

Paper A 2017

ENGLISH 11+



Name: .....

Candidate Number: .....

You have 40 minutes in which to complete this paper.

Focus on using correct spelling and punctuation.

Make sure that your work is original.

Read the questions carefully.

Total marks available are 50.

**Read the following extract carefully and then answer the questions that follow.**

If, like me, you have ever arrived home to be greeted by a licking, loving pooch, you know that pets can help lower our stress levels. Studies have shown that cuddling a pet, most likely a cat or a dog, releases the "cuddle chemical" oxytocin in both human and pet. This miraculous little chemical has a calming and soothing effect that leads to the development of a strong bond between pet and owner. This bond can be as intense as that in many human relationships, and may confer similar health benefits.

So can pets make us healthier?

My dog Sophie, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, gives and takes affection so wonderfully because hers is a pure emotion. Dogs are the only species that, like a human child, runs to its human when it is frightened, anxious or just pleased to see us. It is also the only animal, aside from other humans, that actively seeks out eye contact with people, and truly wants to be with us.

Cats can also exhibit attachment and love to their people, but their bond is often more at arm's length. There are the inevitable exceptions - a cat-owning friend has a wonderfully affectionate feline who loves nothing more than cuddling up on her owner's lap. In the main however the old saying applies that cats have servants and dogs have masters or mistresses.

There are numerous health benefits of owning a pet. These range from improved cardiovascular health to a reduced risk of asthma and allergic rhinitis in children exposed to pet allergens, and better overall physical and psychological wellbeing.

The cardiovascular and lowered blood pressure benefits come in part from the increased exercise taken on a daily basis by the dog owner – when you need to exercise a dog, you do, but when it's just you needing to exercise, you often make excuses. Venturing outside for a walk with your pooch can also lead to increased social interaction and a sense of connection with your community, which can improve mood and reduce stress levels. If you live alone, pets by their very company can help stave off loneliness and encourage feelings of responsibility and maturity in caring for another being.

**Extract taken from:** <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/how-having-a-pet-can-make-us-healthier-a6792126.html>

1. Give two reasons (from the extract) why having a pet dog is good for you. (2)

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2. What technique is being used when it says “licking, loving pooch” and what does it emphasise? (2)

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3. What image is created by the use of the words “strong bond”? (2)

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4. Why do you think the word “bond” is used several times in this extract? (1)

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5. What is meant by the phrase “at arm’s length” and what does this tell us about how the author views cats? (3)

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6. What is meant by *psychological* wellbeing? (2)

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7. Pick out two verbs from the extract that mean decrease. (2)

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12. Imagine that you have always wanted a pet dog and finally are going to get one. Write a short diary entry for the day before you are due to pick up your dog. Make sure that your style of writing is suitable for a diary entry and that you get across how excited you are that you will soon be getting the dog you have been longing for. (6)

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13. Think of three qualities a good pet owner needs and explain why these qualities are important. (6)

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