

## THEME 9 INVITATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS READING SKILL (UPLIFT)

### **A. Scan the text and circle the topics that are mentioned.**

- \_\_\_ The festival's date
- \_\_\_ The preparations before the festival
- \_\_\_ The types of meals
- \_\_\_ The activities during the festival

### **DIWALI: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

**A.** Diwali, known as the festival of lights, is the biggest and most important festival in India. There are a lot of different reasons for celebrating it, and the reasons change from community to community in India. For some, it is a harvest or new year celebration, but it generally symbolizes the victory over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

**B.** Diwali takes place annually and lasts for five days. There is no exact date for the festival; it changes every year according to the position of the moon. It should be the darkest day of the new moon, so the celebration includes lights everywhere. It usually occurs between October and November. This year, Indians are going to celebrate it with great enthusiasm again.

**C.** People are going to make some preparations before the festival. First, they are going to paint and clean their houses, offices, and public places. Then they are going to decorate these places, especially the inside and outside their homes, with flowers, special lights, and oil lamps called “diyas”. They believe a clean, decorated, and bright home attracts wealth, prosperity, happiness, and positive energy, and it also makes the guests feel happy.

**D.** The other step of the preparation is doing the shopping for the festival. The women are going to buy new clothes for each day of the celebration. They are going to buy jewellery or some metal things because they believe such objects bring prosperity. Indians are going to buy a lot of gifts for their beloved ones. They are also going to buy sweets or be busy preparing home-made sweets. It is customary for them to exchange gifts and sweets with family members, friends, or beloved ones.

**E.** During the festival, family members are going to come together to have a special meal, eat sweets, and have joy. They are going to reunite to strengthen family ties and spread peace and happiness by exchanging love and gifts with each other. They are going to wish each other wisdom, health, wealth, peace, and prosperity once more this year.

### **B. Read the text again and answer the following questions.**

1. What does the Diwali festival mean for some?
2. Why does the date of the festival change every year?
3. What are people going to decorate their houses with?
4. Why are people going to buy jewellery?
5. How are people going to spread peace and happiness?
6. What are people going to wish for?

### **C. Read the text again. Find the supporting ideas for the main idea below in the paragraphs and write which paragraph(s) include(s) them.**

**Main idea:** For Indians, Diwali is an important festival to celebrate.

#### **Supporting ideas:**

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| 1. The date of the festival:           | 4. The description of the decoration for the festival: |
| 2. The meaning of the festival:        | 5. The activities before the festival:                 |
| 3. The activities during the festival: | 6. The reasons for celebrating the festival:           |