

Year 4 Assessment: The Power of Paragraphs

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to organise writing into coherent paragraphs, maintain structural focus, and use cohesive devices effectively.

Read the instructions carefully for each section. Use your best handwriting and ensure your punctuation is accurate. This test is worth 25 marks in total.

Max the monkey sat in the high branches of the rainforest canopy. He was busy counting the colourful tropical fruits he had collected for his friends. He had gathered four mangoes, three papayas, and a bunch of bananas. Each piece of fruit cost 50p at the jungle market, meaning he had spent £4.00 in total. Max felt very clever indeed. Suddenly, he noticed a rustle in the leaves nearby. A tiny, golden frog hopped onto the branch. Max gasped in surprise, wondering if the frog wanted to help him solve his fruit-based maths puzzles.

Word bank: cohesion · chronological · theme · paragraph · conjunction · subheading · structure · transition

1. Identify the two main themes present in the passage above. How does the current structure help the reader understand these themes? (2 marks)

2. If you were to split this passage into two separate paragraphs, where would you place the break and why? Justify your decision using the word 'theme'. (3 marks)

3. Explain why paragraphs are essential for a reader when they are navigating a long piece of non-fiction text, such as a report on rainforest habitats. (3 marks)

4. Write a transition sentence that could be placed between two paragraphs to help the reader move from a description of Max counting fruit to a description of the mysterious frog. (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the function of a paragraph in a narrative story versus an instructional manual. How does the focus change? (4 marks)

6. Identify one cohesive device (a word or phrase) used in the passage that links the events together. Explain how it improves the flow of the writing. (3 marks)

7. Creative Writing Task: Write three short, distinct paragraphs describing an afternoon adventure with Pip the caterpillar. Paragraph 1: Pip finds a new book. Paragraph 2: Pip begins to read and gets lost in the story. Paragraph 3: Pip shares what he has learned with a friend. Ensure each paragraph has a clear focus. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing how a paragraph acts like a 'container' for a single idea. Label the 'container' with the topic of the idea, and show different sentences fitting inside it like puzzle pieces.



Extension challenge: What might happen to the quality of a story if a writer never used paragraphs at all? Write a persuasive argument explaining why paragraphs are the 'architectural framework' of a successful piece of writing. Total: /25