)

Skim Texts 1 to 3 by reading and viewing any heading, subtitle, illustration and the first sentence of each paragraph. Then, write the common topic of the three texts below.

Common topic:

Scanning (Strategy 5)

Scan through Texts 1 to 3 to find the answers to as many of the questions as you can within two minutes.

1. What is the Thai holiday described in Text 1 called?

2. In which temple can the kindling of the sacred fire be conducted?

3. What is the Jewish festival of lights called?

4. What did Christians believe Jesus claimed to be the light of?

5. At which time of year are most festivals of light celebrated?

Text 1 [5 marks]

Read the webpage below and answer Questions 1–4.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying 'www.visitthai.org'. The website has a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Visitor Information', 'National Holidays', and 'Magha Puja'. The main content area features a large illustration of a Buddha figure seated on a lotus throne, surrounded by a large crowd of people. Below this is a section titled 'MAGHA PUJA' with a sub-section 'WHAT CAN I SEE?' and another sub-section 'WHAT IS THE ORIGIN?'. There is also a photograph of a Magha Puja ceremony in progress.

MAGHA PUJA

Magha Puja is a national holiday in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. Its date is dependent on the lunar cycle.

WHAT CAN I SEE?

If you arrive early enough, you may see many Thai people giving alms to monks at the Buddhist temples. You may catch the wonderful ritual known as the candle ceremony where believers walk clockwise three times around the temple holding flowers, incense and a lighted candle. In the evening, the temples are full of people listening to Buddhist sermons. Of course, it being a national holiday, you may also catch a cultural show or visit stalls selling souvenirs, local sweets and food. Sithamma Sokaratch Park in Nakorn Si Thammarat province holds perhaps the most famous Magha Puja ceremony.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN?

On the full moon of the third lunar month, seven months after Buddha began his teachings, 1 250 monks gathered to hear Buddha preach his first sermon. Buddha ordained these monks and tasked them to spread the principles of Buddhism. This marked a key event in the development of the religion.

This third lunar month on which this occurred is known in the Buddhist Pali language as 'Magha'. 'Puja' means 'to honour'.

Despite these events occurring over 2 500 years ago, Magha Puja only became a holiday in 1957.

1. Which event is the subject of the top photograph? [1]

2. How does paragraph 2 directly address the reader? [1]

3. Explain why the Magha Puja is a key event in the development of Buddhism. [2]

4. Why are sermons so important on this religious holiday? [1]

Text 2 [20 marks]

The text below is about the importance of light in various religions. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5–12.

1	I decided that my project would be about the importance of light in religion. In order to begin to understand the topic, I consulted some of my friends. I already knew that most people find comfort in light. The light from a small candle, for instance, can dispel the darkness. It is no wonder then, it seemed to me, that candles have been used for a long time, often symbolically, by people of many faiths as part of worship and at their festivals.	5
2	Arisa, my penfriend in Thailand, told me that the purity of light has great importance in the kindling of the sacred fire in a Parsi Fire Temple. She was quite excited that I should want to know about this topic. She explained that in some temples, fire is brought from no less than 16 different places, such as a king's palace, a priest's house and a blacksmith's forge. The fire is blended, purified and unified during elaborate ceremonies when it is installed. The sacred fire is then kept alive by priests, who tend to it five times a day, offering prayers as they add sandalwood and incense with further ceremony. I told her that I would love to see this one day, and she suggested that I check the dates with her if I am ever able to visit her.	10 15
3	My father's friend was extremely helpful and delighted that I should want to know about his culture. He told me that the great Jewish festival of light, Chanukah, is an annual reminder of the triumph of good over evil some 2 000 years ago. The Emperor of Syria had forbidden Jews to observe their holy days, destroyed their sacred scrolls and desecrated their temple. After a long struggle, Judah Maccabee led his forces in overthrowing the Syrians. Immediately, people set about cleansing the temple. They searched high and low for pure oil to relight the temple lamp, but there was only enough for one night. However, by some miracle, it kept burning for eight days. That is why Chanukah is kept as an eight-day festival.	20

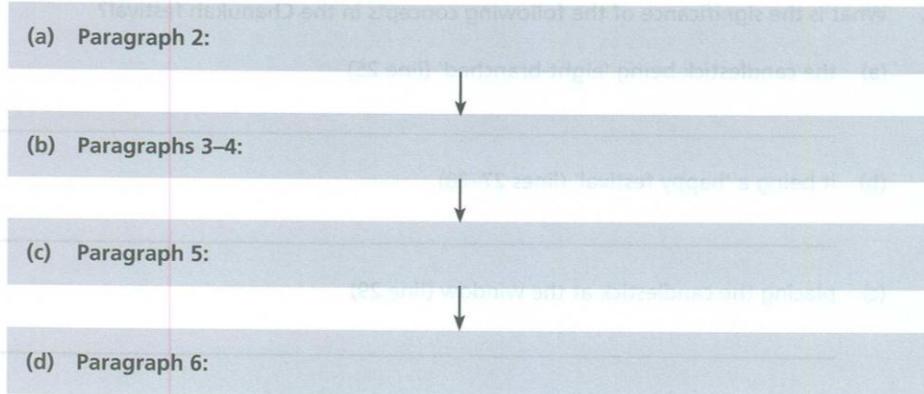
8. (a) What does the Jewish festival of light symbolise?
 _____ [1]
- (b) What does the word 'desecrated' (line 20) suggest about what the Emperor ordered?
 _____ [1]
- (c) What is the significance of Chanukah lasting eight days?
 _____ [1]
9. What is the significance of the following concepts in the Chanukah festival?
- (a) the candlestick being 'eight-branched' (line 25)
 _____ [1]
- (b) it being a 'happy festival' (lines 27–28)
 _____ [1]
- (c) placing the candlestick at the window (line 29)
 _____ [2]
10. '... candles feature largely in the celebrations of the Christian church ...' (lines 34–35)
- (a) What reason is suggested for this?
 _____ [1]
- (b) According to paragraph 5, what do the rows of lighted candles represent in a Catholic church?
 _____ [1]
11. Which phrase explains the Celts' use of fire?
 _____ [1]

