Text A

The Giant Panda

The giant panda, also known as the panda bear or simply the panda, is a bear that comes from China. The name 'giant' panda is used because there is another animal called a panda – the red panda. Although they are both called pandas, they are very different.

The giant panda is easily recognised. It has large, black patches around its eyes and ears and across its body. Adult pandas are 1.2 to 1.9 metres long. Males can weigh 160 kilograms, but females are much smaller and lighter. Although scientists are unsure why these animals are black and white, they think the colouring allows the panda to hide in its snowy and rocky habitat. | 5

The giant panda's unusual paws have five fingers and a thumb, which helps the panda to hold bamboo while eating it. Although 99% of the panda's food is bamboo, giant pandas are actually omnivores because, in the wild, they will occasionally eat birds or small mammals. While in zoos, they are also given honey, eggs, fish, oranges or bananas as well as grasses, such as bamboo. | 10

The giant panda is found in mountain ranges in China, mainly in Sichuan province, but also in Shaanxi and Gansu provinces. As a result of farming and deforestation, the giant panda no longer inhabits the lowland areas where it once existed. | 15

At the moment, pandas are an endangered species. Scientists are not sure about the number of pandas living in the wild. Some believe there are only about 1 600, while other scientists estimate there may be up to 3 000. Some studies show that the number of giant pandas in the wild is actually rising. | 20

Read **Text A**, in the insert, and answer questions 1–7.

1 Look at the first sentence: 'The giant panda, also known as the panda bear or simply the panda, is a bear that comes from China.' (lines 1–2).
What type of sentence is it? Tick (✓) **one** box.

a question ☐

<mark>a statement</mark> ☐

an instruction ☐

an exclamation ☐

2 Why are some pandas called 'giant' pandas?

because there is another animal called (the red) panda

3 Look at the second paragraph (lines 5–9).
    (a) Give **two** pronouns and **two** prepositions.
       pronouns

       _____it_____

       _____they_____

       prepositions
       _____around____   _across_____in_____

    (b) Why do scientists think pandas are black and white?

       It allows them to hide.

4 Look at the third paragraph (lines 10–14).

    (a) Give **one** word that tells you that pandas eat both plants and meat.
       omnivore

    (b) Give **two** examples of things pandas eat in their natural habitat that are not plants.
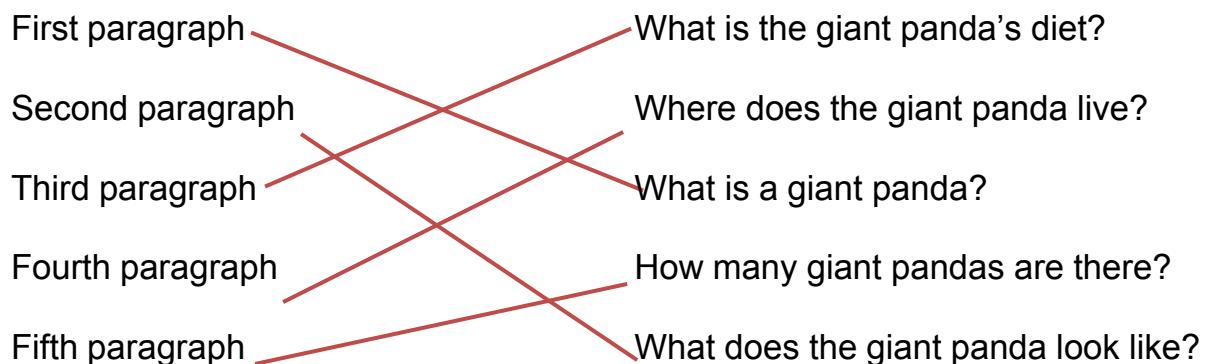   birds

       (small) mammals

5 Why have pandas moved away from lowland areas?
Because of farming / deforestation

6 Why do some scientists think the panda will have a good future?

Some studies show that the number of giant pandas in the wild is actually rising.

7 Match the sub-heading to the correct paragraph.

First paragraph   What is the giant panda's diet?

Second paragraph   Where does the giant panda live?

Third paragraph   What is a giant panda?

Fourth paragraph   How many giant pandas are there?

Fifth paragraph   What does the giant panda look like?

Text B

Fun facts about a super-plant: bamboo

Everyone knows that bamboo is a panda's favourite food. But what else do we know about bamboo?

How does it grow?
Well, did you know bamboo is one of the fastest-growing plants on Earth? It can grow as much as 90 centimetres in 24 hours! However, the growth rate depends on the soil and weather conditions, as well as the type of bamboo. China has the best climate and soil conditions to grow the most valued bamboo in the world. *5*

When does it flower?
Well, actually, most types of bamboo don't flower very often. In fact, some only flower at intervals of 120 years! Sometimes, all bamboo plants from the same species flower simultaneously, wherever they are growing or whatever the weather conditions are like. After flowering, the bamboo dies. 10

What's so super about it?
Well, apart from growing 'super' fast, bamboo is also really beneficial for our planet. It releases more oxygen and absorbs more carbon dioxide than other plants – in other words, it cleans our air.

Does it have any other uses?
Yes, it certainly does. Bamboo is so strong that it is used for building purposes. It is also used in Chinese medicine for healing. Not only that, but bamboo is a *15* popular ingredient in many Asian dishes. So, pandas aren't the only ones that love bamboo!

Read **Text B**, in the insert, and answer questions 8–12.

8 Explain why an exclamation mark (!) is used in line 4.

because it is amazing that bamboo grows so fast

9 Look at lines 7–10.

Give **one** word that means 'at the same time'.

simultaneously

10 Look at lines 11–13.

(a) Bamboo grows super-fast.

Give another reason why *super* is a good word to describe bamboo.

It helps the planet / cleans the air

(b) Give **one** word or phrase that means 'another way of saying something'.

In other words

11 What does the idea in the last sentence (lines 16–17) link back to?

the introduction, which mentions pandas loving / eating bamboo

12 How is the text organised to make the information easy for us to read? Give **three** ideas.

1. Heading

2. Sub-heading

3. Paragraphs

4. Questions as sub-headings

5. Topic sentence

13 Questions are used as headings. Explain how this helps the reader.

To tell the reader what the paragraph will be about

To grab the reader's attention

14 What is the purpose of sub-headings?

To tell the reader what the paragraph will be about

To organize the information in the text

15 How does the writer get our attention in non-fiction?

1. Talks to us directly

2. Exclamation marks

3. Short sentences

4. Repetition

5. Italics

6. Powerful adjectives

16 What are the features of a non-chronological report?

1. Heading/ sub-heading
2. Facts and opinions
3. Present tense
4. Connectives
5. Technical words
6. Third person