Year 6 Science Assessment: The Digestive System

Learning objective: To identify and explain the functions of the organs in the human digestive system and understand how nutrients are transported.

Read each question carefully. Use your scientific knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure you use correct biological terminology.

Nova the barn owl has been observing human habits. She notices that humans eat a wide variety of foods to gain energy. Once food enters the mouth, it begins a long journey through the body, being broken down and transformed so that the body can use it to grow and stay healthy.

Word bank: oesophagus · stomach · small intestine · large intestine · nutrients · saliva · rectum · absorption

1. 1. Explain the role of the mouth and saliva at the very beginning of the digestive process. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. 2. Max the monkey is curious about how food moves from the mouth to the stomach. Name the tube that connects them and describe the action it uses to move food. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. 3. What is the primary function of the small intestine in the digestive system? (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. 4. Describe what happens to the waste material once it reaches the large intestine. (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. 5. Compare the functions of the stomach and the large intestine. How do their roles differ in the way they handle food? (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. 6. Bea the honeybee knows that a healthy diet provides energy. Explain the process of how nutrients from our food eventually reach all parts of the human body to provide energy. (6 marks) (6 marks)

7. 7. Why is it important for the human body to remove waste products? (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a simple diagram of the human digestive system, labelling the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, and large intestine.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine you are a piece of toast travelling through the digestive system. Write a short diary entry describing your journey from the mouth to the final stages of digestion.