

11+ Specimen: Multiple Choice Rationale

- 1) The **best** title for the passage is:
- The Wandering Wolf;
 - Tales of a Teenage Wolf;**
 - Take your Wolf to Work Day;
 - Growing up with a Wolf;
 - Brenin: the Student Wolf.

B is the best title. The plural ‘tales’ picks up on the two halves of the passage (Brenin growing up and taking him to work) and the fact that at six months old, Brenin is approaching adolescence. C and E are appealing: E is catchy and C has a nice rhythmic bounce. However, they only address the latter half of the passage. A suggests that Brenin has been travelling, which is incorrect. D is incorrect: Mark is an adult; it is Brenin who grows up.

- 2) The details in the first paragraph **most strongly** convey:
- Brenin’s appearance has changed dramatically;**
 - Brenin is thin;
 - Brenin is not cute anymore;
 - Brenin is no longer a cub;
 - Brenin has put on weight.

A is correct as ‘dramatically’ conveys the extent of Brenin’s physical changes. The other four answers are somewhat misleading or bland: Brenin is not ‘thin (B) but rather ‘long, lean and angular’, suggesting athleticism rather than neglect. Brenin is no longer a ‘chubby little bear’ (C) but the statement is bland. We are told how much Brenin weighs and it is evident that he has put on weight as part of natural growth. Here, D is both bland and slightly misleading – there is no hint that Brenin is overweight.

- 3) Brenin's feet are described as 'big snowshoes'. This **most vividly** suggests that:
- a. Brenin is clumsy;
 - b. Brenin likes the winter;
 - c. Brenin has huge feet which are adapted to a harsh environment;
 - d. Brenin has to wear special footwear in the winter;
 - e. Brenin isn't fully grown yet.

C is correct: the superlative 'huge' is in keeping with the 'vivid' requirement and also reflects the relative size of snowshoes. Snowshoes are only used in deep snow, so the idea of a special adaptation is a reasonable extension of this. The passage makes it clear that Brenin does not trip over his feet, so A is incorrect. We are not told whether or not Brenin likes the winter and wearing special footwear is unlikely. (B, D.) Brenin isn't fully grown yet, but the statement is bland and does little to address the idea of 'big snowshoes.'

- 4) The most appropriate simile/metaphor to describe Brenin in paragraph 2 is:
- a. Like a bull in a china shop;
 - b. Turbo-charged;
 - c. A force of nature;
 - d. A wrecking ball;
 - e. Dynamite.

D is the most appropriate choice as it conveys Brenin's indiscriminate, unfocused destructive capabilities. A is a simile. B and C are appealing as they suggest power, but not necessarily destruction. E is similar, but 'dynamite' also suggests sudden, explosive power which is not in keeping with Brenin's bull-like charges round the house.

5) Mark can't leave Brenin by himself, but he is worried about taking him to the university.

Which phrase **best describes** Mark's feelings?

- a. Happy and confident;
- b. **Apprehensive, but prepared;**
- c. Nervous, but positive;
- d. Proud and cheerful;
- e. Relaxed, but cautious.

B is the best choice. Mark approaches the first lecture 'with trepidation', thus making 'apprehensive' a reasonable synonym. It's clear that he did prepare beforehand by taking the wolf for a walk. As he has had to take Brenin everywhere with him, he is also arguably experienced and thus braced for any eventuality. 'Nervous' is an appropriate emotion (C), but positive is less apt than 'prepared. Similarly, 'cautious' in E is fitting, but relaxed is not. A and D are incorrect – there is no hint of these emotions in the passage.

6) Brenin did not cause any problems during the first lecture. The **reasons** for this were:

(tick all which apply).

- a. **He was exhausted;**
- b. He hid under Mark's desk;
- c. The students made a fuss of him;
- d. **He had been introduced to the class;**
- e. He wandered about and investigated the room.

A and D are the correct choices. Brenin has been tired out by a long walk and given an opportunity to get used to the other people in the room. 'Hiding' (B) suggests fear, which is inaccurate and the passage conveys the impression that the students ignore the wolf. (C). Brenin does wander about, (E) but that happens during later lectures. The question focuses on the *first* lecture.

- 7) The passage **implies** that Mark's lectures are:
- Boring and dull;
 - Fun and interactive;
 - A necessary chore;
 - Interesting and well attended;
 - In need of some humour.**

E is the correct choice – Brenin's attack on Mark's sandals is a 'welcome distraction'. We are given very little information about the quality/enjoyment of Mark's lectures, thus making A,B, C, D conjecture only.

- 8) The events of the last paragraph **strongly suggest that:** (Tick all which apply)
- Brenin is comfortable in his new surroundings;**
 - Brenin isn't getting as much exercise;
 - The lectures take place in the morning;**
 - Mark is keen to avoid problems;**
 - Mark keeps a watchful eye on Brenin.**

A, C, D and E are all correct. Brenin is behaving naturally and could thus be said to be 'comfortable' (A). The references to food/lunch suggest that morning lectures. (C). Mark spots Brenin putting his head into a student's bag (E) and issuing the note is a direct result of him want to avoid complaints. (D)

- 9) The adjective which **best applies** to the note Mark gives out about Brenin is:
- Unimportant;
 - Cautionary;
 - Informative;
 - Helpful;
 - Vital.

B is the correct answer. The note warns students about Brenin and what will happen if they don't secure their food. C and D are possible choices, but they only address half of the note's content. The note would not have been issued if it were 'unimportant' (A) and there is no threat to life – only the students' lunches – so E is incorrect.

10) The **tone** or **mood** of the passage is **best described** as:

- a. **Reflective and humorous;**
- b. Sentimental and sorrowful;
- c. Entertaining and enthusiastic;
- d. Factual and informative;
- e. Serious and thoughtful.

A is the correct answer: Brenin's antics are funny and the repeated references to the past ('That summer', 'in those early days' convey a sense of nostalgia. The writer is clearly looking back on his experiences. The passage is not sad (B) nor does it inform us about 'how' to live with a wolf. (D). The passage is 'entertaining' (C), but the vocabulary is relatively restrained, so 'enthusiastic' is less appropriate. 'Thoughtful' (E) is possible, but the content of the passage is not especially serious.