10.6 Colons: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

A Visit to Foxglove Wildlife Rescue Centre

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Our class had waited weeks for this trip: a whole afternoon at Foxglove Wildlife Rescue Centre. Mr Adeyemi, the centre's manager, met us at the gate and explained the golden rule at once: visitors must stay quiet near the animal pens. Inside the first shed we saw three patients recovering: a barn owl with an injured wing, a hedgehog no bigger than a fist, and a fox cub still learning to trust people again. Priya asked the question everyone wanted answered: how do the keepers decide when an animal is ready to be released? The keeper, Miss Whitfield, gave a careful answer: an animal is only released once it can hunt, hide and survive completely alone. Before we left, each of us packed a small kit for our own nature journals: a magnifying glass, a notebook and a soft pencil. On the coach home, Jamal made a promise to himself: he would volunteer at the centre as soon as he was old enough.

1 Tick the sentence in each set below that correctly uses a colon to introduce a list.

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

- ☐ A) The centre rescues, hedgehogs, owls and foxes.
- ☐ B) The centre rescues; hedgehogs, owls and foxes.
- ☐ C) The centre rescues three kinds of animal: hedgehogs, owls and foxes.

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

- ☐ A) Priya packed a torch: a notebook and a pencil.
- ☐ B) Priya packed three things a torch, a notebook and a pencil.
- ☐ C) Priya packed three things: a torch, a notebook and a pencil.

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

- ☐ A) The keeper fed the animals, that morning: hay, pellets and fresh water.
- ☐ B) That morning, the keeper fed the animals three foods: hay, pellets and fresh water.
- ☐ C) That morning, the keeper fed the animals three foods, hay, pellets and fresh water.

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

- ☐ A) Jamal needed to bring two things a coat and some wellies.
- ☐ B) Jamal needed to bring two things: a coat and some wellies.
- ☐ C) Jamal needed to bring: two things, a coat and some wellies.

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2 Each sentence below has a colon mistake: the colon is missing, misplaced, or the words before it do not make a complete sentence. Find the mistake and rewrite each sentence correctly.

(a) The kit bag held everything Priya needed a torch, a map and some string. **(1)**

(b) Miss Whitfield explained: the rule, visitors must stay behind the rope. **(1)**

(c) The fox cub's diet included: meat, eggs and insects. **(1)**

(d) Jamal had a simple wish, he wanted to become a vet. **(1)**

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3 The paragraph below is missing three colons. Find and correct the three errors.

Priya packed her bag with everything for the trip a torch, a notebook and a spare jumper. At the gate, the keeper gave the class one clear warning, the animals must never be startled. Later, the vet made a hopeful prediction the fox cub would be released within the month.

(3)

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4 The sentence below uses a colon incorrectly, because the words before the colon do not make a complete sentence. Rewrite the sentence correctly, then explain in one sentence why the original was wrong.

The rescue centre helps: hedgehogs, owls and foxes.

(2)

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5 The sentence below introduces a list with a colon, but the list items themselves contain commas, so semicolons are needed to separate them clearly. Insert the colon and the two missing semicolons in the correct places.

For the open day, the centre needed three donations a soft, warm blanket a tin of good quality dog food and a bag of clean, dry straw.

(3)

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Mark scheme · 10.6 Colons: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) C ticked cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **C) The centre rescues three kinds of animal: hedgehogs, owls and foxes.**

(b) C ticked cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **C) Priya packed three things: a torch, a notebook and a pencil.**

(c) B ticked cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **B) That morning, the keeper fed the animals three foods: hay, pellets and fresh water.**

(d) B ticked cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **B) Jamal needed to bring two things: a coat and some wellies.**

Question 2

(a) colon inserted after needed cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **The kit bag held everything Priya needed: a torch, a map and some string.**

(b) colon moved to after rule, giving Miss Whitfield explained the rule: visitors must stay behind the rope cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **Miss Whitfield explained the rule: visitors must stay behind the rope.**

(c) the introducing clause completed before the colon, e.g. The fox cub's diet included three foods: meat, eggs and insects. (oe, any sensible addition that completes the clause; also accept the colon removed, giving The fox cub's diet included meat, eggs and insects.) **B1**

(c) Answer: **The fox cub's diet included three foods: meat, eggs and insects.**

(d) comma replaced with a colon after wish cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **Jamal had a simple wish: he wanted to become a vet.**

Question 3

colon inserted after trip cao **B1**

comma replaced with a colon after warning cao **B1**

colon inserted after prediction cao **B1**

Answer: **Priya packed her bag with everything for the trip: a torch, a notebook and a spare jumper. At the gate, the keeper gave the class one clear warning: the animals must never be startled. Later, the vet made a hopeful prediction: the fox cub would be released within the month.**

Question 4

the introducing clause completed before the colon, e.g. The rescue centre helps three kinds of animal: hedgehogs, owls and foxes. (oe, any sensible addition that completes the clause; also accept the colon removed, giving The rescue centre helps hedgehogs, owls and foxes.) **B1**

valid explanation given, e.g. The rescue centre helps: is not a complete sentence by itself, because helps needs an object, so words must be added before the colon can be used (oe) **B1**

Answer: **The rescue centre helps three kinds of animal: hedgehogs, owls and foxes. The original was wrong because The rescue centre helps: is not a complete sentence on its own; helps needs an object before the colon can be used.**

Question 5

colon inserted after donations cao **B1**

semicolon inserted after blanket cao **B1**

semicolon inserted after food, before and a bag of clean, dry straw cao **B1**

Answer: **For the open day, the centre needed three donations: a soft, warm blanket; a tin of good quality dog food; and a bag of clean, dry straw.**

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