

Champion Diggers of Britain

Category: Non-Fiction - Wildlife & Ecology | Time Allowed: 45 Minutes | Total Marks: 35

Candidate Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

READING EXTRACT - Read carefully before answering Section A questions

- 1 Badgers are some of the most accomplished diggers in the British countryside. A badger family, known as a clan, lives together underground in an extensive network of tunnels and chambers called a sett. Remarkably, some setts have been continuously occupied by badger families for well over a hundred years, carefully extended and passed down through generations.
- 5 Equipped with strong, robust front claws shaped like curved spades, a single badger can excavate an astonishing amount of earth. During the expansion of a major sett, a clan can shift more than a tonne of soil in just a few nights. Badgers are primarily nocturnal, emerging from their underground dwellings after dusk to forage for earthworms, beetles, roots, and fallen fruit.
- Because of their nocturnal habits, humans rarely catch a glimpse of badgers in the wild.
- 10 Conservationists rely on motion-activated infrared trail cameras to monitor setts and observe social behaviour without causing disruption.

11+ EXAMINER GUIDANCE & STUDY TIPS FOR THIS EXTRACT

1. Active Reading: Read the extract twice. Underline key verbs, adjectives, and character reactions.
2. VIPERS Focus: Look for context clues around unfamiliar words to deduce meanings accurately.
3. Evidence: For 2-mark and 3-mark questions, always quote directly or paraphrase specific evidence.
4. Timing: Spend ~15 minutes reading, 15 minutes on Comprehension, and 15 minutes on Creative Writing.
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Section A: VIPERS Comprehension Questions

Answer all questions in full sentences using evidence from the extract. Total: 15 Marks

[V] VOCABULARY**Question 1****[1 mark]**

Find and copy a word in paragraph 2 that means "extremely surprising or impressive".

[R] RETRIEVAL**Question 2****[2 marks]**

What name is given to a badger family group, and what is their underground home called?

[V] VOCABULARY**Question 3****[2 marks]**

Explain the meaning of the word "nocturnal" as used in paragraph 2.

[I] INFERENCE**Question 4****[2 marks]**

Why does the author compare a badger's front claws to "curved spades"?

[E] EXPLAIN**Question 5****[2 marks]**

Why do conservationists use infrared trail cameras instead of standard flash photography?

[S] SUMMARISE**Question 6****[3 marks]**

In your own words, summarise three distinct adaptations that help badgers survive underground.

Section C: Examiner Mark Scheme & Model Answers

Comprehensive answers, acceptable variations, and 11+ mark allocation criteria.

Question 1 [V]

"Astonishing" (from paragraph 2).

Question 2 [R]

A family group is a "clan", and their underground dwelling is called a "sett" (1 mark each).

Question 3 [V]

"Nocturnal" describes animals that are predominantly active during the night and rest through the day.

Question 4 [I]

The metaphor emphasizes that their claws are curved, broad, and sharp specifically for scooping and displacing heavy compacted earth.

Question 5 [E]

Infrared cameras record clearly in total darkness without bright flashes of light that would startle wild animals or alter their natural nocturnal behaviour.

Question 6 [S]

1) Powerful spade-shaped claws for excavating tunnels; 2) Social clan cooperation to maintain setts; 3) Nocturnal foraging habits to avoid daytime threats.

CREATIVE WRITING BAND MARKING SCHEME (20 Marks Total):

- Band 1 (16-20 Marks): Exceptional atmosphere, compelling narrative voice, sophisticated vocabulary, diverse syntax.
- Band 2 (11-15 Marks): Clear narrative structure, good descriptive detail, accurate paragraphs and punctuation.
- Band 3 (6-10 Marks): Basic story progression, simple adjectives, occasional punctuation errors.
- SPaG (5 Marks): Award up to 5 additional marks for spelling accuracy, ambitious vocabulary, and neat handwriting.

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