12. The structure of the text reflects the different use of light symbolism in different religions. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word or phrase from the box to summarise the stage of the narrative described in the relevant paragraphs. You do not need to use all the words or phrases in the box. [4]

Symbolism of light in religions

- prayer
- Judah overthrowing the Syrians
- support for the sun's power
- purity of fire
- Fire Temple
- huge bonfire
- victory of good over evil

Flow Chart



Text 3 [25 marks]

The text below is about festivals of light. Read it carefully and answer Questions 13–18.

1	It is a remarkable fact when you come to consider that all over the world, communities celebrate festivals of light. Why should such festivals of fire and light be so widespread? They appear in diverse communities and cultures, and as part of different religions in many continents.	
2	If we could step back in time — before supermarkets and all-night lighting — we would appreciate just how dark and grim, as well as how cold the winters in the far north and south of the world could be, for it is in these areas that the origins of the festivals can be found, rather than in the tropics close to the equator. A festival could brighten up those miserable days in the darkness of winter. The wine and beer made earlier in the year were ready for drinking by the time daylight faded early. Cattle might as well be killed at this time because there would be little enough food for them before long. Put all this together and it made for a great excuse for a feast. Light the fire to warm things up, and there was a perfect recipe for a party.	5 10
3	At extreme northern and southern latitudes, daylight becomes shorter in winter, obvious especially after the much longer daylight of midsummer days. The winter solstice occurs on the shortest day of the year, the midpoint of winter, especially noticeable at higher latitudes because the angle of the sun is lower then. Many	15

	festivals of light occurred at a time near this point. Some of these festivals prepared people for the dark days of winter to come, an unpleasant prospect for those in the higher latitudes.	20
4	Other festivals looked forward and celebrated the rebirth of the year, which is the new year. After all, once you have reached the year's darkest day, it can only get lighter, a thought that brightens the lives of most people living in those parts of the world. As sunlight returns for longer periods in the day, things come back to life again, especially in the world of nature. In this case, as well as lighting the darkness, the festival could herald this new life.	25
5	There could be deeper motives for celebration. People wanted to show appreciation to whatever god or gods they believed in. They wished to symbolise the victory of good (the light) over bad (the dark). Shining a light helps us see more clearly while switching on a lamp or lighting a candle banishes the darkness into the corners. So, it is easy to see how light and fire have come to symbolise the triumph of good, or to stand as a metaphor for God.	30

13. According to paragraph 2, how did the festivals of light help people cope with the hardships of winter?

_____ [2]

14. Which **two** facts in paragraph 2 made it easy to celebrate at that time of year?

_____ [2]

15. Jane and Ali have realised that there are two ways of looking at festivals of light.



Jane

They make people feel ready.

They make people look forward.



Ali

(a) According to paragraph 3, what do the festivals make people ready for?

_____ [1]

(b) According to paragraph 4, in what way do these festivals enable people to look forward?

_____ [1]

16. Explain in your own words two of the 'deeper motives for celebration' (line 27).

[2]

17. According to paragraph 5, how does the text make the link between our everyday use of light and its use for religious purposes?

[2]

18. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise how festivals of light have served many purposes for human beings.

USE ONLY INFORMATION FROM TEXT 3.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than **80** words, not counting the words given to help you to begin.

Begin your summary as follows:

Throughout the world and through time, festivals of light developed ...

Method

1. Underline the key words in the summary question that tell you what to focus on.
2. Read the passage and underline the points that answer the summary question.
3. List the points and make brief notes in your own words about what you have underlined in the passage.

Points to select from text	No.	Suggested own words
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	

Vocabulary Extension

What is the meaning of the words in bold in the context of the texts below? These are for further practice.

From Text 1

1. Buddha **ordained** these monks ... _____

From Text 2

2. A small candle can **dispel** the darkness. (line 4) _____

3. ... the **kindling** of the sacred fire ... (line 8) _____

4. ... ceremonies when the fire is **installed**. (line 12) _____

5. ... priests, who **tend** to it five times a day, ...
(line 12) _____

6. The Emperor had ... **deseccrated** their temple.
(line 20) _____

7. In the home, as well as in the **synagogue** ...
(line 25) _____

From Text 3

8. ... the festival could **herald** this new life ...
(line 26) _____

9. deeper **motives** for celebration (line 27) _____

10. ... lighting a candle **banishes** the darkness ...
(line 30) _____