

The Examination

Carefully read Texts **A**, **B** and **C** and then answer the questions about the texts.

Text A

You read the following information sheet:



Highfield Veterinary Centre



Do working dogs make good pets?

For centuries, dogs have been working with humans. Different breeds are suitable for different roles, including guarding, search and rescue, herding and pulling sledges and carts. For example, German Shepherds help the police and military because they are big, naturally protective and easily trainable. Labradors and Spaniels have a keen sense of smell so can easily detect drugs and firearms. Dogs can also be trained to assist people with disabilities, such as the visually impaired, hard of hearing or those with epilepsy. They can also be trained as therapy dogs to provide emotional support for people in care homes and hospitals.

It could be argued that all dogs should have a job, as it reduces behavioural problems such as barking incessantly or chewing furniture. It also keeps them physically fit and mentally stimulated. Many dogs no longer have a specific job, but owners often train their pets in obedience or dog sports, such as agility or flyball. Throwing a ball while out walking or teaching them tricks can help to keep the dog's mind occupied. One reason why working dogs make good pets is that they have traditionally worked closely with people and can, therefore, be naturally loyal, affectionate and intelligent. They are also willing to learn, which makes training them very rewarding for **both** the dog and the owner.

However, it is important that potential owners do their research if they are considering taking on a working dog as a pet. Some breeds have natural characteristics which may or may not suit their lifestyle. Labradors need plenty of exercise to keep them fit, because they are often known to overeat. Border Collies need lots of mental stimulation. Huskies are known to be independent and need continuous training to avoid boredom. Sadly, many people take on a dog without researching the breed, which is one reason why rescue centres are so full.

Furthermore, prospective owners should also consider that some working breeds have inherent health issues. German Shepherds are prone to hip dysplasia and Boxers to thyroid issues. Schnauzers can suffer from diabetes while Dalmatians are predisposed to deafness. Unfortunately, some pet owners are faced with a difficult decision when their dog is diagnosed with a health condition and they are unable to afford the vet bills.

A working dog can make a wonderful pet, but thorough research must be completed.

If in doubt...

ASK A VET

Glossary	
Incessantly	Constantly, with no interruption
Inherent	Something that is natural or biological
Predisposed	More likely to have than others

Text B

You see the following advertisement:

Highfield Helping Hounds Charity

Therapy dogs required



**Does your dog have what it takes to provide emotional support to vulnerable people?
If you think they might, we want to hear from you!**

What is a therapy dog?

A therapy dog is different from an assistance dog¹. Therapy dogs provide comfort and emotional support for people in hospitals, children in special educational needs schools or the elderly in care homes.

How does it work?

Interaction with dogs can increase chemicals in the brain that bring happiness and reduce those that cause stress. Any pet owner can tell you that cuddling with a furry friend is very calming. HHH work with volunteers like you to provide much needed support for those in local care and health establishments who may be struggling. It's a very rewarding experience for both you and your dog!

How can you tell if your dog is suitable?

A therapy dog can be any breed or size but should be at least 1-year-old. The most important aspect is temperament. Your dog must:

- be calm
- be obedient
- not pull on the lead
- not jump up or paw people
- cope with being handled or hugged by strangers
- cope with sudden movements and noises
- tolerate strange settings, smells and equipment (such as wheelchairs or medical appliances)

¹An assistance dog is specially trained to help disabled people with daily tasks

Are you a suitable handler?

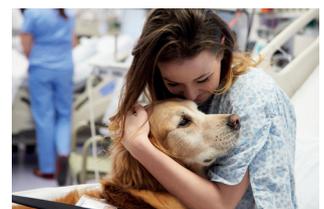
You've got to be able to handle and control your dog with confidence. If you snatch at the dog's lead or raise your voice to get its attention, you won't be deemed suitable. You should also be able to tell if your dog is getting stressed and when they need a break.

What will happen after you apply?

Your dog doesn't need any formal training to become a therapy dog, but you'll need to provide proof that your dog is up to date with vaccinations, worming and flea treatments. There's a small assessment to see if you and your dog are suitable for the role, but if your dog has the right temperament, it'll be no trouble. We'll guide you, the handler, through what to expect during therapy sessions and we'll accompany you on your first one.

What should you do next?

We're keen to increase the number of therapy dogs in our area. If you think your dog is suitable and would like to apply, we want to meet you both. Contact us by email at hhh@charity.co.uk or call in to our centre at 34 Town Road, Highfield (opposite the post office). We look forward to meeting you and your four-legged friend!



Two of our therapy dogs visiting Highfield Care Home and Highfield Hospital.

Text C

You read the following email:

Message Options

To: **autismdogs@charity.co.uk**

From: **mwilloughby@willoughbyfamily.co.uk**

Date: **07 October**

Subject: **Ben and Sally**

Hi everyone at Autism Dogs 😊

About a month ago, I collected a Cockapoo named Sally to be an assistance dog for my son Ben, who's 10 and autistic. I promised I'd let you know how they got on.

