Year 6 reading comprehension

Two reports, one survey

Non-fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

Imagine that a school asks pupils which lunchtime activity they would like next term. Of the 120 pupils invited to answer, 60 return the survey. Thirty of those respondents choose a gardening club.

A report might say, “Half of the pupils want gardening.” The survey cannot support that claim because 60 pupils did not answer. Another report says, “Half of the pupils who answered chose gardening.” This describes the responses accurately, but it does not tell us what the other pupils prefer.

This difference matters when the school makes a decision. Thirty responses support an interest in gardening, but they do not establish what every pupil wants. Staff could ask non-respondents again or discuss why some pupils did not take part. Perhaps the form was easy to miss, or perhaps those pupils were unsure. Those are possibilities to investigate, not facts supplied by the result.

The wording of the question also affects what can be concluded. If pupils may choose only one activity, the survey identifies their first choice among the listed options. It does not show every activity they would enjoy. If an activity is absent from the list, its popularity cannot be measured by that question.

A useful report gives the question, the number of responses and the limits of the evidence. Careful wording does not make the result less valuable. It helps readers understand what the numbers actually show.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. How many pupils returned the survey?

A. 120

B. 60

C. 30

D. 90

2. How many respondents chose gardening?

A. 30

B. 60

C. 120

D. 15

3. Who are “non-respondents” in this passage?

A. The pupils who chose gardening

B. The staff who wrote the report

C. Everyone outside the school

D. The invited pupils who did not answer

4. Why is the second report more precise?

A. It includes the preferences of every invited pupil

B. It makes clear that the fraction applies only to those who answered

C. It gives a reason for every missing response

D. It proves gardening would be the most popular club in any school

5. Why does a single-choice question not reveal every activity a pupil enjoys?

A. It automatically records no preferences

B. It records one choice from the offered options

C. It lets pupils add every missing activity

D. It measures only pupils who dislike clubs

6. Why does the writer describe explanations for missing responses as possibilities?

A. The writer knows every missing pupil was unsure

B. The numbers alone do not establish why those pupils did not answer

C. The survey already measured each reason

D. The school should ignore all missing responses

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. B. 60

The first paragraph states that 60 of the 120 invited pupils returned it.

2. A. 30

Thirty respondents chose the gardening club.

3. D. The invited pupils who did not answer

The term refers to the 60 invited pupils who did not return an answer.

4. B. It makes clear that the fraction applies only to those who answered

Thirty out of 60 respondents is half; the preferences of the other 60 pupils are unknown.

5. B. It records one choice from the offered options

The passage distinguishes a first choice among listed options from the full range of activities a pupil might enjoy.

6. B. The numbers alone do not establish why those pupils did not answer

A missed form or uncertainty could explain a missing answer, but the result does not prove either explanation.

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