11.4 Brackets for Parenthesis: 30-minute Pack

about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Astronomy Club

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On Thursday evening, the astronomy club (a small group who met after school every week) gathered on the school field to watch the meteor shower. Mr Patel, the science teacher who ran the club, set up two telescopes before the sky grew properly dark. Zara had brought her notebook (the same green one she used for every club meeting) so that she could sketch anything unusual. The first telescope - borrowed from the local observatory - needed careful adjusting before anyone could use it. Yusuf, who was usually the quietest member of the club, spotted the first shooting star and gasped in surprise. 'There are two more telescopes in the store cupboard,' said Mrs Ahmed, 'so everyone will get a turn before we pack up.' By nine o'clock the group had counted eleven meteors (a new club record, according to Mr Patel) and nobody wanted to go home. The sky, dark and perfectly clear, seemed to stretch on forever above the quiet field.

1 The paragraph below has three errors in how brackets are used to show parenthesis. Find and correct all three: a missing closing bracket in the first sentence, an unnecessary comma placed just before an opening bracket in the second sentence, and a missing closing bracket in the third sentence.

The comet (named after its discoverer was the highlight of the evening. Zara's notebook, (the same green one she used for every meeting) was already full of sketches. By the end of the evening, the group had spotted eleven meteors (a new club record but nobody wanted to leave.

(3)

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2 Look at the sentence below.

The (winner) was presented with a shiny gold trophy.

Explain why it is incorrect to use brackets around 'winner' in this sentence.

(2)

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3 Write two sentences of your own, each about a different person, place or thing. In each sentence, add a piece of extra information in brackets. Punctuate both sentences correctly.

(2)

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4 Add a piece of extra information of your own in brackets about 'the windmill' in the sentence below. Make sure the sentence would still make sense if your brackets were removed.

The path led towards the old windmill.

(2)

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5 Rewrite the sentence below three times, adding the same extra information about Grandma each time: once using a pair of commas, once using a pair of brackets and once using a pair of dashes (shown here as hyphens).

Extra information: who taught herself to paint
Sentence: Grandma finished the huge mural on the village hall wall.

(3)

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6 In the passage above, the writer uses brackets in 'the astronomy club (a small group who met after school every week)'. Explain the effect of adding this information in brackets.

(2)

7 The writer also uses dashes in 'The first telescope - borrowed from the local observatory - needed careful adjusting' and commas in 'Mr Patel, the science teacher who ran the club, set up two telescopes'. Explain one difference between how brackets, dashes and commas each feel to the reader, using evidence from the passage.

(3)

8 Add a sensible piece of extra information of your own in brackets in each sentence below. Make sure the sentence would still make sense if your brackets were removed.

(a) The library was completely silent. Add extra information in brackets about 'the library'. **(2)**

(b) The parcel arrived just in time for the party. Add extra information in brackets about 'the parcel'. **(2)**

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9 Each sentence below is missing its closing bracket. Rewrite each sentence with the closing bracket added in the correct place.

(a) The comet (visible only once every seventy-six years travelled across the night sky. **(1)**

(b) Jamie's bike (a bright red racer wouldn't fit in the shed. **(1)**

(c) The concert (the first one held at the new stadium finished after eleven o'clock. **(1)**

10 Parenthesis can be shown using a pair of brackets, a pair of commas or a pair of dashes (shown here as hyphens). Sort the six sentences below into the table according to which punctuation is used for the parenthesis.

1. The eagle (a powerful bird of prey) soared overhead.
2. My aunt, who lives in Leeds, is training to be a doctor.
3. The bridge - the oldest one in the city - was closed for repairs.
4. The novel (first published in 1847) is considered a classic.
5. Our dog, a scruffy little terrier, loves chasing leaves.
6. The trophy - polished every single week - gleamed in the cabinet.

Brackets	Commas	Dashes

(6)

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11 Circle the sentence in each pair that uses brackets correctly to show parenthesis.

(a) Which sentence is correct? **(1)**

- ☐ A) The film (based on a true story) won several awards.
- ☐ B) The film (based on a true) story won several awards.

(b) Which sentence is correct? **(1)**

- ☐ A) Our neighbour's dog (a huge Great Dane never barks.
- ☐ B) Our neighbour's dog (a huge Great Dane) never barks.

(c) Which sentence is correct? **(1)**

- ☐ A) The trophy, (won three years running) sat on the shelf.
- ☐ B) The trophy (won three years running) sat on the shelf.

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12 Each sentence below contains a piece of extra information with no punctuation around it. Insert a pair of brackets in the correct place.

(a) The Great Barrier Reef the largest coral reef system in the world stretches for over 2300 kilometres. **(1)**

(b) Our head teacher Mr Boyle has worked at the school for twenty years. **(1)**

(c) The recipe first tried by my grandmother in 1965 is still my family's favourite. **(1)**

(d) Sofia the fastest runner in Year 5 came first in the relay. **(1)**

13 Combine each pair of sentences into one sentence, using brackets to turn the second sentence into parenthesis.

(a) The Amazon rainforest produces a huge amount of the world's oxygen. It covers parts of nine countries. **(2)**

(b) Our class hamster escaped from his cage on Tuesday. His name is Nibbles. **(2)**

(c) The Eiffel Tower is visited by millions of tourists every year. It was completed in 1889. **(2)**

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Mark scheme · 11.4 Brackets for Parenthesis: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

closing bracket added after 'discoverer' cao **B1**

comma removed from before the opening bracket in 'notebook (the same green one...' cao **B1**

closing bracket added after 'record' cao **B1**

Answer: **The comet (named after its discoverer) was the highlight of the evening. Zara's notebook (the same green one she used for every meeting) was already full of sketches. By the end of the evening, the group had spotted eleven meteors (a new club record) but nobody wanted to leave.**

