



Time allowed: 30 minutes · Total marks: 25 (1 mark per question)

- Read the passage carefully before you start the questions.
- Circle the letter of the correct answer for each question.
- You can look back at the passage as often as you like.
- If a question is hard, move on and come back to it at the end.

The Wild Next Door: Urban Foxes

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions. The numbers show the paragraphs.

- 1** If you live in a British town or city, there is a good chance that a fox lives closer to you than you think. Urban foxes first became common in the 1930s, when new suburbs with large gardens spread out from cities such as London and Bristol. To a fox, a row of gardens is simply a chain of small woodlands, each one stocked with worms, beetles, windfall apples and the occasional dropped sandwich.
- 2** A fox's night begins at dusk. Leaving its daytime resting place, often a hidden space beneath a garden shed, it follows the same paths through fences and hedges that it has used for months. Scientists who fitted city foxes with radio collars discovered that each fox patrols a territory of only a few streets, and that it visits the most promising gardens in a regular order, almost like a milkman doing a round.
- 3** Foxes are famously good at living on almost anything. Studies of what urban foxes actually eat show a surprising menu: earthworms pulled from lawns on damp nights, berries and fruit in autumn, insects, small rodents, and food that people leave out, sometimes on purpose and sometimes not. A fox will bury, or cache, whatever it cannot finish, returning days later to dig up its savings like money from a bank.
- 4** Many stories about urban foxes are simply wrong. They are not giant, fearless beasts: a big city fox weighs about the same as a pet cat. They do not hunt in packs, since adult foxes mostly travel alone. And although they can carry diseases, careful research shows that healthy foxes almost always avoid people rather than approach them. The fox screaming heard on winter nights is not a creature in distress but simply how foxes call to one another in the breeding season.
- 5** Whether you find them a nuisance or a marvel, urban foxes are here to stay. They remind us that a city is not only ours: it is a shared habitat, and the wild has quietly moved in next door.

Section A: Comprehension

Questions 1 to 13 are about the passage The Wild Next Door: Urban Foxes.

- 1** When did foxes first become common in British towns?
- ☐ A In the 1830s ☐ B After the year 2000 ☐ C In the 1930s ☐ D During the last ten years
☐ E In the 1730s
-
- 2** According to paragraph 1, what does a row of gardens look like to a fox?
- ☐ A A dangerous place to avoid ☐ B A single large farm ☐ C A playground for cubs ☐ D A busy road
☐ E A chain of small woodlands full of food

- 3 Where does a fox often rest during the day?
- ☐ A In a tree ☐ B Beneath a garden shed ☐ C On a garage roof ☐ D Inside a drainpipe
☐ E In a rubbish bin
-
- 4 How did scientists learn about the size of a fox's territory?
- ☐ A They fitted foxes with radio collars ☐ B They followed foxes on foot every night
☐ C They asked people to fill in surveys ☐ D They counted paw prints in snow
☐ E They filmed foxes from helicopters
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- 5 The fox is compared to a milkman doing a round. What does this comparison tell us?
- ☐ A The fox delivers food to other animals ☐ B The fox works during the morning
☐ C The fox drinks milk from doorsteps ☐ D The fox visits the same places in a regular order
☐ E The fox wears a collar like a uniform
-
- 6 In paragraph 3, what does the word cache mean?
- ☐ A To bury food to eat later ☐ B To share food with cubs ☐ C To swallow food quickly
☐ D To steal food from bins ☐ E To carry food in the mouth
-
- 7 Why is the buried food compared to money in a bank?
- ☐ A It is worth a lot of money ☐ B Other animals guard it ☐ C It is hidden underground forever
☐ D The fox saves it and comes back for it later ☐ E The fox counts it every night
-
- 8 According to paragraph 4, how heavy is a large city fox?
- ☐ A About the same as a large dog ☐ B About the same as a badger ☐ C About the same as a pet cat
☐ D Heavier than a sheep ☐ E Lighter than a rabbit
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- 9 Which of these statements about foxes is true, according to the passage?
- ☐ A Foxes hunt in large packs ☐ B Healthy foxes often approach people
☐ C Foxes scream because they are in distress ☐ D Urban foxes are leaving cities
☐ E Adult foxes mostly travel alone
-
- 10 Why do foxes scream on winter nights?
- ☐ A They are hurt ☐ B It is how they call to each other in the breeding season
☐ C They are frightened of people ☐ D They are fighting over food ☐ E They are warning off cats
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- 11 What does the phrase a shared habitat in the final paragraph suggest?
- ☐ A People should move out of cities ☐ B Foxes own the gardens ☐ C Cities have no room for animals
☐ D The city belongs to wildlife as well as people ☐ E Habitats must be fenced off
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- 12 What is the main purpose of this passage?
- ☐ A To persuade readers to feed foxes ☐ B To inform readers about how urban foxes really live
☐ C To tell a made up story about a fox ☐ D To explain how to keep foxes out of gardens
☐ E To describe one particular famous fox
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- 13 Which word best describes the writer's attitude to urban foxes?
- ☐ A Terrified ☐ B Bored ☐ C Furious ☐ D Jealous ☐ E Admiring
-

Section B: Spelling, punctuation and grammar

Questions 14 to 25 test spelling, punctuation and grammar.

14 Which word is spelt incorrectly?

- ☐ A occasion ☐ B accident ☐ C occured ☐ D success ☐ E address

15 Which word is spelt incorrectly?

- ☐ A enviroment ☐ B government ☐ C parliament ☐ D management ☐ E movement

16 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- ☐ A The fox which was very thin crossed, the road. ☐ B The fox, which was very thin crossed the road.
☐ C The fox which, was very thin, crossed the road. ☐ D The fox which was very thin crossed the road,
☐ E The fox, which was very thin, crossed the road.

17 Which sentence uses an apostrophe correctly?

- ☐ A The foxes' den was under the shed. ☐ B The foxes den's was under the shed.
☐ C The foxe's den was under the shed. ☐ D The foxes den was under the shed's.
☐ E The fox's's den was under the shed.

18 Choose the correct word: The cubs played happily in ____ den.

- ☐ A there ☐ B their ☐ C they're ☐ D theirs ☐ E them

19 Choose the correct word: Last night a fox ____ through our garden.

- ☐ A run ☐ B runned ☐ C running ☐ D ran ☐ E runs

20 Which word in this sentence is an adjective? The clever fox slipped through the narrow gap.

- ☐ A fox ☐ B slipped ☐ C clever ☐ D through ☐ E gap

21 Which word in this sentence is a verb? The fox buried the apple near the fence.

- ☐ A fox ☐ B buried ☐ C apple ☐ D near ☐ E fence

22 What is the plural of city?

- ☐ A citys ☐ B cities ☐ C cities ☐ D cities' ☐ E city

23 Choose the best conjunction: Foxes avoid people ____ they feel safer alone.

- ☐ A because ☐ B but ☐ C or ☐ D until ☐ E although

24 Which sentence is a question?

- ☐ A I saw a fox at dusk. ☐ B Watch for the fox at dusk. ☐ C What a sight the fox was at dusk!
☐ D The fox appears at dusk. ☐ E Have you ever seen a fox at dusk?

25 Which option shows the words in alphabetical order?

- ☐ A beetle, badger, berry, burrow ☐ B badger, berry, beetle, burrow ☐ C burrow, berry, beetle, badger
☐ D badger, beetle, berry, burrow ☐ E badger, beetle, burrow, berry

End of paper. Well done!