



### How much do you know about the beliefs of your colleagues?

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#### 1. Which religions celebrate Diwali?

- a. Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism
  - b. Hinduism
  - c. Islam, Hinduism and Jainism
  - d. Judaism, Jehovah's Witness and Catholicism
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#### 2. What is Ramadan?

- a. A Muslim celebration involving dance and giving thanks to Allah
  - b. A Muslim period of fasting and prayers
  - c. The day celebrated by Hindus in which Rama saved his wife Sita
  - d. A flat bread eaten by Christians on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas
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#### 3. What are observant Jews required to abstain from on the Sabbath?

- a. Eating all types of red meat
  - b. Smoking, drinking and other behaviours listed in the Bible
  - c. Any form of work
  - d. Any form of work including travelling
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#### 4. Which Religion celebrates their new year annually on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March?

- a. Christianity
  - b. Islam
  - c. Buddhism
  - d. Baha'i
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#### 5. Why might it not be a good idea to book the work party at an oyster bar if you have Orthodox Jews in your organisation?

- a. Jewish people are particularly fussy when it comes to food
- b. Judaism believes that crustaceans are sacred and should not be eaten.
- c. Non-fish seafood is prohibited in Judaism
- d. Jews are not allowed to eat meat

## Answers

1. **(A) Diwali**, also called **Deepavali** or **Divali**, is a major Hindu festival that is very significant in Hinduism, Sikhism and Jainism. Known as the "Festival of Lights," it symbolises the victory of good over evil, and lamps are lit as a sign of celebration and hope for mankind. Diwali is celebrated for five consecutive days at the end of Hindu month of Ashwayuja. It usually occurs in October/November, and is one of the most popular and eagerly awaited festivals in India. Diwali comes exactly twenty days after Dussehra. Hindus and Sikhs alike regard it as a celebration of life and use the occasion to strengthen family and social relationships
2. **(B) Ramadan** is the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar; it is a period of Muslim religious observance taking the form of fasting. It lasts from the stage of one new moon to the next. Those who are eligible to fast abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to sunset, the focus is on self sacrifice, prayer and devotion to Allah.
3. **(D) Work and travelling.** The 7<sup>th</sup> day is known as the Sabbath, a Holy day blessed and hallowed by God. Any type of work, including gathering food and travel are prohibited on this day. Traditionally the Torah teaches that the penalty for failing to observe this teaching was death
4. **(D) Baha'i** religion celebrates their new year on this date. This religion believes in one imperishable God who is the creator of the universe and all in it. They believe in total equality and that the unification of all man-kind is the paramount issue in the present world.
5. **(C) Seafood** is not kosher, this means that it doesn't meet certain criteria of the Jewish law. Teachings state that that anything living in water that doesn't have fins or scales should not be consumed.