11.6 Commas for Parenthesis: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

A Visit to the Natural History Museum

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Our class, buzzing with excitement, arrived at the Natural History Museum just after nine o'clock. Mr Bailey, our class teacher, handed out a trail sheet before everyone went inside. The dinosaur hall, which is the museum's most popular gallery, was already filling with visitors. Priya, who had read three books about dinosaurs that summer, hurried straight to the diplodocus skeleton. The skeleton, an enormous cast almost as long as a bus, towered over the whole hall. Aisha, meanwhile, was drawn to the meteorite display near the entrance. The meteorite, a dark lump of rock older than the Earth itself, had crashed into a field in Yorkshire many years ago. After lunch, the class visited the human biology gallery, a bright room full of models and screens. Finally, Mr Bailey, checking his watch anxiously, called everyone back together for the coach home.

1 A piece of parenthesis is extra information added into the middle of a sentence. It needs a matching pair of commas: one before it and one after it. Tick the sentence in each set that punctuates the parenthesis correctly.

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

- ☐ A) My friend Oliver who plays the trumpet, joined the band this term.
- ☐ B) My friend Oliver, who plays the trumpet joined the band this term.
- ☐ C) My friend Oliver, who plays the trumpet, joined the band this term.

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

- ☐ A) The old oak tree which stands beside the gate, is over two hundred years old.
- ☐ B) The old oak tree, which stands beside the gate is over two hundred years old.
- ☐ C) The old oak tree, which stands beside the gate, is over two hundred years old.

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

- ☐ A) Mrs Chen the head of Year 5, organised the whole trip.
- ☐ B) Mrs Chen, the head of Year 5 organised the whole trip.
- ☐ C) Mrs Chen, the head of Year 5, organised the whole trip.

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

- ☐ A) The library usually so quiet, was suddenly full of noise.
- ☐ B) The library, usually so quiet was suddenly full of noise.
- ☐ C) The library, usually so quiet, was suddenly full of noise.

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2 Six phrases are shown in the box below. Some show parenthesis (extra information that could be removed from a sentence) and some show items in a list. Sort each phrase into the correct column of the table.

Word bank: a bicycle, a scooter and a kite | which was painted bright red, | eggs, flour and sugar | the tallest boy in the class, | pens, pencils and rulers | who arrived late,

Parenthesis	Part of a list

(6)

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3 The paragraph below is missing three commas that mark parenthesis. Find and correct the three errors.

Our tour guide, a cheerful woman called Mrs Patel met us at the entrance. The gift shop, run by two volunteers was already busy. Jamal, the tallest boy in the class waited patiently at the back.

(3)

4 The sentence below uses only one comma, but a piece of parenthesis in the middle of a sentence always needs a matching pair. Rewrite the sentence correctly, then explain in one sentence why a single comma was not enough.

The dinosaur hall, the busiest gallery was full of visitors.

(2)

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Mark scheme · 11.6 Commas for Parenthesis: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) C ticked cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **C) My friend Oliver, who plays the trumpet, joined the band this term.**

(b) C ticked cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **C) The old oak tree, which stands beside the gate, is over two hundred years old.**

(c) C ticked cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **C) Mrs Chen, the head of Year 5, organised the whole trip.**

(d) C ticked cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **C) The library, usually so quiet, was suddenly full of noise.**

Question 2

which was painted bright red, sorted as Parenthesis cao **B1**

the tallest boy in the class, sorted as Parenthesis cao **B1**

who arrived late, sorted as Parenthesis cao **B1**

a bicycle, a scooter and a kite sorted as Part of a list cao **B1**

eggs, flour and sugar sorted as Part of a list cao **B1**

pens, pencils and rulers sorted as Part of a list cao **B1**

Answer:

Parenthesis	Part of a list
which was painted bright red,	a bicycle, a scooter and a kite
the tallest boy in the class,	eggs, flour and sugar
who arrived late,	pens, pencils and rulers

Question 3

comma inserted after Patel cao **B1**

comma inserted after volunteers cao **B1**

comma inserted after class cao **B1**

Answer: **Our tour guide, a cheerful woman called Mrs Patel, met us at the entrance. The gift shop, run by two volunteers, was already busy. Jamal, the tallest boy in the class, waited patiently at the back.**

Question 4

comma inserted after gallery, giving The dinosaur hall, the busiest gallery, was full of visitors cao **B1**

valid explanation given, e.g. one comma only opens the parenthesis; a second comma after gallery is needed to close it and show where the extra information ends (oe) **B1**

Answer: **The dinosaur hall, the busiest gallery, was full of visitors. A single comma only opens the parenthesis; a second comma is needed after gallery to show where the extra information finishes.**

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