SuperNovaSchool®
LEARN TO BE DISTINCT

GRADE 6 MOCK EXAMINATION PRACTICE

Paper 1 Practice | Non-fiction reading and informative writing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Section A: Non-fiction reading passage

Read the passage carefully. You may underline important details and make brief notes.

The secret life of sea turtles

Imagine swimming through warm, clear water with the sunlight shining above you. A large sea turtle glides past, moving its flippers slowly and smoothly. It may look as if it is simply enjoying the ocean, but its journey could have begun thousands of kilometres away. Sea turtles are remarkable animals, and scientists are still learning about many parts of their lives.

Sea turtles are reptiles, which means they breathe air, have scales and lay eggs. Unlike most turtles that live on land or in freshwater, sea turtles spend nearly all their lives in the ocean. They come to the surface to breathe, and females return to beaches to lay their eggs. Their large flippers help them travel through the water, while their streamlined shells help them move efficiently.

There are several kinds of sea turtle. Green turtles often feed on seagrass and algae when they are adults. Hawksbill turtles use their narrow, pointed beaks to reach sponges and other food among coral reefs. Leatherback turtles are different from other sea turtles because they have a flexible, leathery covering instead of a hard shell. They can also travel into colder waters in search of jellyfish.

A female sea turtle usually leaves the sea at night when she is ready to lay her eggs. She crawls up a sandy beach and uses her back flippers to dig a hole. After laying a group of eggs, she covers them with sand and returns to the ocean. The warmth of the sand helps the eggs develop. After several weeks, tiny hatchlings break out of their shells and make their way towards the sea.

The journey from nest to water is dangerous. Birds, crabs and other animals may catch hatchlings on the beach. Even after reaching the sea, young turtles face predators. Those that survive may spend years travelling and feeding before they become adults. Many female turtles later return to the region where they hatched to lay eggs of their own. Scientists are interested in how turtles find their way across such enormous distances. They believe that turtles use clues such as the Earth's magnetic field, ocean currents and other natural signals.

Sea turtles play useful roles in ocean ecosystems. Green turtles help keep seagrass beds healthy by grazing on them. Hawksbill turtles feed on sponges, which can otherwise grow over parts of coral reefs. Leatherbacks eat large numbers of jellyfish. By feeding in these different ways, sea turtles help maintain balance in their habitats.

Sadly, sea turtles face many threats. Plastic bags and other rubbish can be mistaken for food. A turtle that swallows plastic may become ill or unable to eat properly. Some turtles are accidentally caught in fishing nets and lines. Coastal building and bright lights can

disturb nesting beaches. In addition, climate change can affect the temperature of the sand where eggs develop. For some species, warmer sand can lead to more female hatchlings, changing the balance between males and females.

People can help protect sea turtles through practical actions. Keeping beaches clean reduces the amount of rubbish that may reach the sea. Using reusable bags and bottles can help cut down plastic waste. On nesting beaches, visitors should avoid disturbing nests, shining bright lights or leaving obstacles in the turtles' path. Fishing methods that reduce accidental catches can also make a difference. Scientists, conservation groups and local communities often work together to protect important nesting and feeding areas.

Sea turtles have survived in the oceans for millions of years, but their future depends partly on the choices people make today. Protecting them is not only about saving one group of animals. It is also about caring for the oceans and the many living things that depend on healthy marine habitats.

Section B: Writing task – Informative article

Your task

Your school magazine is preparing a special edition about amazing animals and the natural world. Write an informative article for the magazine with a suitable title

Write in a clear and informative style. Use facts and ideas from the passage, but explain them in your own words. You may include other relevant facts that you know.

In your article, include:

- an interesting opening that introduces sea turtles and explains why they are special;
- information about where sea turtles live and how they are adapted to life in the ocean;
- a description of how female sea turtles lay their eggs and how hatchlings reach the sea;
- at least two dangers that sea turtles face in the wild;
- practical ways people can help protect sea turtles and their habitats;
- a concluding paragraph explaining why it is important to protect these animals.

Remember to:

- organise your ideas into clear paragraphs with a beginning, middle and ending;
- use a suitable heading and sub headings and an informative tone for a school magazine;
- include facts, explanations and examples to interest your readers;
- use precise vocabulary and a variety of sentence structures;
- check your spelling, punctuation and grammar carefully.

Suggested length: 200–250 words