



Lights, Markets, and Smoke

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



1 Diwali is not only a religious festival; it is also one of the busiest shopping seasons in India. Buying gold, silver, or new kitchen tools on the first day is considered lucky, and merchants traditionally open new account books during the festival. In 2017, one estimate said about two-thirds of Indian households expected to spend 5,000 to 10,000 rupees on the festival. Even the stock market joins in: it closes for the holiday but opens for a symbolic one-hour Muhurat trading session in the evening.

2 The festival's popularity also creates a serious problem. Fireworks, combined with cold air and smoke from farm fires, can make the air in northern Indian cities dangerous to breathe. In 2023, New Delhi briefly recorded the worst air quality in the world after Diwali night, and courts and city governments have tried various limits on fireworks.

3 Many families now look for a balance, returning to the festival's original symbol, the small clay lamp. When UNESCO added Diwali to its list of intangible cultural heritage in 2025, it recognized not the noise of the night but the shared idea behind it: that light can win over darkness.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Diwali is mainly a time for buying gold.
- (B) Diwali brings both business and problems, and many families are looking for a balance.
- (C) Fireworks are the most important part of Diwali.
- (D) UNESCO decided to stop fireworks in India.

2. According to the passage, what do merchants traditionally do during the festival?

- (A) They close their shops for five days.
- (B) They give gold to their customers.
- (C) They sell fireworks only.
- (D) They open new account books.

3. What can make the air in northern Indian cities dangerous to breathe?

- (A) Fireworks combined with cold air and smoke from farm fires
- (B) Clay lamps in every home
- (C) Too many shoppers in the markets
- (D) Smoke from the stock market

4. Why does the stock market most likely open for only one hour on Diwali?

- (A) Because traders are too busy shopping
- (B) Because the computers stop working at night
- (C) To keep a lucky tradition rather than to do normal business
- (D) To make up for losses during the year

5. In paragraph 3, what does intangible mean in intangible cultural heritage?

- (A) Not a physical object that you can touch
- (B) Very old and broken
- (C) Owned by the government
- (D) Only for religious people

6. Why does the writer end with what UNESCO recognized?

- (A) To show that UNESCO likes loud festivals
- (B) To explain how to make clay lamps
- (C) To criticize Indian courts
- (D) To suggest that the true meaning of Diwali is the light, not the noise



Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. merchant | a. traditions, buildings or ideas passed down from the past |
| 2. estimate | b. a person who buys and sells goods |
| 3. household | c. a guess about a number or amount based on information |
| 4. symbolic | d. all the people who live together in one home |
| 5. breathe | e. done for its meaning rather than for a practical reason |
| 6. balance | f. to take air into your body and let it out again |
| 7. intangible | g. a good state in which different things are given equal attention |
| 8. heritage | h. not a physical thing that you can touch |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “Buying gold, silver, or new kitchen tools on the first day is considered lucky, and merchants traditionally open new account books during the festival.”

Hint: Use People believe and start new books for their business.

2. “Fireworks, combined with cold air and smoke from farm fires, can make the air in northern Indian cities dangerous to breathe.”

Hint: Use When and together with, and change dangerous to breathe to unsafe.

3. “Many families now look for a balance, returning to the festival's original symbol, the small clay lamp.”

Hint: Use try to find a middle way and go back to.

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____

Motion: Cities should ban fireworks during festivals.

FOR 賛成

- After Diwali night in 2023, New Delhi briefly had the worst air quality in the world.
- Dirty air hurts everyone, including children, old people and people who do not celebrate.
- The original symbol of Diwali is the clay lamp, so people can celebrate fully without fireworks.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- Fireworks are a part of how many families celebrate, and a ban may feel like an attack on their religion.
- Smoke from farm fires is also a big cause of the problem, so a fireworks ban alone will not solve it.
- Time limits or shared public displays can reduce pollution without taking away the tradition.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>