

Learners' version

Guidance

These materials are provided to **exemplify the types of text and questions** that are used for the statutory National Reading Tests.

There are four reading tests in English and four reading tests in Welsh (these are unique tests, not translations) for use in May which will be used across pairs of year groups – Years 2/3, Years 4/5, Years 6/7 and Years 8/9.

However, **for the purposes of these samples**, materials are presented in the following way, with a view to making it easier for use in schools.

- Years 2/3 – learner version and teacher version.
- Years 4/5/6 (primary materials) – learner version and teacher version.
- Years 7/8/9 (secondary materials) – learner version and teacher version.

The **materials are intended to be used together** – with the learner version and the teacher version complementing each other.

Each learner version consists of a **text and associated questions**. This can be downloaded and used with learners in class – either as printed copies or electronically, for example, on an interactive whiteboard.

Each teacher version consists of an **annotated copy of the learner version**. This provides information about the purpose of each question type as well as explaining ways in which the questions should be approached in order for learners to show the best of their ability. The teacher version can be downloaded and printed or used electronically.

Please note: these sample materials are not intended to represent a whole test, merely to exemplify the style of questioning that will be employed.

Modified sample materials are being produced to support learners with visual impairment or learners who normally use large print as part of their normal classroom practice.

All materials are available in Modified Large Print (B4 sized, 18 point font) or Braille (Grade 2). Materials for learners in Years 4 to 9 are also available in Enlarged Print format (B4 sized, 14 point font).

If you have ordered modified tests and would like to receive a copy of these sample materials in their modified form, please contact the Test Order Helpline on 01753 637270 or at welsh-test-orders@nfer.ac.uk



Reading sample materials

Learners' version



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Oh rats!

SO, DO YOU LIKE RATS? Or do you hate them? Of all the pet shop animals, they are one of the most popular. However, after spiders and snakes, they are the creature that human beings hate the most!

But how can rats be so well-loved and – at the same time – so disliked? Are they so different from us? Think about it ...



*The black rat (*Rattus rattus*) is one of the most common species of rat and is found all over the world.*

RATS, LIKE US, ARE MAMMALS. Just like a human, a rat has a face, two eyes, a nose and a mouth. Each has a skeleton, with a skull and backbone, ribs, two bony rings or girdles (like our shoulders and hips) and four limbs – so do we. Rats also have bellybuttons and we both have a tail – really! Of course we all know about rats' long tails, but people also have tailbones in their lower backs¹.

UNLIKE US, rats belong to an order of mammals called rodents. The name comes from the Latin *rodere* – which means 'to gnaw' or 'to chew'. Rats have specialised gnawing teeth at the front, which are bright orange. Like us, rats have to take care of their teeth, but they don't use toothbrushes; they do it by chomping on grain or bits of wood. If they don't, their two big orange front teeth just keep on growing in a curve until they penetrate their lower jaw, so the rats can't eat and they die.



Rats are probing but shy. They choose to run away rather than confront a potential threat.



Rats like playing collectively and love to sleep curled up in a huddle.



They take care of any injured and sick rats in their group.



When a rat is kept alone, it can become lonely and anxious.



A group of rats is called a mischief.



Rats have very poor eyesight and are colour blind.



Rats use their tail to control their body temperature because they cannot sweat.



Rats have strong teeth that can chew through glass or metal.



Rats belong to the largest family of mammals (*muridae*) which contains over 700 species of mice, rats and gerbils.

¹The tailbone is a small triangular bone at the base of the spine in humans. It is also called the coccyx.

1

Look at the text in the box below.
Underline the **phrase of two words** that tells us that many people do like rats.

SO, DO YOU LIKE RATS? Or do you hate them? Of all the pet shop animals, they are one of the most popular. However, after spiders and snakes, they are the creature that human beings hate the most!

1
1m

2

But how can rats be so well-loved and – at the same time – so disliked?

What does this mean?

Tick **one**.

- Many people like rats, but rats do not enjoy human company.
- Most people cannot make up their mind whether they love or hate rats.
- People tend to have extreme opinions about rats.
- Rats have both appealing and repulsive habits.

2
1m

3

In what ways are rats similar to humans?

Tick **two**.

- They are very popular.
- They also hate spiders and snakes.
- They are mammals.
- Their skeletons are similar.
- They sweat when hot.

3
1m

4

Find and **copy** another name for the human tailbone.

4
1m

5



A group of rats is called a mischief.

Look at the other rat facts at the end of the article.

Find and **copy two** words that tell us rats like to do things in groups.

1. _____

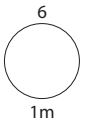
2. _____

5
2m

please turn over

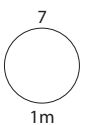
6 Draw **four** lines to show which word matches each definition.

rodere	a common species of rat
muridae	the animal family to which rats belong
mischief	the origin of the word rodent
Rattus rattus	a group of rats



7 Put ticks to show which statements are **true** and which are **false**.

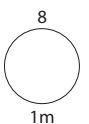
	True	False
Rats are the creature that human beings hate the most.		
Rats enjoy living alone.		
Rats' tails prevent them from becoming overheated.		
Rats look after their companions if they are ill.		



8 Look again at the text.

Show the order in which the following aspects are presented in the text by numbering them from 1 to 5. One has been done for you.

- emotional characteristics
- similarities between humans and rats
- dental care
- popularity of rats
- origin/meaning of their name



9

Choose the **best** word or group of words to fit the passage and tick your choice.

The passage is about rats and their relationship to human beings. The main purpose of the passage is to

- a) **provide information.** **highlight the differences.** **translate from Latin text.** **prove the similarities.**

It presents a selection of

- b) **scientific** **exaggerated** **factual** **controversial**

statements which may delight or disgust the reader depending on

- c) **whether they believe them or not.** **how they feel about rats.** **whether they have heard them before.** **how difficult they are to understand.**

9a

1m

9b

1m

9c

1m

End of sample materials.

