8.6 Abstract and Collective Nouns: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Open Day at Foxglove Wildlife Park

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Saturday 14th June

A ripple of excitement ran along the queue outside Foxglove Wildlife Park long before the gates opened. Somewhere behind the fence, a troop of monkeys was already shrieking with what sounded like pure delight. Mrs Okafor, the park's head keeper, greeted the waiting crowd with a warm smile and a clipboard full of notes.

The first stop was the reptile house, where a coil of pythons lay motionless beneath a heat lamp. Ravi felt a flicker of nervousness as the guide lifted a corn snake from its glass tank, but curiosity soon won over fear, and he reached out to touch its smooth, dry scales.

Outside again, a herd of zebras grazed calmly beside a pack of wild dogs resting in the shade. Further along, a flock of flamingos stood in the shallow lake, their feathers a startling shade of pink against the water. The keeper explained that patience, not speed, was the secret to training the park's young elephants, and a murmur of admiration passed through the group.

By the end of the visit, exhaustion had replaced excitement, but every visitor agreed that the sense of wonder Foxglove Park created was worth the long walk back to the car park.

1 Look at these words taken from the source text 'Open Day at Foxglove Wildlife Park'. State whether each one is used as an ABSTRACT NOUN (a feeling, idea, quality or state) or a COLLECTIVE NOUN (a group of people, animals or things treated as one).

(a) excitement **(1)**

(b) troop **(1)**

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(c) curiosity **(1)**

(d) herd **(1)**

(e) patience **(1)**

(f) flock **(1)**

2 Which definition below best describes an ABSTRACT NOUN?

- ☐ A) A noun that names a specific person or place and always starts with a capital letter
- ☐ B) A noun that names a feeling, quality, idea or state that cannot be touched or seen
- ☐ C) A noun that names a group of people, animals or things treated as one unit
- ☐ D) A noun formed only by adding -ing to a verb

3 Identify and correct the error in this sentence: 'The herd of elephant's were resting quietly by the watering hole.'

(2)

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4 Find and write the collective noun the writer uses for each group in the source text.

(a) the group of pythons in the reptile house **(1)**

(b) the group of people waiting outside the gates **(1)**

(c) the group of visitors listening to the keeper talk about the elephants **(1)**

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5 Explain one reason the writer chose to use the abstract noun 'wonder' in the final paragraph ('the sense of wonder Foxglove Park created'), rather than writing something more literal such as 'she thought it was very good'.

(2)

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Mark scheme · 8.6 Abstract and Collective Nouns: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) abstract noun **B1**

(a) Answer: **abstract noun**

(b) collective noun **B1**

(b) Answer: **collective noun**

(c) abstract noun **B1**

(c) Answer: **abstract noun**

(d) collective noun **B1**

(d) Answer: **collective noun**

(e) abstract noun **B1**

(e) Answer: **abstract noun**

(f) collective noun **B1**

(f) Answer: **collective noun**

Question 2

B **B1**

Answer: **B**

Question 3

identifies that 'elephant's' wrongly uses an apostrophe for a simple plural (elephants) **B1**

correct rewrite using a consistent singular verb for the herd acting as one calm group: The herd of elephants was resting quietly by the watering hole, cao (also accept 'were', since UK English allows a plural verb with a collective noun) **B1**

Answer: **The herd of elephants was resting quietly by the watering hole.**

Question 4

(a) coil, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **coil**

(b) crowd, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **crowd**

(c) group, cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **group**

Question 5

identifies that 'wonder' names a strong feeling of amazement rather than simple approval **B1**

links this to effect, e.g. it conveys the emotional impact of the visit on every reader/visitor more powerfully and concisely than a plain statement (oe) **B1**

Answer: **The abstract noun 'wonder' captures a strong, almost magical feeling of amazement, which communicates the emotional impact of the visit far more powerfully and concisely than a plain, literal statement like 'she thought it was very good'.**

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