Nova’s Guide to Human Teeth

Learning objective: To describe the roles of different types of human teeth in the digestive system.

Use the writing frame below to construct a report explaining the functions of our teeth. Ensure you use scientific vocabulary to describe how our teeth help us process food.

Our teeth are remarkable tools that play a vital role in the initial stage of the digestive process.

Word bank: incisors · canines · premolars · molars · mastication · digestive system · enamel · mechanical breakdown · specialised · consequently · furthermore

1. Introduction: Describe the primary purpose of teeth in the human body. Start with: The human digestive system begins in the mouth, where teeth are responsible for... (2 marks)

2. Incisors and Canines: Explain the shape and function of front teeth. Start with: Incisors are sharp and chisel-shaped, which allows them to... (3 marks)

3. Premolars and Molars: Explain the function of back teeth. Start with: Located at the back of the mouth, molars and premolars have a larger surface area because... (3 marks)

4. The Importance of Enamel: Why is the outer layer of the tooth important? Start with: Protecting the inner structure of the tooth is the enamel, which is crucial because... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why different types of teeth are needed for a varied diet. Start with: In conclusion, humans possess different types of teeth because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research and write a short paragraph explaining the difference between the set of teeth a human has as a child compared to the set of teeth an adult has.