

TEST 2: Reading

Instructions

- A correct answer scores 1 mark, and an incorrect answer scores 0.
- Marks are not deducted for incorrect answers.
- No marks are given if more than one answer alternative is shaded.
- Choose the alternative which most correctly answers the question and shade in the box next to it.

Section A: Narrative

Read the following narrative and then answer the questions that follow.

Chewy Under the Table

Steven Cumper

Morgan was seven years old and he noticed things. He'd just had a baby sister arrive and the house was a mess. His Mum and Dad were yelling a lot [...]

On Sundays his family would go over to Grandma and Grandpa's house to help out with chores and stuff. After this, Dad, Grandpa and Uncle Frank shouted at the footy match on TV. Mum was kept busy with baby Charlotte, and Morgan didn't think she minded being left alone [...]

Morgan noticed that Grandma had curly hair, wore a faded floral pinnie and smelled of Lux and sweat. He would help her on these mornings and prattled away whilst she nodded and chopped, grated, stirred and sliced. The little kitchen was bustling and the air was filled with the sweet smell of stewing Granny Smiths and the expectation of a yummy roast. Morgan watched fascinated as his Grandma grunted and groaned while she laboriously rolled pastry, her upper arms wobbling furiously where her muscles should have been [...]

The table was set, complete with a jug of steaming Gravox and a haphazard stack of thickly buttered white bread. Everybody hoed into the roast with a vigorous salting and mopping of gravy [...] Mum and baby Charlotte retired early to the lounge to watch the muscled, sweaty men on Epic Theatre. Grandma cleared up and, with a twang of the screen door, went outside to listen to the trannie and the tweeting of Mr Chips, the budgie, on the porch. Morgan retreated quietly to his spot under the table.

The hairy legs of his Dad, Grandpa and Uncle Frank looked skinny and funny down there. It was getting really loud at the table and the men's voices had changed. They were becoming more and more excited, and Morgan felt the table being thumped menacingly several times. [...] It was usually about this time that he noticed the little wads of dried chewing gum poked into the corners of the kitchen table. There must have been 'hundreds of 'em', he thought, mouthing the words quietly to himself over the noise above. He began to count them, like he had the week before and the week before that, each time finding a couple more new, still soft ones [...]



Soon it would be over and Grandma's soft, furry kiss would signal the time to leave. Grandpa had gone off for a rest and Uncle Frank helped Dad into the car. With his Mum's jaw set grimly, they drove toward home at dusk. Baby Charlotte was lying quietly in the bassinet on the back seat and his dad was snoring heavily in the front. Their stationwagon glided through the darkening streets. Morgan looked over to his Mum behind the wheel and thought about telling her. Instead, he pressed his face to the cold window and exhaled expanding breath clouds onto it before drawing smiley pictures with his fingers. 'Dragon's breath,' his dad would call it. He gazed into the windows of passing strangers' homes that momentarily flashed their warm, yellow glow across his face. He wanted to tell his mum that today he had counted to 273.

Shade the correct box to answer the following questions:

1 Morgan's house was a mess because

- ☐ he noticed things.
- ☐ his mother and father were in a hurry as they were going out.
- ☒ he had a new baby in the family.
- ☐ he was seven years old.

SHADE ONE BOX



2 Morgan's family went to visit his Grandma and Grandpa's house on Sunday so

- ☒ they could help do some jobs.
- ☐ they could have a big roast dinner.
- ☐ Grandma could take care of Charlotte.
- ☐ they could watch the football.

SHADE ONE BOX



3 'The little kitchen was bustling' tells us

- ☐ the house was on a busy road.
- ☒ a lot of activity was taking place.
- ☐ Morgan was playing with his toys.
- ☐ it was an interesting place to be.

SHADE ONE BOX



4 'Everybody hoed into the roast' means

- ☐ Grandma was not a very good cook.
- ☐ Morgan enjoyed Sundays.
- ☒ everyone ate heartily and fast.
- ☐ the family enjoyed being together.

SHADE ONE BOX



5 Morgan usually noticed the chewing gum under the table

- ☐ while he was watching the football on television.
- ☐ as soon as he got under the table.
- ☒ not until the men's voices got louder.
- ☐ when his Grandma went out on the porch.

