

Progression in Explanations					
	Purpose: To explain how or why, e.g. to explain the processes involved in natural/social phenomena or to explain why something is the way it is. Explanatory texts generally go beyond simple 'description' in that they include information about causes, motives or reasons.				
	Examples: Explaining forces, food chains, inventions such as the steam train, the causes of historic events such as wars and revolutions, the role of the Nile in determining the seasons in Ancient Egypt, phenomena such as the water cycle or how a volcano erupts in geography, religious traditions and practices				
Year	Genre Features	Text Features	Sentence Features	Grammatical Features	Punctuation
1					
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear introduction explaining the process to be explained • Steps explained logically and in order using time and causal conjunctions to link ideas • Conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct choice and use of present tense or past tense throughout writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence types: statement, command, exclamation, question • Titles: usually begin with 'how' or 'why' • General statements to introduce topics explained e.g. In the winter some animals hibernate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present tense • Noun phrases • Simple and progressive present tense verbs • Adding 'er' and 'est' to show comparisons in adjectives • Co-ordinating conjunctions (and, or, but) • Subordinating conjunctions (when, if, that, because) • Technical vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full stops • Capital letter: start of sentence, names, personal pronoun – I • Question marks • Exclamation marks • Apostrophe for contractions • Possessive apostrophe for singular nouns • Commas in a list
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear introduction and conclusion • Paragraphs organised around a topic or process • Description of each step • Explanation of how or why something happens • Further details of the process • Use of subheading to navigate the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs to group related information • Headings and subheadings to aid presentation and guide the reader • Present perfect instead of simple past (it has grown over two years rather than it grew over two years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepositions to express time, cause and place • Adverbs to express time, place and cause and to show sequence, • Formation of subordinate clauses using subordinating conjunctions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverbs; time, place and cause- then, next, soon, therefore, finally • Prepositions- during, in, because of, before, after • Coordinating and subordinating conjunctions; when, while, after, because, soon, while to express time and cause • Headings and subheadings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question marks- eg. How do hedgehogs survive the winter? • Exclamation marks • Apostrophe to mark singular possession • Commas in a list
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear introduction and conclusion • Paragraphs organised around a topic or process • Description of each step 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme- introduction, stages of the process • Conclusion addresses the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of a wider range of subordinating conjunctions • Noun phrases further expanded by adding adjectives and prepositions to modify the noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fronted adverbials • Paragraphs • Nouns and pronouns to add cohesion • Subordinating conjunctions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commas after fronted adverbials • Apostrophes for plural possession

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explanation of how or why something happens Further details of the process Use of subheading to navigate the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice of pronoun or noun, within and across sentences to aid cohesion and avoid repetition Balance between nouns and pronouns to aid clarity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preposition phrases, subordinate clauses and noun phrases as fronted adverbials 		
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction and conclusion provide detail and give cohesion to the piece Subheadings and bullets points enhance the organisation Description of the phenomenon is technical and accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devices to build cohesion within a paragraph (then, after, that, this, firstly) Linking ideas across paragraphs using adverbials of time, place and number or tense choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that or an omitted relative pronoun to add an extra layer of information, Modal verbs to indicate degree of certainty Precise use of preposition phrases, subordinate clauses and noun phrases as adverbials to indicate time, place, manner or frequency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degrees of possibility; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adverbs - modal verbs Layout devices to provide additional information adverbials- cohesion within paragraphs Relative clauses parenthesis- add clarification of technical words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brackets, dashes and commas to indicate parenthesis Commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction and conclusion provide detail and give cohesion to the piece Subheadings and bullets points enhance the organisation Description of the phenomenon is technical and accurate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider range of cohesive devices to link ideas across paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repetition of a word or phrase - use of a wider range of adverbials - ellipsis Wider range of layout devices to structure text - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - headings - subheadings - columns - bullet points - tables - diagrams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passive voice Subjunctive form for formal writing Modal verbs to recommend and assert Precise use of a range of sentence structures for effect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embedded phrases and clauses for succinctness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degrees of formality and informality Wider range of cohesive devices Passive voice Advanced sequential and causal language ellipses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary between independent clauses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - semi-colons - colons - dashes Punctuate lists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bullet points - colons - semi-colons