

CODE 6
READING PAPER
Time permitted: 60 minutes
Number of questions: 40

Directions: In this section you will read **FOUR** different passages. Each one is followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer A, B, C or D, to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

Take me out to the Ballpark

Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie... you just can't get more American than that! Frank Bell gives us a look at baseball, no longer just America's favourite sport!

Baseball is sometimes called a national pastime in America because it is a much loved national sport. Of course, baseball is not limited to the USA. It has played for many years in the countries of South America and is very popular in Japan. Europe is another matter, not many baseball teams exist in Europe today. That, however, is slowly changing. Since baseball is an Olympic sport, more and more countries are putting together teams and joining the game! **(A)**

Going to baseball games is a way of life for many fans. They sit in the stands on hot and sunny spring and summer days, eat hot dogs or popcorn, sip cola or lemonade and enjoy the game. Adults and children alike attend games, and it's a sport that everyone seems to love. Baseball is such a part of American life that nearly everyone's favourite childhood memory includes a day at the ballpark.

When and where did the game of baseball start? Well, people have been playing games with a stick and a ball for hundreds of years! Modern baseball, however, about 150 years ago in New York, USA and has been a popular sport ever since. It has changed a little bit over the years but the basic game remains the same. Baseball is played with a bat, which a stick about 100 cm long is made of metal or wood, and a small hard ball. Each player also wears one heavy leather glove to catch the ball. Baseball gear usually consists of a lightweight shirt and trousers that come down just past the knees. **(B)**

Baseball is played on a special outdoor field which has two parts, the infield and the outfield. In the infield is an area shaped like a diamond that indicates the boundaries of the playing area. On the diamond, there are also the three bases that the players must run over to score. The outfield is an open grassy area where players wait to catch balls that are hit by other players.

The game of baseball is divided into nine parts, called innings. During an inning, each of the two teams takes its turn to bat, which means trying to hit the ball that is thrown to them by the pitcher of the other team. After the ball is hit, the player tries to run and touch three different bases before running to home base. The team not batting tries to catch the balls that are hit and stop the runners before they score. The team that scores the most runs by the end of the ninth inning wins. It's a game that can go very slowly for a while then suddenly have a series of fast and exciting moves! **(C)** Fans love baseball games! The stands are usually filled for the games. People enjoy a day at the ballpark cheering on their favourite team and relaxing in the summer sun. So what are you waiting for? Put on your baseball cap and give it a try! **(D)**

1. The writer says that baseball
 - A. is played only in America.
 - B. is not popular in countries like Japan.
 - C. started in South America.
 - D. is becoming more popular all over the world.
2. According to the text, baseball is played in more and more countries because
 - A. it is an exciting game.
 - B. it is included in the Olympic Games.
 - C. Many American people live there.
 - D. It is easy to play.

3. Which sentence isn't true about baseball? A. It was first played during the 1850s.
B. It is an Olympic sport.
C. The rules have changed quite a lot over the years.
D. It started in New York.
4. Which piece of equipment is not mentioned in the text?
A. bat
B. ball
C. glove
D. mask

In which space (marked (A), (B),(C)and (D)in the passage) will the following sentence fit?

Players wear shoes with spikes to help them run, just as football players do, and a baseball cap, which is something everyone is familiar with!

- A. (A)
 - B. (B)
 - C. (C)
 - D. (D)
5. What is the baseball field like?
A. It has an infield, an outfield and a middle field.
B. There are three diamonds on the ground.
C. There are three bases on the diamond.
D. It is usually in an indoor stadium.
 6. The game is divided into
A. two halves.
B. nine innings.
C. three bases.
D. an infield and an outfield.
 7. The object of the game is to
A. catch as many balls as you can.
B. hit the ball the farthest.
C. score the most runs.
D. bat as often as you can.
 8. What is true about a baseball match?
A. It's slow.
B. It often takes place on hot summer days.
C. Spectators are not allowed to bring foods to the ballpark.
D. The speed of the match may change suddenly.
 9. According to the text, most American people have
A. childhood memory at a ballpark.
B. a baseball gear.
C. experience of participating in at least a baseball inning.
D. all of them

PASSAGE 2 – Questions 11-20

Ten Events, One Champion:

THE DECATHLON

Fay Webster takes a look at the world of athletics and finds out what it takes to be a true champion.

