**Assessment Task 2 Analysis of a Ritual**On completion of this unit the student should be able to explain the expression of collective identity of particular religious traditions in Australia, and the interaction of these traditions with other religious traditions and wider society.

**The Task**

You are to write a short reflective essay of approximately 800 words on a ritual you have studied from either Judaism or Islam.

Set the essay out with the structure listed below.

The content of each paragraph is suggested by the ‘Topic’ and the dot points listed. The word content of each paragraph is only a guide.  
  
**Suggested Essay Structure and Content**

**Paragraph 1**: Introduction (150 words)  
  
Topic: The nature and purpose of rituals in religious traditions in general  
  
·         Define the nature and purpose of Ritual  
  
·         List some different rituals from different religions  
  
**Paragraph 2** (200 words)  
  
Topic: The key elements of a chosen ritual: symbols, roles  
  
·         What is the ritual?  
  
·         When is the ritual?  
  
·         Who participate in the ritual?  
  
·         Describe the ritual in detail  
  
·         What symbols are involved in the ritual?  
  
·         What are the various roles allocated to people in the ritual?  
  
**Paragraph 3** (200 words)  
  
Topic: The importance of the chosen ritual in terms of human need  
  
·         Why do people celebrate this ritual?  
  
·         How important is the ritual to the believers?  
  
·         Why is the ritual important to the believers?  
  
·         What actions in the ritual demonstrate common beliefs?  
  
**Paragraph 4** (200 words)  
  
Topic: The contribution of the chosen ritual to the collective identity of adherents of the tradition and to their relationship with society  
  
·         What is the significance of the ritual in the life of the tradition?  
  
·         In what parts of the ritual is the community aspect most evident?  
  
·         How does the tradition perceive itself in Australia?  
  
**Paragraph 5**: Conclusion (50 words)  
  
Conclude your essay with a summary of your findings and any opinion you wish to express.

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| Criteria | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not Shown |
| Describes nature and purpose of rituals in religious traditions in general | Describes nature and purpose of rituals in religious traditions in general in a comprehensive way | Describes nature and purpose of rituals in religious traditions in general in a more detailed way | Describes both the nature and purpose of rituals in religious traditions in general | Describes either nature or purpose of rituals in religious traditions in general | Defines ritual in religious traditions in general |  |
| Identifies key elements of a chosen ritual: name, time of year, symbols, roles, prayer texts | Comprehensively identifies all the key elements of the chosen ritual | Identifies most of key elements of the chosen ritual in a more detailed way | Identifies most of the key elements of the chosen ritual. | Identifies a number of key elements of the chosen ritual. | Identifies some key elements of the chosen ritual. |  |
| Discusses the importance of the ritual to meeting human needs | Discusses the relative importance of the ritual to meeting human needs using Maslow’s hierarchy in a comprehensive way | Discusses the importance of the ritual to meeting human needs referring to Maslow’s hierarchy in a more detailed way | Discusses the importance of the ritual to meeting human needs by referring to Maslow’s hierarchy | Discusses the importance of the ritual to meeting human needs in a general way | Identifies human needs addressed by the ritual |  |
| Discusses the importance of the ritual to the collective identity of adherents of the tradition | Discusses the importance of the ritual to the collective identity of adherents of the tradition by discussing many elements of the ritual | Discusses the importance of the ritual for the individuals and the community of the tradition by discussing some elements of the ritual | Discusses the importance of the ritual for the individuals and the community of the tradition | Describes collective identity and the importance of the ritual for the community | Describes collective identity and why the ritual matters in a limited way |  |
| Conclusion: summary of your findings | Synthesises the main points from each paragraph in a creative way | Synthesises the main points from each paragraph | Summarises main points from some paragraphs | Summarises making two main points | Makes a summary comment |  |