

Practice 3

Section B

[10 marks]

[Time suggested: 25 minutes]

Questions 16-25

Read the following article and answer the questions that follow.

WHALES

Whales are large, intelligent, aquatic mammals that belong in the cetacean group. They breathe air through their blowholes into lungs, unlike fish which breathe using gills. Whales have sleek, streamlined bodies that move easily through the water. They are the only mammals, other than manatees, that live their entire lives in the water, and the only mammals that have adapted to life in the open oceans.

Like all mammals, whales are warm-blooded in which they maintain a high body temperature. They also have mammary glands with which they nourish their young. Whales have hair, although they have a lot less than land mammals and almost none as adults as it would cause drag while swimming. The biggest whale is blue whale, which grows to be approximately 29 metres long (equivalent to the height of a 9-storey building). These gigantic animals eat about 4 tons of tiny krill each day. The smallest whale is the dwarf sperm whale which only reaches 2.6 metres long as adults.

Whales give birth to their young which are nourished with milk from their mothers. They breed seasonally, usually in warm tropical waters, and females usually have one calf every 1-3 years. The gestation periods range from 9-18 months. Whale calves can swim soon after birth. Mother whales care for their young for an extended period of time, usually at least a year, feeding them milk and protecting them.

WHALES

Differences than other mammals	16 17
Similarities with other mammals	18 19 20
Biggest whale	21
Smallest whale	22
Area of breeding	23
Gestation periods	24
Nursing period	25