

C2 Mark Scheme – Cats

Award one mark for each correct response in (a), (b) and (c).

- 1.1 a) How many birds are killed by cats in the UK each year? [1]
- 55 million
- b) Which infection can cats pass on to humans? [1]
- Toxoplasmosis
- c) Name one bird that cats commonly kill [1]
- Garden birds / robin or blackbird

- 1.2 How does the writer show that cats are dangerous and in need of stricter controls? [10]

Some points that candidates may explore:

- He begins with the emotive reference to 'kill' in opening title - dramatic
- He explains he's 'not a cat person' and 'struggles' to understand the nation's affection for them when they have such a 'nasty side'
- Refers to the cat's destructive nature - 'responsible for the deaths of millions of wild birds and mammals'/'they kill 55 million birds in the UK each year'/implies cats are harmful – use of phrases 'lethal killer'
- A leading scientist has called for a 'wholesale cull of millions of moggies.' / Moss is 'inclined to agree'
- Refers to cats as 'moggies' which suggest they are not remarkable/have no pedigree – slightly derogatory tone
- Use of the bird expert Dr Peter Marra to emphasis the extent of the problem and the risks to human health - 'infections such as toxoplasmosis' and how this 'can cause miscarriage' in pregnant women and 'blindness' in rare cases, and has been linked to 'anxiety and depression'
- Scientific perspective calls for stricter controls - Dr Marra's call to put pet cats on leashes outside or keep them under 'house arrest' / Dr Marra is concerned that cats are 'allowed' to roam and cause these problems - Moss believes that we should take this 'suggestion seriously'
- Refers to cats as 'domestic killers'- emotive vocabulary/implies they're dangerous
- Dr Marra believes that stray cats need to be 'euthanised'/'killed' to manage the problem
- He emphasises the wide range of animals' cats kill - 'garden birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians'/'they're not particular about their victims'
- He compares cats' physical actions, when stalking its prey, to that of big cats in the wild – suggests they are instinctively killers and not pets/ Vivid imagery describes the attack 'launching itself into the air'/'pouncing on its unwitting victim'/'quick, calculating, merciless'
- Refers to the cat as a mental tormentor - 'toying with their prey'/'the torture is simply for their own sadistic amusement'
- He is angered by cat owners' 'denial' about the dangers of them - feels cat owners don't accept the problem/ blind to their 'psychopathic side'

- Refers to historical context - 'because they are effective rodent killers, we have introduced' cats in such great numbers that 'our native wildlife' just can't cope.
- He calls them an 'alien predator' which suggests they're not natural to the environment
- He emphasises the size of the problem. 'Eight million as pets'
- He explains that birds have not got the skills required to escape attack – cats are clever
- He finishes by using statistics from the Mammal Society to demonstrate the extent of their killing – '275 million prey'/ '55 million birds'/ '60 species of mammal, bird, reptiles ...and amphibian life'.
- Finishes with the image of an army – a force needed to be fought. 'Armies of stray cats'

Award two marks for each correct response in (a)

Award one mark for each correct response in (b)

1.3 a) Name two colours used to describe the cats' coats [2]

- rich orange/ delicate beige/ smoky grey/ vivid red/ slate blue

b) Which animals do cats kill 'by the dozen'? [1]

- chickens

1.4 Someone stated that 'Emily Crawford admires cats'. How far do you agree with this statement? [10]

Some points that candidates may explore:

- She refers to their high status - 'important position in the animal world'
- She believes they are skilled and useful to owners as a 'mouser' - catching mice
- She says that their looks were not important in the past but now they have many 'wonderful characteristics' - she feels they are valuable to us
- She says there are many patterns of the cats' coats - they are 'exquisite'. She feels they are beautiful/interesting to look at/ 'It seems difficult to believe that it is all Nature'
- She refers to the cat as a 'friendly feline' - sense of the cat being approachable
- She uses adjectives to vividly describe how beautiful she thinks the cats' coats are: 'the rich orange, delicate beige, smoky grey, vivid red, slate blue'
- She refers to the popularity of cats when referring to colours as 'fashionable shades'
- She thinks cats are easy to train/clever – 'can be trained to almost anything'.
- Crawford thinks cats can demonstrate control - 'We have a number of Persians, which sit with calmness upon the top of our birdcages watching the canaries hopping merrily about from perch to perch, making no attempt to touch them'
- She believes cats can be trusted when left alone - 'They ramble about at their own sweet will among many tiny chicks, yet they never go missing!'
- She thinks cats can learn to follow rules - 'They seem to recognise the fact that a plump little mouse, or an unwary blue-bottle caught buzzing upon the window-pane, is their only legitimate prey'/ She feels they can learn from mistakes they make - 'It is ten to one if poor kitty will never make a mistake again'
- She gives the cats human-like attributes when she suggests they can "consider" their "wrong-doings"

To answer the following questions you will need to use both texts.

1.5 Using the information from both texts, explain briefly in your own words what types of animals cats tend to attack and/or kill. [4]

Details that candidates may select, explore or respond to:

Moss:

- Wild birds/Garden birds – robin and blackbird
- Mammals – rodents, mice
- Reptiles – snakes and lizards
- Amphibians – frogs and toads

Crawford:

- Blue-bottle/flies
- Mice
- Birds - canaries
- Chickens

1.6 Both of these texts are about cats. [10]

Compare:

- The writers' views of cats
- How they get across their views

Some points that candidates may explore:

What the writers' views of cats

Moss:

- Dislikes cats
- See cats as lethal killers that kill too many small animals
- Agrees they should be killed to control them
- Feels there are too many stray cats in the UK, and they must be removed
- Feels they are not suitable as pets as they have a natural tendency to kill
- Feels cats cannot be trusted and they relish taunting its prey
- Feels cat owners are oblivious to the cat's negative traits
- Believes they are a problem as they are responsible for the global extinction of many species of small animal
- Refers to the "cat problem"

Crawford:

- Likes and admires cats
- Feels cats have a high status in the animal world/popular
- Feels cats have many skills

- Admires the beauty of cats' colours and patterns
- Feels cats are calm and able to control their natural urges to attack/kill
- Believes cats can be trusted

How they get across their views

Moss:

- Gives a personal perspective
- Uses emotive vocabulary to emphasise the danger of cats –lethal killers/domestic killers
- Uses a derogatory noun used for the cat - 'moggie'
- He refers to the bird expert's views about the impact of cats on animals and the suggested strategies for control
- Writer's use of the cat's actions when attacking
- Use of adverbs to vividly describe the pace of the cat and reinforce its danger – 'creeping up slowly and silently'
- Use of verbs to reinforce its deadly pace and strength of attack – 'launching', 'pouncing'.
- He generically quotes cat lovers and mocks their views
- He refers to the Mammal Society's statistics

Crawford:

- Uses an historical perspective to show how attitudes to cats have positively changed over time
- Refers to the cat using the feminine pronoun 'she' to encourage the reader to emotionally relate to the cat
- Use of the adjective 'friendly' to describe the nice nature of the cat
- Nouns used for the cat such as 'feline'/'kitty' demonstrate respect
- Uses adjectives to describe the cats' features in a positive way –'exquisite', 'beautiful', 'wonderful'
- Listing of cats' many colours to emphasise the wide selection and variety
- Uses personal anecdote to advise and give examples of how to manage cats

Overview

- Both give their personal views about cats
- Moss is negative and Crawford is positive about cats