The Magnificent Moon-Glider: A Non-Chronological Report

Learning objective: To identify and use the structural and linguistic features of a non-chronological report.

Read the report below about the fictional Moon-Glider moth. Use the information to answer the questions that follow, paying close attention to the subheadings and technical vocabulary.

The Moon-Glider (Luna volans) is a fascinating insect found in the high-altitude forests of the Silver Peaks. It is famous for its glowing wings which help it navigate through the darkest nights.

Appearance
The Moon-Glider has a wingspan of up to 15 centimetres. Its body is covered in soft, silver fur, and its wings display a unique pattern of glowing blue spots. Scientists call this phenomenon bioluminescence. It has six legs and a pair of long, sensitive antennae used to detect changes in the air pressure.

Habitat and Diet
These insects thrive in cool, misty environments. They spend their days resting under the bark of ancient pine trees to stay hidden from predators. As a nocturnal creature, the Moon-Glider emerges at sunset to feed. Its diet consists primarily of the nectar from night-blooming jasmine flowers.

Life Cycle
Like all moths, the Moon-Glider begins its life as a tiny egg laid on a leaf. After two weeks, it hatches into a caterpillar, or larva. It spends most of this stage eating leaves before building a silk cocoon. After three months, the adult Moon-Glider emerges, ready to take flight.

Word bank: habitat · nocturnal · bioluminescence · thorax · larva · subheading · caption · classification

1. Identify two features of a non-chronological report used in the text above. (2 marks)

2. Based on the text, explain what 'bioluminescence' means in your own words. (2 marks)

3. Why is the Moon-Glider described as a 'nocturnal' creature? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

4. Look at the 'Life Cycle' section. How long does the Moon-Glider spend in the cocoon stage? (1 mark)

5. Why do you think the author included subheadings in this report? Explain the benefit for the reader. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed labelled diagram of the Moon-Glider. Ensure you include labels for the thorax, the glowing wings, and the antennae, just like a real scientist would in a field report.

Extension challenge: Research a real insect found in the UK. Write one new paragraph for the report above using a formal tone, including a new subheading such as 'Interesting Facts' or 'Threats to Survival'.