

Reading Comprehension Task:

Canines throughout the Centuries

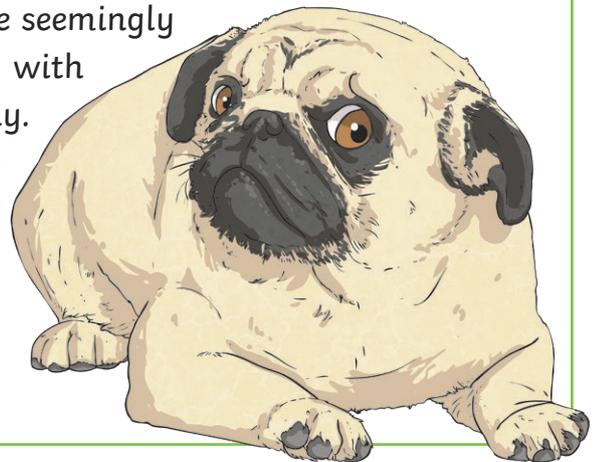
You have 30 minutes to read the following passage and answer **all** of the questions below. Match your response to the marks available. You may continue your answers on the additional pages provided, if required.

Although canines have been human companions for millennia, with breeds such as the greyhound mentioned in ancient and notable texts like the Bible, some popular breeds would now be unrecognisable when compared to their physical appearance merely a century ago.

As dogs have become more widely accepted as domesticated pets, owners and breeders have begun to highly value certain aspects of appearance or physical prowess and demand for these particular facets has increased.

Popular domestic breeds, such as the pug, have been bred to accentuate features of their appearance that make them look 'cute'. Over the last century, pugs have become much smaller in size, with shorter legs and curlier tails. Their eyes protrude more than those seen in historical records and the snout has become significantly shorter.

By selectively propagating dogs who demonstrate these seemingly desirable traits, breeders have created a type of dog with copious health issues which did not exist historically. Bulging eyes make modern-day pugs prone to eye injuries and problems with their vision. Their shorter snout often restricts the breed's breathing, causing them to pant and gasp for breath.



1. Look at the following words which are bold in the text. Which do you think is the most appropriate synonym of each word given its context? Circle your answers.

domesticated	expensive	tamed	unruly
accentuate	highlight	interpret	reduce
propagating	withholding	restricting	breeding

2 marks

2. Why do you think that it is in the interest of dog breeders to accentuate certain features of a breed's appearance?

2 marks

3. 'I think that it is the right of humans to breed domesticated animals for their desirable characteristics.'

Using information from the text and your own knowledge and opinions, explain how far you agree with this viewpoint.

3 marks

4. Using evidence from the text to support your answer, discuss two things which may happen to pugs over the next century.

3 marks

Reading Comprehension Task:

Canines throughout the Centuries **Example Answers**

To achieve the full number of marks for each question, pupils' responses should be to the same quality as the examples below. This is not a comprehensive list of answers and should only be used as a guide regarding answer depth and detail.

1. Look at the following words which are bold in the text. Which do you think is the most appropriate synonym of each word given its context? Circle your answers.

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accentuate	highlight	interpret	reduce
propagating	withholding	restricting	breeding

2. Why do you think that it is in the interest of dog breeders to accentuate certain features of a breed's appearance?

I think that it is in the interest of dog breeders to accentuate certain features of a breed's appearance because customers will be more likely to buy dogs that have desirable traits. By creating more desirable dogs, the breeders' businesses will thrive and become more profitable.

3. 'I think that it is the right of humans to breed domesticated animals for their desirable characteristics.'

Using information from the text and your own knowledge and opinions, explain how far you agree with this viewpoint.

I do not agree with this viewpoint. Firstly, the text states that selectively propagating dogs has been known to create 'copious health issues' and I do not feel that this is fair on the animals that are born. Furthermore, using my own knowledge, I know that there are many animals which do not have desirable characteristics that are in need of homes. It seems illogical to breed desirable dogs when so many needy dogs already exist.

4. Using evidence from the text to support your answer, discuss two things which may happen to pugs over the next century.

The text says that many breeds are already unrecognisable when compared to their physical appearance a century ago. I think that this means that pugs will change ever further and look totally different over the next century. I also believe that there may be a reduction in the amount of pugs in the world over the next century. As the text says that modern-day pugs are so prone to health issues, breeders may choose not to create further pugs and to swap to a different breed which has fewer health issues.