

Year 4 English Assessment: The Art of Penmanship

Learning objective: To demonstrate fluent, joined handwriting, consistent letter sizing, and appropriate spacing whilst maintaining legibility.

Read each task carefully. Ensure your letters are formed correctly and your joins are consistent. Use your best cursive handwriting throughout this assessment.

Max the monkey sat under the ancient oak tree. He carefully opened his notebook to record the total number of bananas he had gathered for the group. 'If I have three bunches at £2.50 each,' he pondered, 'the total cost is £7.50.' He wrote the figures neatly on the line, ensuring every letter sat perfectly upon the baseline. Precision is the key to clear communication.

Word bank: ascender · descender · cursive · baseline · legibility · proportion · horizontal · diagonal · fluency

1. Identify two letters in the word 'monkey' that are classified as ascenders. Explain why these letters are given this name. (2 marks)

2. Look at the word 'descender'. Which letter in this word drops below the baseline? Write the word again, focusing on the correct exit stroke. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the letter 'a' and the letter 'o'. How should the size of these letters compare to the letter 'l' in your cursive script? (3 marks)

4. Why is it important to maintain a consistent slant in your handwriting? Justify your answer by explaining how it affects the reader. (3 marks)

5. Rewrite the following sentence in your neatest cursive style, ensuring all joins are fluid: 'Zara the zebra painted a vibrant pattern across the canvas using bright colours.' (5 marks)

6. What might happen to a piece of writing if the spacing between words is inconsistent? Explain the impact on the audience. (5 marks)

7. Describe the function of the 'exit stroke' when joining the letters 'i' and 'n'. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a small, detailed diagram of an ascender and a descender using a lined guide to show how they relate to the baseline.



Extension challenge: Write a short, persuasive paragraph (4-6 sentences) about why handwriting remains a vital skill in the digital age. Focus on your letter formation, consistent sizing, and the rhythm of your joins. Total: /25