

FREE SAMPLE: THE FIRST 3 QUESTIONS

Question 1 (15 marks)

(a) According to the poster, what food does a hedgehog eat?

[3 marks]

(b) According to the poster, where does a hedgehog live?

[3 marks]

(c) In your opinion, what makes the hedgehog a good survivor? Explain your answer with reference to the poster.

[9 marks]

Optional rough work

Question 2 (20 marks)

- Give your film a name.
- Describe two scenes from your film. You should refer to storyline and sound for each scene.

Name of film:

Optional rough work

SECTION B · WRITING FOR A VARIETY OF PURPOSES

60 marks · suggested time 40 minutes

Read the following diary entry. It is written by a twelve-year-old boy, Pádraig, the night before he leaves on a journey to see an air show. Then answer the questions that follow.

DIARY ENTRY

The Diary of Pádraig Ryan

Saturday 3rd of August 1935 · 12 Quay Lane, Galway. This diary entry was written for this practice paper.

Dear Diary,

Tomorrow is the day! At dawn I shall climb aboard the enormous steam train at Galway station and depart for Dublin, where Uncle Ciarán has promised to take me to the great air show at Baldonnel. I have been counting the hours since Monday, and I am so full of anticipation that I could not eat my supper. Mam says I will make myself ill, but I cannot help it.

I have packed my satchel three times. It holds a clean shirt, two sandwiches, my sketchbook, a pencil and Granda's old brass compass, which he says will bring me luck on any adventure. I intend to draw every aeroplane I see. Perhaps one day I shall build one myself!

My sister Bríd says I am daft, because it is only an air show and not a voyage to the moon, but she has asked me twice what time I am leaving, so I believe she is jealous.

Now I must put out the lamp and try to sleep. The clock on the church tower has just struck ten. I shall dream of wings.

Your friend, Pádraig

Question 3 (10 marks)

The following words appear in the diary entry. For each word, tick the box that shows the meaning of the word as it is used in the passage. Tick one box only in each case.

(a) enormous

[2 marks]

- ☐ huge
- ☐ ancient
- ☐ silent

(b) depart

[2 marks]

- ☐ stay
- ☐ leave
- ☐ return

(c) anticipation

[2 marks]

- ☐ fear of something that has happened
- ☐ excited expectation of something to come
- ☐ boredom with something familiar

(d) intend

[2 marks]

- ☐ refuse
- ☐ plan
- ☐ forget

(e) jealous

[2 marks]

- ☐ delighted
- ☐ envious
- ☐ confused

THE WORKED ANSWERS TO THOSE 3 QUESTIONS

Question 1 (15 marks)

(a) According to the poster, what food does a hedgehog eat?

What earns the marks

- Names at least three foods from the poster (beetles, worms, slugs, caterpillars, eggs).
- Uses information from the poster, not from memory.
- Writes in a clear sentence.

Model response (about 10 words)

According to the poster, a hedgehog eats beetles, worms, slugs, caterpillars and sometimes eggs.

KEY TAKEAWAY

For a 'according to' question, find the exact lines on the poster and use its words.

(b) According to the poster, where does a hedgehog live?

What earns the marks

- States that hedgehogs live in hedgerows, gardens and woods.
- Mentions the nest of leaves and grass.
- Writes a clear sentence based on the poster.

Model response (about 20 words)

The poster says that a hedgehog lives in hedgerows, gardens and woods, and that it sleeps in a cosy nest of leaves and grass.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Answer exactly what is asked: 'where' needs places, so list the places named.

(c) In your opinion, what makes the hedgehog a good survivor? Explain your answer with reference to the poster.

What earns the marks

- Gives your own opinion clearly (at least two reasons).
- Supports each reason with a fact from the poster (spines, hibernation, night-time activity, food).
- Explains how each fact helps the hedgehog to survive.
- Writes in full sentences.

Model response (about 130 words)

In my opinion, the hedgehog is a good survivor because it has clever ways of staying safe. The poster tells us that when a hedgehog is frightened, it curls into a tight ball covered in about 5,000 spines, so a fox or a dog would find it very hard to attack.

It is also good at avoiding danger because it is mostly active at night, when fewer predators and

people are around. Another reason is hibernation: in winter, when food is hard to find, the hedgehog sleeps through the coldest months and does not need to look for food.

Finally, the hedgehog can eat many different foods, such as beetles, worms, slugs and eggs, so it is unlikely to go hungry. All of these things make the hedgehog a very good survivor.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Give an opinion, then back it up: one reason, one fact from the poster, one sentence explaining how it helps.

Question 2 (20 marks)

Look carefully at the poster 'Hedgehog Facts'. You have been asked to make a short film about the life of a hedgehog. / • Give your film a name. / • Describe two scenes from your film. You should refer to storyline and sound...

What earns the marks

- Gives the film a suitable name.
- Describes two different scenes clearly, with a beginning, middle and end for each.
- Refers to storyline AND sound (music, sound effects, voice-over) in each scene.
- Uses facts from the poster to make the film believable.
- Writes in a lively, organised way.

Model response (about 190 words)

Name of film: Night Walker

Scene 1: The hedgehog wakes

As the sun sets over a quiet garden, the audience sees a pile of leaves begin to move. A small hedgehog pushes out its nose and sniffs the cool air. The storyline shows the hedgehog setting off to find food: it snuffles through the grass, finds a fat beetle and a slug and eats them. The sound is gentle: soft piano music, the chirp of crickets and the crunch of leaves under tiny feet. Then, a distant fox barks, and the music suddenly becomes low and tense.

Scene 2: Danger and safety

The storyline continues as a fox creeps through the hedge. The hedgehog freezes and curls into a tight ball of spines. The fox sniffs, paws at the ball and backs away with a yelp. The sound effects are important here: the loud thump of a heartbeat, the fox's heavy breathing and then a sharp silence when the fox leaves. In the final shot, the hedgehog uncurls, walks back to its nest of leaves and the soft piano music returns as the morning light appears.

KEY TAKEAWAY

For a scene description, say what happens (storyline) and what we hear (sound) in each scene, and use details from the text you were given.

SECTION B · WRITING FOR A VARIETY OF PURPOSES

Question 3 (10 marks)

(a) enormous

Answer: huge

'The enormous steam train' is a very large train: enormous means huge.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Use the sentence around a word to test each meaning: the one that fits the sentence is correct.

(b) depart

Answer: leave

Pádraig will 'depart for Dublin' on the train: he will leave.

KEY TAKEAWAY

A word's meaning must make sense when you put it in place of the original word in the sentence.

(c) anticipation

Answer: excited expectation of something to come

He is 'so full of anticipation' that he cannot eat: he is excited about the trip ahead.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Look at the writer's mood around a word: Pádraig is excited, so the meaning must be positive and about the future.

(d) intend

Answer: plan

'I intend to draw every aeroplane I see' means he plans to draw them.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Try each option in the sentence and read it aloud to check it makes sense.

(e) jealous

Answer: envious

Bríd asks twice when he is leaving, so Pádraig believes she is jealous: she envies him.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Notice the clues the writer gives: Bríd teases him but keeps asking questions, so she is envious.