Question 2

identifies that 'winner' is the essential subject of the sentence, not extra information **B1**

valid explanation that removing the brackets leaves 'The was presented with a shiny gold trophy', which does not make sense, so it fails the parenthesis test (oe) **B1**

Answer: **Winner is the essential subject of the sentence, not extra information, so it should not be bracketed; removing the brackets leaves 'The was presented with a shiny gold trophy', which does not make sense.**

Question 3

first sentence uses a correctly placed and punctuated pair of brackets for genuine parenthesis **B1**

second sentence uses a correctly placed and punctuated pair of brackets for genuine parenthesis, about a different person, place or thing **B1**

Answer: **Example: My grandmother (who taught herself to paint) sold a picture at the village fete. The old lighthouse (now a small museum) still guides ships into the harbour.**

Question 4

sensible extra information given about the windmill **B1**

brackets correctly placed directly after 'windmill' and the sentence still makes sense with them removed **B1**

Answer: **Example: The path led towards the old windmill (now used as an art studio).**

Question 5

comma version: Grandma, who taught herself to paint, finished the huge mural on the village hall wall. cao **B1**

bracket version: Grandma (who taught herself to paint) finished the huge mural on the village hall wall. cao **B1**

dash version: Grandma - who taught herself to paint - finished the huge mural on the village hall wall. cao **B1**

Answer: **Commas: Grandma, who taught herself to paint, finished the huge mural on the village hall wall. Brackets: Grandma (who taught herself to paint) finished the huge mural on the village hall wall. Dashes: Grandma - who taught herself to paint - finished the huge mural on the village hall wall.**

Question 6

identifies that the brackets add a quick, quiet explanation of what the club is, without stopping the main sentence **B1**

identifies an effect on the reader, e.g. helps the reader picture the club straight away without needing a separate sentence (oe) **B1**

Answer: **The brackets let the writer add a brief explanation of what the club is without interrupting the main sentence, helping the reader picture it straight away.**

Question 7

identifies that brackets feel like a quiet aside that could almost be missed, e.g. the club description **B1**

identifies that dashes feel more noticeable or dramatic, drawing extra attention to the interruption, e.g. the telescope's origin **B1**

identifies that commas feel the smoothest and most naturally part of the sentence, e.g. describing Mr Patel (oe, accept any sensible comparison of the three, in any order) **B1**

Answer: **Brackets (the club description) feel like a quiet aside; dashes (the telescope's origin) feel more emphatic and noticeable; commas (describing Mr Patel) blend in most smoothly, barely interrupting the sentence.**

Question 8

(a) sensible, factually consistent extra information given about the library **B1**

(a) brackets placed directly after 'library' and the sentence still makes sense if they are removed **B1**

(a) Answer: **Example: The library (a tall red-brick building next to the park) was completely silent.**

(b) sensible, factually consistent extra information given about the parcel **B1**

(b) brackets placed directly after 'parcel' and the sentence still makes sense if they are removed **B1**

(b) Answer: **Example: The parcel (which had been delayed by the snow) arrived just in time for the party.**

Question 9

(a) closing bracket added after 'years' cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **The comet (visible only once every seventy-six years) travelled across the night sky.**

(b) closing bracket added after 'racer' cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **Jamie's bike (a bright red racer) wouldn't fit in the shed.**

(c) closing bracket added after 'stadium' cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **The concert (the first one held at the new stadium) finished after eleven o'clock.**

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Question 10

1 sorted under Brackets cao **B1**

4 sorted under Brackets cao **B1**

2 sorted under Commas cao **B1**

5 sorted under Commas cao **B1**

3 sorted under Dashes cao **B1**

6 sorted under Dashes cao **B1**

Answer: **Brackets: 1, 4. Commas: 2, 5. Dashes: 3, 6.**

Question 11

(a) A circled cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **A) The film (based on a true story) won several awards.**

(b) B circled cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **B) Our neighbour's dog (a huge Great Dane) never barks.**

(c) B circled cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **B) The trophy (won three years running) sat on the shelf.**

Question 12

(a) brackets inserted around 'the largest coral reef system in the world' cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **The Great Barrier Reef (the largest coral reef system in the world) stretches for over 2300 kilometres.**

(b) brackets inserted around 'Mr Boyle' cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **Our head teacher (Mr Boyle) has worked at the school for twenty years.**

(c) brackets inserted around 'first tried by my grandmother in 1965' cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **The recipe (first tried by my grandmother in 1965) is still my family's favourite.**

(d) brackets inserted around 'the fastest runner in Year 5' cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **Sofia (the fastest runner in Year 5) came first in the relay.**

Question 13

(a) second sentence correctly turned into a bracketed phrase, e.g. (which covers parts of nine countries) (oe) **B1**

(a) brackets placed in a sensible position (e.g. directly after the subject, or at the end of the sentence) and the rest of the sentence kept grammatically correct **B1**

(a) Answer: **The Amazon rainforest (which covers parts of nine countries) produces a huge amount of the world's oxygen.**

(b) second sentence correctly turned into a bracketed phrase, e.g. (Nibbles) (oe) **B1**

(b) brackets placed in a sensible position (e.g. directly after the subject, or at the end of the sentence) and the rest of the sentence kept grammatically correct **B1**

(b) Answer: **Our class hamster (Nibbles) escaped from his cage on Tuesday.**

(c) second sentence correctly turned into a bracketed phrase, e.g. (completed in 1889) (oe) **B1**

(c) brackets placed in a sensible position (e.g. directly after the subject, or at the end of the sentence) and the rest of the sentence kept grammatically correct **B1**

(c) Answer: **The Eiffel Tower (completed in 1889) is visited by millions of tourists every year.**

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