

Year 7 English Test 2

Name: _____

Reading Comprehension

(20 marks)

The honey bee mystery



Having an entire bee colony disappear overnight is not unknown. There are written records of cases in North America and Europe from as long ago as the 1800s. At that time, unusual weather conditions were blamed. But in 2006, after a huge and sudden increase in the disappearance of bee colonies in North America, the worrying phenomenon was given a name:

Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). That year, and in many of the years since, North American and European apiarists (beekeepers) have recorded losses of up to half of their bee colonies. No-one knows exactly why, or why so far, Australia has been spared.

CCD is blamed for the death of a colony only when the following characteristics occur simultaneously:

- a complete absence of adult worker bees
- few or no dead bees evident in or near the hive
- the queen bee is present
- there is plenty of food
- there are unhatched eggs.

While you may think the absence of bees is no more than a mild inconvenience for honey-lovers, the reality is that bees are a vital link in the production of our food. Bees are responsible for pollinating about a third of the fresh produce that we eat. The shortage of bees in the USA has caused significant problems for farmers, with many having to hire honey bees from all over the country and as far away as Australia to guarantee pollination of crops. Bee-hire and transportation have become huge expenses for food growers, which in turn result in higher prices for consumers.

Scientists and beekeepers are racing against time to discover both the cause of and a cure for CCD before it is too late. Theories about climate change, pesticides, parasites and bacteria have all found favour at various times and current thinking suggests that it is a combination of all these factors that has created a 'perfect storm' of environmental stresses for bees.

Colony collapse has put bees firmly in the scientific spotlight, and it is a problem we cannot afford to ignore.

Questions

(2 marks each)

1. What led to the identification and naming of CCD?
 - written records of cases from the 1800s
 - a sharp rise in the loss of bee colonies
 - unusual weather conditions in 2006
 - an increase in the demand for honey

2. In which situation could CCD be blamed for the death of a colony?
 - The adult worker bees have disappeared, there are no dead bees surrounding the hive and the queen bee is absent.
 - The queen bee is present, there is no food and the eggs have all hatched.
 - There is no food, there are unhatched eggs and all the adult worker bees have disappeared.
 - There are no dead bees around the hive, the queen bee is present and some eggs are unhatched.

3. What is the main idea of the paragraph beginning '*While you may think*' ... ? (paragraph 4)
 - Bee shortages mean that North America will need to import produce from Australian farmers in the future.
 - Although bee colonies are disappearing, farmers are finding solutions to the problem.
 - There is money to be made in producing bees to supply to farmers.
 - Bee shortages can be very costly for farming communities.

4. Why would farmers in the USA hire bees from Australia when it is so far away?
 - Australia supplies the cheapest bees.
 - Australia's bees are the best at pollination.
 - Australia has not been affected by CCD as yet.
 - Australia produces the most honey in the world.

5. Scientists and beekeepers are racing against time ... What does this quotation imply?
 - It is simply a matter of time before a solution is found.
 - Research is proceeding at a rapid rate.
 - The scientists want to be the first to solve the problem.
 - There is a degree of urgency involved in this issue.

Leeches

Leeches are small blood sucking parasite worms that love to attach themselves to humans and animals. Leeches are found on all continents and seas, except terrestrial Antarctica, and they can be found in freshwater and marine aquatic ecosystems, as well as moist terrestrial ecosystems like rain forests.



If you are walking through a damp forest or swimming in a river in leech-prone area, you may find something thick, black, and shiny clinging to your skin. To make matters worse, it may be fat because it is full of your blood. Your first thought would probably be, how do I get this disgusting thing off?

Leeches weren't always viewed as so horrible. In the early 1800s they were seen as being useful as a cure for a whole range of diseases. Leeches have something in their saliva which stops blood from clotting (or thickening). This allows the leech to have its fill of free-flowing blood before dropping off. Medicine today still takes advantage of leeches' ability to stop blood from clotting which can be very helpful during operations.

