

**SATS Questions- Commas to clarify meaning**

**Q1.**

- (a) Insert a **comma** in the sentence below to make it clear that **only** Sally and Bob went to the cinema.

After they left Jon Sally and Bob went to the  
cinema.

1 mark

- (b) Insert **commas** in the sentence below to make it clear that **all** three children went to the cinema.

After they left Jon Sally and Bob went to the  
cinema.

1 mark

**Q2.**

Explain how the **comma** changes the meaning of the second sentence.

1. I asked if Jake Thomas and Lily were coming to the barbecue.
2. I asked if Jake, Thomas and Lily were coming to the barbecue.

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1 mark

**Q3.**

Add two **commas** to the sentence below to make it clear that Ana has four favourite things.

Ana's favourite things are camping holidays cycling and swimming.

1 mark

**Q4. This is Mrs Kozyra's least favourite question EVER!**

Explain how the use of **commas** changes the meaning in the two

sentences.

*Mangoes, which are grown in hot countries, taste delicious.*

*Mangoes which are grown in hot countries taste delicious.*

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1 mark

**Q5.**

Insert a **pair of commas** to clarify the meaning of the sentence below.

The hotel since it opened has become very popular.

1 mark

A couple of extra questions:

**Q6. A)** Add **a comma** in the sentence below so that it is clear that **only** Chris and Sarah bought flowers.

Before they visited Jenny Chris and Sarah bought some flowers.

**B)** Add **commas** in the sentence below so that it is clear **all** children bought some flowers.

Before they visited Jenny Chris and Sarah bought some flowers.

**Q7.** Read the two sentences below. Explain how the meaning changes when the comma is added

Urvi had an odd collection of chocolate mice and jam.

Urvi had an odd collection of chocolate, mice and jam.

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Mark schemes

**Q1.**

- a) **Award 1 mark** for a correctly placed comma.

*After they left Jon, Sally and Bob went to the cinema.*

- b) **Award 1 mark** for correctly placed commas.

*After they left, Jon, Sally and Bob went to the cinema.*

**Do not accept** the use of a serial comma.

*After they left, Jon, Sally, and Bob went to the cinema.*

**1 mark**

## Q2.

**Award 1 mark** for an explanation that there are three named people in the second sentence, e.g.

- *In the second one there are three people called Jake, Thomas and Lily.*
- *There are more people in the second sentence.*
- *In the first one, there are two people and in the second one there are three.*
- *1. Two people 2. Three people*

**Also accept** responses that demonstrate understanding without referring to the second sentence, e.g.

- *There are only two people called Jake Thomas and Lily in the first sentence.*
- *In the first one, Thomas is Jake's surname and not another person.*

**Do not accept** responses that do not explain specifically how the meaning has changed, e.g.

- *It uses it for a list.*
- *It changes the number of people.*

**There are no spelling or punctuation requirements for this question.**

**1 mark**

## Q3.

**Award 1 mark** for **two** correctly placed commas.

Ana's favourite things are camping, holidays, cycling and swimming.

**1 mark**

## Q4.

**Award 1 mark** for an explanation of the meaning of both sentences, e.g.

- *The commas in the first sentence mean that all mangoes taste delicious/all mangoes are grown in hot countries.  
There are no commas in the second sentence, so it means that only mangoes grown in hot countries taste delicious.*

**Also accept** responses that are not written in full sentences.

**Do not accept** responses that explain only one sentence.

**Do not accept** responses that discuss the function of the commas without fully explaining the effect on the meaning, e.g.

- *There are commas in the first sentence so those words aren't important.*

**1 mark**

**Q5.**

**Award 1 mark** for a correctly placed pair of commas.

The hotel, since it opened, has become very popular.

**1 mark**

**Q6.**

- a) Before they visited Jenny, Chris and Sarah bought some flowers.**
- b) Before they visited, Jenny, Chris and Sarah bought flowers.**

**Q7.**

**In the first sentence Urvi collects chocolate mice and jam (2 items) but in the second sentence Urvi collects three items chocolate, mice and jam.**