Ben's doing way better already. He used to struggle in social situations but now he's so much more comfortable. I think it's because everyone's more interested in Sally, so the focus is no longer just on him.

Ben loves being responsible for putting on Sally's lead. I thought he wouldn't want to hold her lead all the time, but he's very protective of his role. I used to worry that Ben might run off when we were out if he got scared or anxious, but now with Sally around, she'll just sit down if he tries to run. When I heard about this part of the training, I was scared that restricting Ben's movements might make him panic more but Sally leans against him and her body pressure seems to calm him down. In fact, unfamiliar places cause Ben far less stress now that he has Sally to give him confidence. Sally also acts as an extra pair of eyes. If Ben wanders off while we're busy, Sally will circle him to stop him going any further and bark to let us know.

Ben's also managing to communicate more. He's learned to give Sally a few commands – just simple ones like 'sit', 'down' and 'paw' – but her obedient response delights and encourages him! He sometimes struggles to talk to us because he gets frustrated when his words become muddled, but he's beginning to chat to Sally, who, of course, listens patiently and never interrupts or tells him to wait a moment because she's busy! 😊

I also told you that Ben is prone to repetitive behaviour. When anxious, he might flap his hands or rock constantly. You explained that an assistance dog could interrupt that behaviour and when Sally puts her paw on his arm, it does break the pattern.

Even trips to the doctor or dentist are now so much easier! Ben used to hate going, but having Sally around helps to ease his anxiety. 👍

I think Ben's independence will grow over time. He's already grown so much since he started looking after Sally, as it's his job to feed and groom her regularly. She's not just an assistant - she's become his best friend, and while he won't hug a person, **he'll happily cuddle Sally!** 😊

I can't thank you enough for this wonderful dog. Not only has Ben's life improved, but we feel less stressed knowing that Sally caters for many of his needs and lets us know if there are any problems.

Thank you
Mary Willoughby

1

Look at the third paragraph in Text A.

Identify **two** things the reader should consider before taking on a working dog as a pet.

(2 marks)

Consideration 1: _____

Consideration 2: _____

2

Look at the third paragraph in Text A.

The writer states that rescue centres are full of dogs because 'many people take on a dog without researching the breed'.

What does this imply?

(1 mark)

3

The writer of Text A states that 'Dalmatians are predisposed to deafness'.

What does this mean?

(1 mark)

4

According to Text B, who might an **assistance** dog help?

(1 mark)

5

Identify **two** organisational features used by the writer of Text B.

Using the text, state what information **one** of these features helps the reader to find.

(3 marks)

Organisational feature 1: _____

Organisational feature 2: _____

Information: _____

6

Using Text B, give **two** reasons why someone **would not** be a suitable handler.

(2 marks)

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: _____

7

Look at the 'What will happen after you apply?' section in Text B.

What style of writing is used?

Provide **two** examples from the text to support your answer.

(3 marks)

Style of writing: _____
Example 1: _____

Example 2: _____

8

Look at the 'How does it work?' section in Text B.

The writer states that volunteering is 'a very rewarding experience for both you and your dog!'.
Give **one** reason why this would be a rewarding experience.

(1 mark)

9

Identify whether the following statements in Text C are **facts** or **opinions**.

(4 marks)

A month ago, I collected a cockapoo named Sally: _____

I think it's because everyone's more interested in Sally: _____

I think Ben's independence will grow over time: _____

Ben's also managing to communicate more: _____

10a

The **main** purpose of Text C is to:

Tick (✓) one box

(1 mark)

A	persuade the reader to get an assistance dog	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	explain how Sally was trained	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	instruct the reader on how to care for an assistance dog	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	describe how Sally has helped Ben	<input type="checkbox"/>

10b

The writer of Text C has used **1st person perspective** and **emotive language** to support the purpose.

Using the text, give **one** example of each of these.

(2 marks)

1st person perspective: _____

Emotive language: _____

11

Explain why the writer of Text C has used **bold text** and **emojis**.

(2 marks)

Bold text: _____

Emojis: _____

13a

Compare Text B and Text C.

Identify **two** similarities or differences about **therapy and assistance dogs**.

(2 marks)

Comparison 1: _____

Comparison 2: _____

13b

Compare **two** ways the information has been conveyed in Text B and Text C.

In your answer, you could consider the use of:

- vocabulary
- style of writing
- tone of voice

(2 marks)

Way 1: _____

Way 2: _____

END OF ASSESSMENT

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For official use only:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10a	10b	11	12	13a	13b	TOTAL
Mark(s) available	2	1	1	1	3	2	3	1	4	1	2	2	3	2	2	30
Marker																
2 nd line marker																

Marker:	
Date:	

2 nd line Marker:	
Date:	



Level 2

Reading

Highfield Qualifications

Highfield Icon
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We listen and respond