SHADE ONE BOX



6 Morgan thought about telling his mother that

- ☐ his father was snoring too loudly.
- ☐ Charlotte was asleep in the backseat.
- ☐ he had drawn smiley faces on the car window.
- ☒ he had counted a lot of pieces of gum today.

SHADE ONE BOX



Section B: Recount

Read the following recount and then answer the questions that follow.

The Cat Show

Last weekend I took my two Maine Coon cats, Puzzle and Kynan, to a cat show. It was held near the Blue Mountains in New South Wales. There were many different breeds of cats and kittens. This cat show was a great place to learn about having cats as pets. The cat was first domesticated about 5,000 years ago in Ancient Egypt so people have had them as pets for a very long time.

Preparations began several days before so that my cats would be in top show condition. Everyday grooming they did for themselves but preparing for a show takes extra human help. Cat shows are beauty competitions with set standards for different breeds.

The first thing I did was clip their claws because cats that live indoors are not able to do their own manicures on tree trunks. It was important to do this so my cats did not accidentally scratch a judge.

The next step was to give them a bath; luckily my cats enjoyed having a bath. I used special cat shampoo and conditioner that makes their fur soft and smell nice. After their baths Puzzle and Kynan needed to be brushed to remove any loose fur and matting.

When we arrived my cats were checked by a vet. I was then given the number for their cages. All the cages were set out on tables and in rows in a big hall. After I put curtains in the cages and gave them a quick brush they were settled and ready for the judging.

It took about two hours for the judging. The judges took the cats out, picked them up and held them in order to award points. After the judges finished looking at all the cats they had to go away and add up all the points and work out which cat was the best of their breed. Once they had finished then they worked out which cat was the very best cat for the day from all the breeds.

Puzzle and Kynan had a good day and won lots of ribbons and prizes. They also enjoyed the children who stopped and said hello throughout the day. We were all tired and had a long drive back; they slept all the way home.





Shade the correct box to answer the following questions:

- 1 'The cat was first domesticated about 5,000 years ago . . . '

This tells us that cats

- ☐ were first found in Egypt.
- ☐ had very high standards.
- ☐ had limited breeds.
- ☒ were kept as pets.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 2 According to the text, Puzzle and Kynan had a bath

- ☐ because they can't wash themselves.
- ☐ because cats are dirty animals.
- ☐ to prepare their fur for clipping.
- ☒ to prepare their coats to impress the judges.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 3 According to the text cats have their claws clipped before a show because

- ☐ they can't do it for themselves.
- ☐ the nails grow too quickly for the cat to manage.
- ☒ they might accidentally injure a judge.
- ☐ they can't go to the nail shop for a manicure.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 4 What is the most important point / message in this story?

- ☒ The cats enjoy the experience and all the attention.
- ☐ The judges get to compare lots of different cats.
- ☐ Cats are important throughout history.
- ☐ It is a very tiring day and a long distance to travel.

SHADE ONE BOX



Section C: Expository

Read the following expository text and then answer the questions that follow.

TravelSmart Snapshots

TravelSmart Snapshots

strong increases in public transport patronage

making it easy to find local services

cheaper and more sustainable ways of getting around

Western Australia

In Western Australia, *TravelSmart Household*, a personalised travel information service, helps the community make better use of the available travel options by replacing car trips with walking, cycling and public transport.

This approach, pioneered in Western Australia, is now informing similar approaches throughout Australia, North America and Europe. It proves that car use (km driven) can be reduced by around 13 per cent.

The WA *TravelSmart Household* program involves 258,000 residents across seventeen metropolitan communities. The project resulted in strong increases in public transport patronage, annual reductions achieved in the first eight communities of 100 million car kilometres (equivalent to taking 6,600 cars off the road) and saving 30,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas.

Victoria

TravelSmart Victoria is running the largest multi-modal household travel behaviour change program in the world. Working in the western suburbs of the Cities of Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley, the program will reach 50,000 households.

