Year 6 Assessment: Non-Chronological Reports

Learning objective: To assess understanding of the structure, language features, and purpose of non-chronological reports.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure your answers use formal language and clear explanations.

The Majestic Barn Owl (Tyto alba) is a nocturnal bird of prey found across the British Isles. Recognised by its heart-shaped facial disc and silent flight, the Barn Owl is a fascinating subject for wildlife enthusiasts. These birds primarily hunt small mammals, such as field voles, using their exceptional hearing to locate prey in total darkness. Their feathers possess unique serrated edges that dampen the sound of air rushing over their wings, allowing them to approach targets undetected. Unlike many other birds, they do not build traditional nests; instead, they prefer to roost in hollow trees, old barns, or man-made nest boxes. Conservation efforts are vital, as the loss of suitable hunting grounds can significantly impact their population numbers.

Word bank: sub-headings · factual · third-person · technical vocabulary · present tense · bullet points · classification

1. Identify two linguistic features typical of a non-chronological report that are present in the text above. (2 marks)

2. Explain why a non-chronological report is written in the third person rather than the first person. (2 marks)

3. Why are sub-headings used in this type of writing? How do they help the reader? (3 marks)

4. Identify one example of technical vocabulary used in the passage and explain its meaning in context. (3 marks)

5. Nova the owl wants to write a report about 'The Life Cycle of a Star'. Suggest two appropriate sub-headings she could use to organise her information. (2 marks)

6. Based on the text, why is it important for the Barn Owl to have silent flight? Refer to the text in your answer. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (approximately 50-70 words) for a new section of the report titled 'Threats to the Barn Owl'. Ensure you use a formal tone and at least one piece of factual information. (5 marks)

8. Why is it important to use a glossary at the end of a non-chronological report? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a Barn Owl and label three of its physical features, as if you were creating an illustration for a non-chronological report.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Imagine you are writing a report on 'The Cost of Wildlife Conservation'. If a charity needs £500 for nest boxes and each box costs £25, how many boxes can they purchase? Show your working.