12 Body and mind

Reading choosing the best option; multiple choice with one text

1 **Read the Exam Reminder. Is the answer usually found in just one sentence of the text?**

Exam REMINDER

Choosing the best option

- Remember that the questions follow the same order as the information in the text.
- You may have to read several sentences and understand a bigger section of the text to get the answer to a question.
- Don't choose an answer just because you see the same word in the text. Read the section carefully to make sure it is the best answer.
- Make sure you read all the answer options before choosing one.

Brain games for dogs

As we all know, the brain is the body's control centre, managing everything from sneezing to swallowing. It is common for people to play 'brain games' to keep their minds active as they grow older. This often involves things like crosswords or number games like *sudoku*, but scientists in Vienna now think that dogs may get the same benefit as humans from doing certain activities.

Of course, it is impossible to get a dog to sit down and do a crossword, but scientists have trained dogs to play games with a touchscreen. They even call it 'dog sudoku' and hope it can stop dogs from becoming bored and unhappy in their later life.

The Vienna research centre is called the Clever Dog Lab and has tested the touchscreen system on over 100 different types of dog. The dogs were prepared for the test in three parts. In the first part, the dogs learned to approach the screen but not touch the food that was put under it. In the second part, dogs learned to match an image on the screen with a particular food. For example, when a coloured circle appeared on the screen, the dog would be allowed to eat some food which was put close to the circle. In the third part, no food was available, but the dogs were trained to press the circle with their nose.

When the dogs have done the training, the real tests can start. A small yellow circle appears and when the dog touches the circle with its nose, it receives some food. The circle moves to a new position and if the dog correctly touches this, it receives another reward. In the final stage, dogs are shown a yellow and a red circle. If they choose the correct one, they also receive something nice. If the wrong one is chosen, the screen goes blank and the dog gets another chance.



Scientists were encouraged by the fact that older dogs were able to learn difficult new tasks. They also asked the dogs' owners to check if the brain games were having an effect on their pets and some owners were amazed to see the progress their dogs were making. They also reported that the dogs were very excited before the weekly training sessions and only six of more than 100 dogs stopped coming to these. Although the tests will clearly need to be changed for humans, there does appear to be a strong link between keeping the brain active and general happiness.

2 **Read and complete the Exam Task.**

Exam TASK

Multiple choice with one text

For each question, choose the correct answer.

1 Scientists at the Vienna research centre
- A do tests on humans as well as dogs.
- B check people's brains while they're doing crosswords.
- C want dogs to stay happy when they get old.
- D are not sure how to study dogs' brain activity.

2 The training involved
- A one type of dog.
- B many different types of dog.
- C only older dogs.
- D 100 dogs.

3 In which part of the training was food given to the dogs?
- A Only in the first.
- B Only in the second.
- C In the first and second.
- D In all three parts.

4 In the test itself, the dog
- A can do the test again if it makes a mistake.
- B has to make a noise when it sees something.
- C does the whole test with one picture.
- D only gets food at the end of the test.

5 Some of the dog owners
- A said their dogs did not like the tests.
- B think older dogs cannot learn to do new things.
- C want similar tests for people.
- D made positive comments about the tests.

LIVEWORKSHEETS