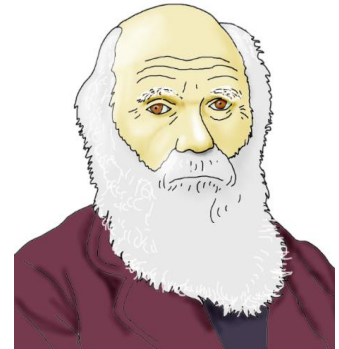


TEST B

The Voyage of the Beagle



The portrait of Charles Darwin on the left shows him as a young man of around 27 years old. He had just returned from a voyage on board the Beagle, captained by Robert FitzRoy. During the five-year trip to South America, Captain FitzRoy made maps of the coastline. Darwin, on the other hand, was interested in collecting specimens to learn more about animals and how they evolved.

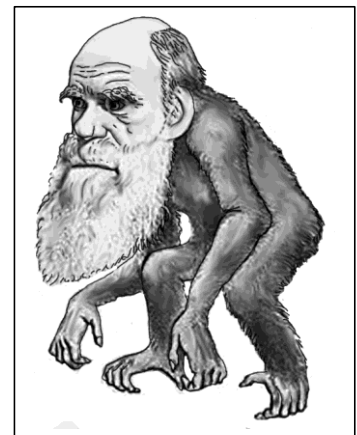
The portrait on the right shows Darwin when he was 60 years old. By then, he had written *On the Origin of the Species* – a book that changed how people thought about life on Earth.

During the voyage, Syms Covington, the ship's fiddler and cabin boy, noted the following:

On the morning of 27th December, 1831, H.M.S. Beagle, with a crew of seventy-three men, sailed out of Plymouth harbour under a calm easterly wind and drizzly rain. Darwin became seasick almost immediately and started to have second thoughts about the voyage.

Syms Covington, however, was of great help to Darwin, especially when they landed on the volcanic islands of the Galapagos. Covington assisted him in keeping notes of the different species and where they were found. Darwin, for instance, realised that many of the insects, birds, reptiles and plants found on the islands were the same species as those on the South American mainland, but, in many ways, they were different. They had changed over time to suit conditions on the islands.

On the Origin of the Species contained scientific evidence of how animals evolved. This was followed by *The Descent of Man*, which argued that human beings evolved from apes. Not everyone liked this new idea, as a cartoon at the time shows. Nonetheless, the survival of any species of animal or plant depends on how well it adapts to its environment. Watch any nature programme today to see how true this is.



1. What was Captain FitzRoy's reason for sailing to South America?

1 mark

2. In the first paragraph, there is a phrase that tells you Darwin was doing something scientific. What is the phrase?

1 mark

3. What impact did Darwin's book, *On the Origin of the Species*, have?

1 mark

4. Darwin might not have been an experienced sailor. How do we know?

1 mark

5. Who was Syms Covington?

1 mark

6. How did Covington help Darwin during the voyage?

1 mark

7. What did Darwin observe about the plants and wildlife on the Galapagos?

1 mark

8. Possibly, the person who drew the cartoon found it difficult to accept Darwin's ideas about apes and humans. Imagine a conversation between Darwin and the cartoonist. What might they say to each other?

2 marks

9. Other scientists had ideas about evolution before Darwin, but he and his book became famous. The cartoon and several others like it were quite common. How might these have helped Darwin?

2 marks

10. It's clear that the writer accepts Darwin's ideas about evolution. How do we know?

1 mark

11. What kind of text is this? Tick one.

scientific explanation

biography

adventure story

newspaper report

1 mark