

Year 6 English Assessment: The Precision of Punctuation

Learning objective: To demonstrate mastery of Year 6 punctuation, including colons, semi-colons, dashes, and the correct use of commas and apostrophes.

Read each question carefully. Use your best handwriting and ensure your punctuation marks are clear. Max, our maths-loving monkey, suggests you check your work twice!

Max the monkey was preparing for his grand jungle expedition. He packed his essential gear: a map, a compass, a sturdy rope, and his favourite notebook. He felt ready to explore the ancient ruins; however, he needed to double-check his supply list. The weather—which had been sunny all morning—was beginning to turn grey. 'Don't forget the snacks!' chirped Bea the bee, flying overhead.

Word bank: colon · semi-colon · dash · parenthesis · apostrophe · ellipsis

1. In the passage, identify the reason why a colon was used after the word 'gear'. (2 marks)

2. Explain the function of the semi-colon in the sentence: 'He felt ready to explore the ancient ruins; however, he needed to double-check his supply list.' (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentence using a pair of dashes to include extra information: 'The map was hidden inside the hollow tree.' (2 marks)

4. Add the missing apostrophes to the following sentence: 'The monkeys tail twitched as he looked at the explorers bag, which contained all of his friends supplies.' (3 marks)

5. Why is a comma required after the word 'morning' in the sentence: 'The weather—which had been sunny all morning—was beginning to turn grey.' (2 marks)

6. Rewrite this simple sentence to include a colon to introduce a list and a semi-colon to separate two independent clauses: 'Nova the owl gathered items for her stargazing kit. She took a telescope, a star chart, and a warm flask of tea. She felt prepared for the night ahead.' (4 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (approximately 50-75 words) describing an adventure Pip the caterpillar has in the garden. You must use at least one colon, one semi-colon, and one pair of dashes correctly. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Pip the caterpillar is looking at a map, using a magnifying glass to read the tiny details.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Can you add a sentence to your paragraph above that uses an ellipsis to create a sense of mystery or suspense?