In addition, Victoria is testing new travel behaviour change methodologies for schools and workplaces in congested areas in the Melbourne metropolitan area. These include new car pooling software, a project promoting walking and cycling through the use of pedometers and cycle speedometers and software allowing employers to calculate the dollar costs how their staff travel. For schools, the program is developing and testing a guide to producing school travel plans.

In 2005-06, *TravelSmart* will seek to develop green travel plans for 50 large employers in the Melbourne CBD as part of an effort to alleviate traffic congestion expected with the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Queensland

Queensland implements the full range of voluntary *TravelSmart* programs in schools, workplaces, communities and destinations.

TravelSmart Destination projects are among some of Queensland's most successful projects. Large destinations such as universities are well positioned to encourage students, staff and visitors to minimize car trips.

James Cook University in Townsville and the Queensland University of Technology's Kelvin Grove campus have been the first to take the lead in helping to reduce traffic, improve health and preserve the environment.

James Cook University reduced emissions and achieved a 20 per cent reduction in car use. Queensland University of Technology achieved a 9 per cent increase in train use, and a 16 per cent increase in bus use. There has also been an 18.5 per cent increase in walking and cycling. The strategies to achieve these results included a range of promotional activities and policy initiatives.

New South Wales

The first *TravelSmart Households* pilot program in NSW has taken place recently in Ermington and Woy Woy. About 5,600 households were invited to participate in a program designed to encourage residents to leave the car at home. Following the program's evaluation, results will be published and future directions considered.

NSW also assists trip generators to produce transport access guides that provide customised sustainable transport information for people travelling to and from a particular site.

The University of Newcastle developed a comprehensive transport access plan for the Central Coast Campus at Ourimbah. As a result, the University is implementing improved travel information and transport services, improved parking management, as well as infrastructure improvements for cyclists and pedestrians.

South Australia

TravelSmart in South Australia is working closely with other government agencies, the Australian Greenhouse Office and primary schools to reduce transport-related greenhouse emissions.

The *Green Travel Challenge* aims to increase the number of primary school students using sustainable modes of transport for trips to school and engage primary schools in activities that educate and challenge students to walk, cycle or car pool to school.

The *Green Travel Challenge* is delivered to schools via a CD-ROM package or on-line on the Transport SA website.

It is anticipated that approximately 1,000 students will complete the challenge by July 2005 from schools within South Australia.

An extensive program is also active in South Australia to support households and communities to make positive changes in their travel patterns.

Australian Capital Territory

In Canberra, *TravelSmart* is an integral component of the ACT's *Sustainable Transport Plan*. The ACT's *TravelSmart* program consists of *TravelSmart Workplaces* and *TravelSmart Households*.

TravelSmart Workplaces involves developing customised Travel Plans for five workplaces to encourage staff to leave their cars at home and use healthier, more sustainable modes of transport as a means of travelling to and from work. Some innovative ideas such as car-pooling, working from home, teleconferencing are suggested. Staff, employers and the local neighbourhood are expected to realize many benefits once the plans have been implemented.

A pilot study, *Households on the Move*, was conducted to test the idea that moving house is an opportune time to establish healthier, more sustainable travel habits. Following this, a large scale *TravelSmart Households* program is being developed targeting at least 11,000 households.

Shade the correct box to answer the following questions:

SHADE ONE BOX



1 The purpose of TravelSmart Snapshots is to

- ☐ make life easier for everyone.
- ☐ make people walk to get healthy.
- ☐ encourage students to wear hats.
- ☒ promote awareness of alternative transport.

2 How many Western Australians are involved in this project?

- ☐ 6600
- ☐ 30 000
- ☒ 258 000
- ☐ 100 million

SHADE ONE BOX



3 Which definition best describes the program?

- ☐ more buses
- ☒ innovative
- ☐ snapshot
- ☐ public service

SHADE ONE BOX



4 According to the text, which State or Territory is developing the ideas of car-pooling and using the opportunity of moving house to start better habits?