Leeches have suckers on each end of their body that help them to move. One of these suckers is actually a mouth. Once a leech has hold of you it uses its saw-like jaws to pierce the skin and suck blood. Leeches have been known to suck up to ten times their own body weight in blood.

If you are unlucky enough to get a leech on you, the easiest way to remove it is to pour some salt onto it. Mental note:

PACK SALT IF CAMPING IN LEECH-PRONE AREAS!

Failing this (warning—it's a bit messier) you could also just pull the little creature off.

Questions

(2 marks each)

1. What helps a leech to move about?
 - its saw-like jaws
 - suckers on its body
 - being able to suck blood
 - something in its saliva
2. Why might a leech's body size change?
 - It can use saliva to make its body clot or thicken.
 - It has special suckers, which make it grow quickly.
 - It can suck up to ten times its own weight in blood.
 - It can use salt and vinegar to make its body expand.

3. What can be used to remove a leech?
 - medicine
 - saliva
 - salt
 - water

4. The text tells us that during the early 1800s leeches were seen as
 - a cure for many diseases.
 - helpful during operations.
 - horrible bloodsucking pests.
 - a problem when camping.

5. In paragraph 3, the words in brackets – ‘*or thickening*’ - help to explain the way blood
 - flows.
 - clots.
 - gushes.
 - dries.

Spelling

(8 marks)

1. His toe became swolen after he kicked it. _____

2. The outdoor light attrax many bugs when it is left on. _____

3. The army made the new recroots complete an obstacle course.

4. Mum sighed with impatients . _____

5. A lioness fearcely guards her cubs. _____

6. We had to detoor through back streets because the highway was being repaired.

7. The graphick designer is responsible for the layout of the magazine.

8. Maps have simbols to show vegetation and other significant features.

Language Usage

(7 marks)

1. Tick the sentence that is punctuated correctly.
 - The summer months in England are June, July and August.
 - The summer months in England, are June, July and August.
 - The summer months in England are, June, July, and August.
 - The summer months in England, are June July and August.
2. Underline the sentence where there is a word that needs an apostrophe.
 - My whole schools taking part in the fun run.
 - All the dogs started barking at once.
 - The bees were buzzing around the flowers.
 - My favourite sports are swimming and netball.
3. Tick the sentence that is punctuated correctly.
 - We finally met the new neighbours the house had been empty for ages.
 - Soccer is my favourite sport. I watch it and play it whenever I can.
 - As soon as Dad gets home from work. We are going to wash the car.
 - Close the window please the rain is blowing onto the floor.
4. Tick the sentence that is correct.
 - My first flight in a aeroplane was very exciting.
 - I would love to ride in an hot air balloon next.
 - When I grow up I want to become an astronaut.
 - It would be thrilling to fly in a actual space rocket.
5. What does the word '*it*' refer to the second sentence? (Tick the right answer).

I like to visit our community library. On Tuesdays there is a playgroup after school and on Wednesdays there is an art club, but on Thursdays *it* closes early.

- the library
- an activity
- a playgroup
- the art club

6. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

We're going to the museum after this,

- aren't we?
- won't we?
- shall we?
- should we?

7. Which pair of words completes this sentence correctly?

Sara _____ a book while her brother _____ a game.

- was reading; was playing
- is reading; was playing
- reads; has played
- read; has played

Writing (120 – 150 words) (15 marks)

Choose:

- Roaming dogs of Fiji
 - Roaming cats of Fiji
- OR**

Write to persuade a reader that they should see or read what you have chosen to write about.

- Write your title and start with an introduction. An introduction lets a reader know what you are going to write about.
- Write your opinion on the topic. Give reasons for your opinion. Explain your reasons.
- Finish with a conclusion. A conclusion sums up your reasons so that a reader is convinced of your opinion.

Remember to:

- plan your writing in dot points on a separate piece of paper.
- use paragraphs to organise your ideas
- write in sentences
- choose your words carefully to convince a reader of your opinion
- pay attention to your spelling and punctuation
- check and edit your writing so it is clear.

Lined writing area consisting of multiple horizontal dashed lines for text entry.

Score: /50