

Year 6 Assessment: The Power of Paragraphs

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to organise writing into effective paragraphs using cohesion, topic sentences, and structural transitions.

Read the instructions for each question carefully. Use your best handwriting and ensure your answers are punctuated correctly. Remember to use cohesive devices to link your ideas.

Max the monkey was busy preparing for his jungle maths competition. First, he gathered his collection of polished pebbles, arranging them into neat groups of ten. He checked his clipboard twice to ensure every calculation was accurate. Suddenly, a bright flash of light caught his eye. Looking up, he saw Nova the owl gliding gracefully toward his study tree. She carried a scroll of complex geometric puzzles that they were meant to solve together before the sunset.

Word bank: cohesion · topic sentence · chronological · transition · conjunctions · subordinate clauses · thematic · paragraph break

1. Identify the topic sentence in the passage provided. Why is this sentence important for the structure of the paragraph? (2 marks)

2. If you were to write a second paragraph describing Nova's arrival, what would be the most logical focus for that new paragraph? (2 marks)

3. Explain why we use paragraph breaks in a piece of narrative writing. Give one specific reason. (2 marks)

4. Rewrite the following two sentences as one, using a cohesive device to link them: 'Max felt nervous about the competition. He knew he had practised enough to win.' (2 marks)

5. In the passage, identify two cohesive devices (e.g., adverbs of time or conjunctions) that help the paragraph flow smoothly. (2 marks)

6. Read this jumbled paragraph: [1] Finally, he polished his glasses. [2] Leo the lion prepared his speech for the jungle assembly. [3] First, he drafted his main points on a leaf. [4] Next, he practised his roaring volume to ensure everyone could hear him. Reorder these sentences to create a logical sequence. Explain why you chose this order. (4 marks)

7. Imagine Pip the bookworm is starting a new story about a hidden library. Write two paragraphs (approximately 60-80 words total). The first paragraph should describe the setting, and the second should introduce Pip finding a dusty, old book. Ensure you use a clear transition between the two paragraphs. (5 marks)

8. Look at the word 'Suddenly' in the passage. What is the grammatical term for this type of word, and what function does it serve in a paragraph? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing how a 'topic sentence' acts as the foundation for a paragraph, using bricks or building blocks to represent supporting sentences.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Rewrite your two-paragraph story from Question 7, but this time, use a 'fronted adverbial' to start each paragraph to improve the flow and impact of your writing.