The Olympic Games have changed a lot since their origins in Ancient Greece. Today, athletes from countries all over the world take part and the Olympics are big business, watched by millions on television. Some things, though, have stayed the same. The athletes then could make a lot of money from winning, just like

today's competitors. In the ancient Games, a great champion might have received as much as a year's pay for winning a race.

Another thing that hasn't changed is the search for an all-round champion, somebody who can defeat their opponents at a number of different sporting events. In the ancient Olympics, athletes competed in the pentathlon. **This** consisted of the long jump, the discus, the javelin, a running race and wrestling. The first winner, in 708 BC, was Lampis of Sparta, who must have been a great athlete to beat so many others from all over the Hellenic world. The pentathlon was an important part of the Olympics until Emperor Theodosius of Rome banned the Games in 393 AD.

The Stockholm Olympics of 1912 brought back this tradition of the search for allround greatness. The modern pentathlon was included (shooting, swimming, fencing, riding and running) and so was the modern decathlon (ten events), with the heptathlon (seven events) for women being introduced later. So what drives someone to take on this running, throwing, jumping challenge and push their body to its limits? I met American decathlete Bruce Thorpe in New York and told him he must have been crazy to take up the decathlon. He laughed. "Yes, I think I probably was. I could have done lots of different sports, but I chose the decathlon. It's very tough and it demands a lot of different skills. You have to train just as hard as other athletes, only you have to do it in ten different events! I think we're probably all a little crazy, but it's very satisfying in the end," he said. I asked him to explain what happens in the decathlon.

"The way it works is you complete each event and you get points, depending on how well you do in that event. At the end of two days, the person with the most points is the champion and takes the gold medal, the second person gets the silver and the third the bronze medal. We start with the 100 metres, the long jump, the shot put, the high jump and the 400 metres. The second day, it's the 110 metre hurdles, the discus, the javelin, the pole vault and the one that we all dread, the 1500 metres." I asked him what made the 1500 metres such a struggle. "All the other events demand speed or strength. With the long race, it's stamina. Really, decathletes aren't built for that event."

So what tips does Bruce have for those of you thinking of taking up the decathlon? "Start as early as you can and join a good club, he said. "It takes a long time to master ten different events, or seven for the heptathlon, and you need expert help. And don't expect to have much free time!"

Ten events, one champion. Think you might be the one? If you're interested in finding out more about the decathlon, contact your local athletics club.

11. In the first paragraph, the writer says that athletes today
 - A. are more popular than in ancient times.
 - B. are much better than in ancient times.
 - C. treat the Olympics like a business.
 - D. can become wealthy through sport.
12. What does the word "**This**" in paragraph 1 refer to?
 - A. the champion
 - B. the running race
 - C. Greece
 - D. the pentathlon
13. The ancient pentathlon **didn't** test athletes' abilities to
 - A. throw things.
 - B. jump high.
 - C. run fast.
 - D. jump far.
14. Lampis of Sparta was
 - A. the organizer of the first ancient Olympics
 - B. Emperor Theodosius of Rome
 - C. the first winner of the ancient Olympics
 - D. the greatest athlete in history
15. According to the passage, the heptathlon for women
 - A. became an Olympic event after 1912.
 - B. similar to the ancient pentathlon.
 - C. tests the ability to ride a horse.
 - D. is much easier than the decathlon.

16. How many sporting events were included in the modern decathlon of Stockholm Olympics in 1912?
- A. only one
 - B. five
 - C. seven
 - D. ten
17. What did Bruce Thorpe say about decathlon?
- A. It is challenging and requires athletes to have various skills.
 - B. There's no need for participants to train hard.
 - C. It has only seven events.
 - D. It takes one day to decide the winner.
18. What do you have to do to win a gold medal in the decathlon?
- A. Score more points than all the other competitors.
 - B. Beat the other competitors in at least three events.
 - C. Finish each event in the top three.
 - D. Complete the events in the right order.
19. What does Bruce say about the events?
- A. The 1500 metres should be on the first day.
 - B. The first day is tougher than the second.
 - C. The 1500 metres is different from the other events.
 - D. It looks easier than it actually is.
20. What is Bruce's advice for people thinking of becoming decathletes?
- A. Get a trainer to guide you.
 - B. Get up early to start training
 - C. Take up the heptathlon instead.
 - D. Try to get a good time in all the events.