7.2 Subject Verb Agreement: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Sports Day at Marlow Community College

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Friday 19th June

The whole school was buzzing with excitement long before the first whistle blew. Everybody in Year 8 had been given a coloured wristband, and the four house teams were lining up along the edge of the running track. Neither the sun nor the earlier rain had put anyone off; the field, still slightly damp underfoot, sparkled under a bright morning sky.

Mr Adeyemi, the head of PE, checked his clipboard one final time. 'The list of events is longer than last year,' he announced, 'so listen carefully for your name.' A group of younger students, eager for their turn, crowded around the start line. Somewhere near the long jump pit, a pair of coaches was already measuring out the sand.

There were six races before lunch, and each of the competitors knew exactly which lane to use. When the relay team finally crossed the finish line, a roar of delight rose from the crowd, and even the teachers, together with several visiting parents, joined in the applause. Neither the winning team nor the runners-up seemed disappointed; everyone agreed that the day had been a triumph of teamwork and effort.

1 Look at these subjects taken from the source text 'Sports Day at Marlow Community College'. State whether each one needs a SINGULAR or a PLURAL verb.

(a) Everybody in Year 8 **(1)**

(b) The four house teams **(1)**

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(c) The list of events **(1)**

(d) A pair of coaches **(1)**

(e) The teachers, together with several visiting parents **(1)**

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2 Complete each sentence with the correct form of 'to be'. The verb after 'there' agrees with the noun that follows it, not with 'there' itself.

(a) There ___ a spider in the bathroom. **(1)**

(b) There ___ three spiders in the bathroom. **(1)**

(c) There ___ several problems with the plan. **(1)**

(d) There ___ no excuse for being late. **(1)**

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3 Which verb correctly completes this sentence? 'The pile of books on the shelf ___ ready for the library.'

- ☐ A) is
- ☐ B) are

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4 Identify and correct the subject-verb agreement error in this sentence: 'The choice of activities are exciting this term.'

(2)

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5 Explain why the verb 'is' (not 'are') is correct in this sentence: 'The box of medals is locked in the school office.'

(2)

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Mark scheme · 7.2 Subject Verb Agreement: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) singular **B1**

(a) Answer: **singular**

(b) plural **B1**

(b) Answer: **plural**

(c) singular **B1**

(c) Answer: **singular**

(d) singular **B1**

(d) Answer: **singular**

(e) plural **B1**

(e) Answer: **plural**

Question 2

(a) is, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: **is**

(b) are, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: **are**

(c) are, cao **B1**

(c) Answer: **are**

(d) is, cao **B1**

(d) Answer: **is**

Question 3

A) is **B1**

Answer: **A**

Question 4

identifies that the verb must agree with 'the choice' (singular), not 'activities' **B1**

correct rewrite: The choice of activities is exciting this term, cao **B1**

Answer: **The choice of activities is exciting this term.**

Question 5

identifies that the true subject of the verb is 'the box', which is singular **B1**

explains that 'of medals' is a prepositional phrase describing the box, and phrases between the subject and the verb never change how the verb agrees **B1**

Answer: **The subject of the verb is 'the box' (singular), not 'medals'. The phrase 'of medals' simply describes the box; it sits between the subject and the verb but does not change the verb's agreement, so the singular verb 'is' is correct.**

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