7.2 Subject Verb Agreement: 30-minute Pack

about 30 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 Which verb correctly completes this sentence? 'Each of the runners ___ wearing the correct kit.'

- [ ] A) is
- [ ] B) are

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2 Which verb correctly completes this sentence? 'The trophies on the top shelf ___ polished every week.'

- [ ] A) is
- [ ] B) are

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3 Complete each sentence with the correct present-tense form of the verb in brackets. Subjects joined by 'and' are always plural.

(a) The captain and the goalkeeper ___ (train) every Tuesday after school. **(1)**

(b) Chess and football ___ (be) popular clubs at our school. **(1)**

(c) A ruler and a pencil ___ (be) inside the pencil case. **(1)**

(d) Liam and his sister ___ (walk) to school together every day. **(1)**

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4 Identify and correct the subject-verb agreement error in this sentence: 'Everybody in the two classes have finished their project.'

(2)

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5 In formal written English, identify and correct the subject-verb agreement error in this sentence: 'Neither of the answers were correct.'

(2)

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6 Word bank:

a) The scissors	b) Mathematics	c) The committee (acting as one unit)	d) My parents
e) Everyone in the room	f) The geese by the pond	g) Bread and butter (as a single dish)	h) The news on the television

For each subject in the word bank above, write the correct verb, 'is' or 'are'.

(a) The scissors ___ sharp. **(1)**

(b) Mathematics ___ my favourite subject. **(1)**

(c) The committee ___ meeting this afternoon. **(1)**

(d) My parents ___ collecting me at four o'clock. **(1)**

(e) Everyone in the room ___ ready to begin. **(1)**

(f) The geese by the pond ___ surprisingly noisy. **(1)**

(g) Bread and butter ___ all I want for breakfast. **(1)**

(h) The news on the television ___ always on at six o'clock. **(1)**

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7 Using the rule for subjects joined by 'or'/'nor', explain why the verb 'is' is correct in this sentence: 'Neither the pens nor the pencil is sharp enough to use.'

(2)

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8 Write one original sentence for each instruction below. Each sentence must show correct subject-verb agreement.

(a) Write a sentence using the collective noun 'audience' as the subject, treating it as a single unit, so that your sentence uses the verb 'is' or 'was'. **(2)**

(b) Write a sentence using the indefinite pronoun 'somebody' as the subject. **(2)**

(c) Write a sentence with a compound subject joined by 'and' that takes a plural verb. **(2)**

(d) Write a sentence using 'neither ... nor' where the noun nearer the verb is singular, so that a singular verb is correct. **(2)**

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9 Rewrite this sentence so that the subject is the indefinite pronoun 'nobody' instead of 'the students', changing the verb so that it still agrees: 'The students are not allowed to leave early.'

(2)

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10 Write a short paragraph (approximately 80-100 words) describing a school sports day or similar event. Your writing must include: one collective noun used as a singular subject, one indefinite pronoun used as a subject, one compound subject joined by 'and', and one sentence using 'neither ... nor' or 'either ... or'. Underline each of these four features and make sure every verb agrees correctly with its subject.

(10)

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Mark scheme · 7.2 Subject Verb Agreement: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

A) is — **B1**

Answer: **A**

Question 2

B) are — **B1**

Answer: **B**

Question 3

(a) train, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **train**

(b) are, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **are**

(c) are, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **are**

(d) walk, cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **walk**

Question 4

identifies that 'everybody' is a singular indefinite pronoun, so the verb should be 'has', not 'have' — **B1**

correct rewrite: Everybody in the two classes has finished their project, cao — **B1**

Answer: **Everybody in the two classes has finished their project.**

Question 5

identifies that 'neither' is a singular indefinite pronoun, so formal written English uses 'was', not 'were' (the plural is common in informal speech) — **B1**

correct rewrite: Neither of the answers was correct, cao — **B1**

Answer: **Neither of the answers was correct.**

Question 6

(a) are, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **are**

(b) is, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **is**

(c) is, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **is**

(d) are, cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **are**

(e) is, cao — **B1**

(e) Answer: **is**

(f) are, cao — **B1**

(f) Answer: **are**

(g) is, cao — **B1**

(g) Answer: **is**

(h) is, cao — **B1**

(h) Answer: **is**

Question 7

states the rule: when subjects are joined by 'or'/'nor', the verb agrees with the noun nearer to it, not the noun furthest away — **B1**

applies the rule correctly: the nearer noun is 'the pencil', which is singular, so 'is' is correct — **B1**

Answer: **When subjects are joined by 'nor', the verb agrees with whichever noun is nearer to it. Here, the nearer noun is 'the pencil' (singular), not 'the pens' (plural), so the singular verb 'is' is correct.**

Question 8

(a) sentence uses 'audience' (or a similar collective noun) as the subject, treated as one unit — **B1**

(a) correct singular verb agreement ('is'/'was'), grammatically complete, cao — **B1**

(a) Answer: **The audience was silent as the curtain rose.**

(b) 'somebody' used correctly as the subject — **B1**

(b) correct singular verb agreement, grammatically complete, cao — **B1**

(b) Answer: **Somebody has left their bag on the bus.**

(c) compound subject correctly joined by 'and' — **B1**

(c) correct plural verb agreement, grammatically complete, cao — **B1**

(c) Answer: **My cousin and her best friend are training for the marathon.**

(d) correct 'neither ... nor' construction with the nearer noun singular — **B1**

(d) correct singular verb agreement, grammatically complete, cao — **B1**

(d) Answer: **Neither the students nor the teacher was ready for the fire drill.**

Question 9

subject correctly changed to 'nobody' — **B1**

verb correctly changed to the singular form 'is', cao — **B1**

Answer: **Nobody is allowed to leave early.**

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Question 10

AO5: Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 1 Simple description of the event; little sense of organisation or atmosphere. **1-2**

Level 2 Some relevant, engaged description of the event; ideas are mostly sequenced clearly, with an attempt to create atmosphere. **3-4**

Level 3 Clear, engaging and convincing description of the event; well organised, with a genuine sense of atmosphere and the writer's viewpoint. **5-6**

AO6: Technical accuracy (subject-verb agreement) (AO6)

Level 1 Fewer than four of the required constructions are present, or subject-verb agreement is mostly incorrect. **1**

Level 2 All four required constructions are present and subject-verb agreement is mostly accurate, with occasional errors. **2-3**

Level 3 All four required constructions are present, clearly marked and used with consistently accurate subject-verb agreement. **4**

Indicative content:

- Paragraph uses a consistent first-person or third-person viewpoint and a consistent tense
- A collective noun (e.g. team, crowd, committee) is used correctly as a singular subject
- An indefinite pronoun (e.g. everyone, somebody, each) is used correctly as a subject with a singular verb
- A compound subject joined by 'and' is used correctly with a plural verb
- A 'neither ... nor' or 'either ... or' sentence correctly agrees with the noun nearer the verb
- Sense of atmosphere and the writer's own impression of the event, appropriate to a descriptive register

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