- ☐ Queensland
- ☐ New South Wales
- ☐ South Australia
- ☒ Australian Capital Territory

SHADE ONE BOX



5 How is the 'Green Travel Challenge' delivered to schools in South Australia?

- ☒ electronic media
- ☐ local television
- ☐ school newsletters
- ☐ community meetings

SHADE ONE BOX



Section D: Informative

Read the following informative text and then answer the questions that follow.

Shark Tales Inspired Terror Through the Ages

The Daily Telegraph Tuesday Jan 13, 2009 p35.

These sleek fish have intrigued for centuries.

Troy Lennon

Sharks were here millions of years before people. But as soon as humans first came into contact with elasmobranchii, the two species developed a love-hate relationship. Many sharks are dangerous predators, yet some are gentle. Even those that are dangerous at least earn the respect of people who make their living on the ocean and some even became important resources.

In ancient Greece, legends tell of shark-like sea monsters devouring those who strayed too near their demesne.

Shark myths are also prevalent in Asia.

For thousands of years Asians have been making shark-fin soup. It is considered a delicacy in nations such as China, where there is a myth that it is an aphrodisiac. There are records of shark-fin soup recipes going back to ancient times.

The soup is only made from the fin, many shark fisherman catch the animal, cut off its fin and then leave it to die. Many countries have banned shark finning but the practice continues.

When Melanesian and Polynesian people spread out across the Pacific over several centuries from about 1300BC, they came to fear the shark and even, in some cases, respect and worship it.

Australian Aborigines also revered sharks. Sharks' teeth were used for spear tips and jewellery, the skin could be used like sandpaper and nutrients could be obtained from shark meat. But the shark is also the animal totem for many clans.

Meriam Islanders or Murray people tell a legend of a father and son being stranded in the sea without their canoe. Sharks brushed the feet of the pair but did not harm them because the creature was their totem and it protected them. The name of the one clan on the island is Shark.

Aborigines in the Northern Territory tell of Mana, a shark ancestor who named many of the natural features of the coast, created their homeland and gave birth to all of the sharks in the ocean. Another Dreamtime story tells of Bul Mandji, who is killed by ancestral warrior Murayana using a special magic stingray spear. Bul Mandji is then carved up and the parts of his body become the ancestral lands of various people.

For some Indigenous Australians the constellation of the Southern Cross, only visible at night, shows a shark that is chasing a stingray across the sky.



Shade the correct box to answer the following questions:

1 The main impression this text gives is that humans

- ☐ have little respect for sharks.
- ☐ think sharks can do no wrong.
- ☒ have an ambivalent relationship with sharks.
- ☐ view sharks as solely evil and troublesome.

SHADE ONE BOX



2 The purpose of this text is to

- ☒ tell interesting stories about the relationship between people and sharks.
- ☐ provide scientific research about sharks.
- ☐ promote shark conservation.
- ☐ dispel myths about sharks.

SHADE ONE BOX



3 'These sleek fish have intrigued for centuries.'

What does 'these sleek fish' mean?

- ☒ That sharks have smooth bodies.
- ☐ That sharks are fascinating.
- ☐ That sharks are dangerous.
- ☐ That sharks live in the sea.

SHADE ONE BOX



4 According to the text, 'shark finning' is

- ☐ cruel.
- ☒ banned in some countries.
- ☐ an ancient name for catching sharks.
- ☐ essential to make shark fin soup.

SHADE ONE BOX



5 According to the text, 'Australian Aborigines also revered sharks'.

What does the word 'revered' mean?

- ☐ They were afraid of sharks.
- ☐ They made shark fin soup.
- ☒ They respected and admired the sharks.
- ☐ They often kept sharks as pets.

SHADE ONE BOX



6 'The constellation of the Southern Cross' is

- ☐ jewellery made from sharks' teeth.
- ☒ a formation of stars.
- ☐ an Aboriginal artwork.
- ☐ the ocean where sharks live.

SHADE ONE BOX



- 7 Give one reason why sharks are 'intriguing'. Use evidence from the text to support your answer, and write your answer below.



WRITE YOUR OWN ANSWER

Sharks are intriguing because they are different. Some sharks are dangerous whilst others are gentler.

They have been around since ancient times and appear in many ancient myths and legends. Australian

Aboriginals have more than one story about sharks.
