

READING COMPREHENSION

For questions 14–20, you must choose which of the paragraphs A–H on page 85 fit into the numbered gaps in the following magazine article. There is one extra paragraph which does not fit in any of the gaps.

Indicate your answers on the separate answer sheet.

THE LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER

Richard Nerurkar, one of Britain's top 10,000-metre runners, visits the Kenyans' high-altitude training camp.

Ten miles south of the equator, a stony mountain track leads off the quiet metalled road from Nairobi. The track marks the start of the trek up Kenya's highest peak, the glacier-capped Mount Kenya. This gorgeous, if lonely and isolated, spot is Nanyuk: for the past three years it has been my base for mid-winter altitude training in Kenya's Central Highlands.

14

I was invited by Kenya's national team coach when I finished fifth – behind three Kenyans and a Moroccan – in the World Championship 10,000 metres race. It was an opportunity not to be missed. Training at high altitude produces more red blood cells, which improves oxygen-carrying capacity.

15

My first African race – which came before my spell at the Kenyan team training camp – was also a first for the whole continent. Held in Nairobi, it was the first-ever international cross-country race to be held on African soil.

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However, I don't believe Kenyan success can entirely be put down to the altitude factor. Kenyan runners are also noted for their refreshingly uncomplicated approach to the sport. While their running style is seemingly effortless, their diet simple and their manner of conversation relaxed, they also seem to love competing.

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The national team training camp is at St Mark's College, 6,200 feet up the southern slope of Mt Kenya,

surrounded by beautiful playing fields and dense tropical vegetation.

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The athletes' days at the camp are dominated by three work-outs: a leisurely early-morning run, interval training at mid-morning, followed by a steady run in the late afternoon. The daily regime began at six. We crawled from our bunks and assembled to be briefed by the coaches for the morning run.

"Run easy, you have a hard job today", we were warned as we left by the coach who'd invited me.

The total distance covered each day was about 40 kilometres – a little short of a marathon distance. The only exception was Sunday, with just the one scheduled run of 20 kilometres, which certainly came as a welcome respite from the rest of the week's three daily work-outs.

19

Lunch and dinner both had a similar menu: ugali (a maize dish), stew, cabbage or spinach and tea. When the day's running was over, in the early evening, we would pile into a car and drive down to bathe properly in one of the many streams that run off from Mt Kenya's shrinking glaciers.

20

I couldn't stop myself pondering upon a rather different explanation: that the purity and simplicity of this mountainside lifestyle, these gruelling work-outs and this passion for success, perhaps these are the secrets, perhaps these are the real reasons behind Kenya's rise to the top of world distance running.

- A** But the least discussed aspect of the puzzle of Kenyan success was perhaps the most basic: how do they train? My stay with the Kenyan runners at their team training camp soon provided the answers.
- B** With smoke rising from huts in the valley to obstruct our view of the lush, green, tropical vegetation and deep chasms, the senior members of the team controlled the pace.
- C** These benefits have been borne out by the successes of generations of Kenyan runners.
- D** Running apart, life was complication-free. A splash of water on the face and a brush of the teeth sufficed for pre-breakfast preparations. Breakfast itself consisted of tea, bread and boiled eggs, taken in a sparsely-lit, small dining area.
- E** But not once on those trips had I trained with Kenyan runners on their home soil. On my fourth and most recent winter training trip to Kenya, however, I broke a personal tradition. I both competed in my first-ever race in Kenya's oxygen-thin air and stayed at Kenya's national team training camp, which is where the country's top runners prepare for their annual assault on the World Cross-Country Team Championships.
- F** If nothing else, it was a humbling experience. Of the 41 runners who finished ahead of me, all but 3 were Kenyan. And I honestly felt I hadn't had a bad race!
- G** By the time I left the camp, I was even more appreciative of Kenyan success. That success just can't be attributed to genetics or upbringing or altitude alone.
- H** It's a fairly basic affair, though: there are few comforts. The athletes live among the college's regular students and are housed six to a room in cinder-block dormitories.

You will hear part of a radio programme in which details of a competition are announced. For questions **1–9**, complete the notes.

You will hear the recording **twice**.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

Competition open to people aged 18 to 25.

Organised through a programme called [] **1**

Last year's competition won by a Turk who runs a [] **2**

He was chosen from [] **3** finalists.

All finalists are [] **4**

Entry: – must be typed on one side of paper only

– no longer than [] **5**

– must have a person's signature

– person must not be [] **6**

Include name, home and business addresses and [] **7**

Closing date: [] **8**

Final prizewinner's name broadcast in [] **9** programme.

Part 4

You will hear various people talking about education.

You will hear the recording **twice**. While you listen you must complete **both tasks**.

TASK ONE

For questions **28–32**, match the extracts as you hear them with the people listed **A–H**.

A politician

B employer

C primary school teacher

D parent

E sports coach

F university professor

G museum guide

H student

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TASK TWO

For questions **33–37**, match the extracts as you hear them with each speaker's intention listed **A–H**.

A asking advice

B complaining

C ordering

D offering

E apologising

F describing part of a job

G describing a procedure

H outlining a plan

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