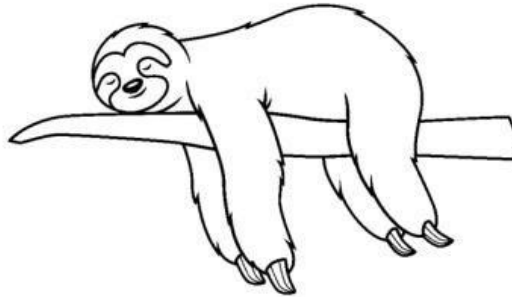


Section A: Reading (15 marks)

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The Sleepy Sloth



- 1 What animal can sleep for up to twenty hours every day? It moves so slowly that plants can even grow on its fur. Do you know what this strange creature is? The sloth is one of the slowest animals on Earth. It lives high in the rainforest trees of Central and South America. Sloths move so slowly that it can take a whole minute just to move one arm. Because they move so little, sloths use very little energy, so they do not need to eat very much food.
- 2 A sloth's body is **built** for hanging, not walking. It has long arms, short legs, and curved claws that look like hooks. These claws lock onto branches, so the sloth can hang there safely for hours, even while it is asleep. On the ground, sloths cannot walk properly and must drag themselves along slowly. However, in water, sloths are surprisingly good swimmers.
- 3 Sloths mostly eat leaves, which do not give them much energy. Because leaves are hard to digest, a sloth's stomach works very slowly. It can take almost a month for a sloth to fully digest just one meal. To help break down tough leaves, sloths have several stomach chambers, just like a cow.
- 4 One surprising fact about sloths is that algae grow on their fur. This algae gives the sloth's fur a greenish colour. The green colour helps the sloth hide from predators such as eagles and jaguars. Tiny insects also live in the sloth's fur, feeding on the algae there.
- 5 Female sloths usually give birth to one baby at a time. The baby clings tightly to its mother's belly for about six months. During this time, the baby learns which leaves are safe to eat by watching its mother closely. After six months, the young sloth is ready to live alone in the trees.

- 6 Sloths are shy animals and they prefer to live alone. They come down from the trees only rarely, usually about once a week. Scientists believe sloths do **this** to bury their waste at the bottom of a tree, which may also help the tree to grow. This slow, quiet lifestyle helps keep sloths hidden from danger.
- 7 Sloths have very poor eyesight and cannot see very well. Instead, they rely mostly on their strong sense of smell and touch to find food and to sense danger nearby. There is still much for scientists to learn about these unusual animals. One thing is certain: the sloth shows us that being slow is not always a bad thing.

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS**From paragraph 1**

1. Complete the sentence below by selecting ONE word from the box and writing it in the gap.

slowest	fastest	biggest	tallest
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The sloth is one of the _____ animals on Earth.

[1]

From paragraph 2

2. Think of **ONE** word you could use to replace 'built' on line 7.

_____ [1]

3. Choose the best answer from A, B, C and D, and write that letter in the box.

Which sentence is **NOT TRUE** about a sloth's body?

- A. It hangs from branches using its claws.
 B. It can walk quickly on the ground.
 C. It is a good swimmer.
 D. It has long arms and short legs.

[1]

From paragraph 3

4. Give TWO details from this paragraph that explain why it takes so long for sloths to digest its food.

- i. _____
 ii. _____

[2]

From paragraph 4

5. Choose the best answer from A, B, C and D, and write that letter in the box.

What is the **main topic** of this paragraph?

- A. What sloths eat.
 B. Why is sloth fur green.
 C. How sloths protect their babies.
 D. Where sloths live.

[1]

From paragraph 5

6. How long does a baby sloth stay with its mother?

_____ [1]

From paragraph 6

7. (a) According to the passage, how often do sloths usually come down from the trees?

[1]

(b) Why do sloths do this? (Explain your answer to Question 7(a)).

[1]

8. What does '**This**' mean on line 24?

[1]

From paragraph 7

9. Pick out and write down a **SINGLE WORD** used in this paragraph that means 'depend on'.

[1]

From the whole passage

10. Choose the best answer from A, B, C and D, and write that letter in the box.

Which statement is **TRUE**, according to the passage?

- A. Sloths eat meat as their main food.
 B. Sloths can take almost a month to digest one meal.
 C. Baby sloths can walk within a few days of being born.
 D. Sloths have excellent eyesight.

[1]

11. Are the following statements about the passage **TRUE (T)** or **FALSE (F)**? Circle the best answer for each statement.

i. Green algae can grow on a sloth's fur.	T	F
ii. Sloths have very good eyesight.	T	F

[2]