Comprehension

TASK 1: Passage (Non-Fiction)

The Animal Kingdom

The Animal Kingdom is one of the largest groups of living things on Earth. Scientists estimate that millions of animal species exist, although many have not yet been discovered. Animals can be found in almost every environment, from deserts and rainforests to oceans and polar regions

Animals are classified into different groups based on their characteristics. The two main categories are: vertebrates and invertebrates. Vertebrates have a backbone and include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Invertebrates do not have a backbone and make up majority of the animal species.

Mammals are a unique group of vertebrates. They are warm-blooded, have hair or fur, and feed their young with milk. Examples of mammals include lions, whales, bats and humans. Although most mammals live on land , some spend their entire lives in water.

Animals have developed special adaptations that help them survive in their habitats. Camels can store fat in their humps, allowing them to survive for long periods with little food. Polar bears have thick fur and a layer of fat that keeps them warm in icy conditions.

Many animals depend on one another for survival. Bees collect nectar from flowers while helping plants reproduce through pollination. Cleaner fish remove parasites from larger fish and receive food in return. These relationships benefit both species.

Animals communicate in different ways . Dolphins use clicks and whistles, while elephants produce low-frequency sounds that can travel long distances. Some animals communicate through body language , scents or colourful displays.

Human activities can affect animal populations. Deforestation, pollution and climate change have caused many species to lose their habitats. As a result, some animals have become endangered and face the risk of extinction.

Conservation efforts aim to protect animals and their habitats. Wildlife reserves, breeding programmes and environmental laws help to preserve species for future generations. By learning about animals and protecting the environment, people can contribute to the survival of countless species.

1. What are the two main categories into which animals are classified? (2 marks)

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2. Why might scientists continue searching for undiscovered animal species? (2 marks)

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3. What can you infer about the importance of adaptations from paragraph 4? (2 marks)

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4. How are the relationships between bees and flowers similar to those between the cleaner fish and the larger fish? (2 marks)

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5. Why might the extinction of one animal species affect other organisms in an ecosystem? (2 marks)

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6. Based on the passage, which animal would be most likely to survive in a cold Arctic environment? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

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7. Do you think conservation efforts are necessary? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer. (3 marks)

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TASK 2: Poem

Enemies

An enemy may speak harsh words,
Or spread unkind tales each day,
Yet anger grows like a thorny vine
When we allow it to stay.

Two boys once quarreled at school,
Each blaming the other for wrong,
They crossed their arms and turned away,
And their friendship did not last long,

One day a storm flooded the field,
And both became trapped in the rain,
Together they searched for shelter,
Helping each other through the strain.

As they worked side by side that day,
The bitterness slowly disappeared,
They learned that understanding grows
When people face what they once feared

Now they greet each other with smiles,
The quarrel is long at end,
For sometimes an enemy today
May become tomorrow's friend.

1. What caused the two boys to be trapped in the rain? (2 marks)

_____

2. What does the poet mean by the phrase "anger grows like a thorny vine" in stanza 1? (2 marks)

_____

3. Why do you think the boys friendship did not last long? (2 marks)

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4. How did the storm contribute to change in the boys' relationship? (2 marks)

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5. What lesson did the boys learn from their experience? (2 marks)

_____

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6. Which stanza best shows the turning point in the poem? Give a reason for your answers. (2 marks)

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7. Do you agree with the poet's message that an enemy can become a friend? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer. (2 marks)

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