

Year 5 Grammar Assessment: Mastery of Modal Verbs

Learning objective: To identify, use, and evaluate the effect of modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility, necessity, and obligation.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of how modal verbs change the meaning of a sentence. Write clearly and ensure your spelling and grammar are accurate.

Max the monkey is preparing for his annual Maths Challenge. He says, 'I will win the trophy this year, but I might need to practise my division first. If I study hard, I could achieve a perfect score. My friends say I must focus, and I certainly shall do my best.'

Word bank: might · should · must · could · shall · would · can · will · may

1. Identify two modal verbs from the passage above. Write them down and explain what degree of certainty each one expresses. (2 marks)

2. Rewrite this sentence to show a higher degree of possibility: 'The rain might stop by lunchtime.' (2 marks)

3. Insert the most appropriate modal verb into the blank space to show strong obligation: 'You _____ complete your homework before you go out to play.' (1 mark)

4. Compare the two sentences below. Explain how the change in the modal verb alters the meaning of the sentence for the reader. 1. 'We could visit the library.' 2. 'We must visit the library.' (4 marks)

5. Max is planning his study schedule. Write three sentences using different modal verbs to describe his plans, ensuring you show a range of obligation (e.g., strong vs. weak). (6 marks)

6. Justify why a writer might choose to use the modal verb 'might' instead of 'will' when writing a story about a character's future. What effect does this have on the reader? (5 marks)

7. Creative Writing Task: Imagine Pip the bookworm is trying to convince Nova the owl to go on an adventure. Write a short paragraph (approx. 50 words) using at least four different modal verbs to persuade her. Total: /25 (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Max the monkey is looking at a complex maths puzzle. In a speech bubble above his head, write a sentence containing a modal verb that describes his determination to solve it.



*Extension challenge: What might happen to the tone of a formal report if the writer replaced every instance of 'must' with 'could'? Write a short explanation of how this change impacts the authority of the document.
Total: /25*