

Reading and Use of English

Part 5 Multiple choice

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

The new town

We'd only been living on the coast for a couple of weeks before my dad made the announcement. I wonder if that was the whole purpose of moving down this way. I can't think of anything else it could've been other than what he was planning. Of course, I'd had no say in the move; no matter how much I protested, it was inevitable that we were going to live in that large house overlooking the ocean. It didn't seem to matter that I wouldn't see my friends every day or that I would have to change schools. We were going and that was that.

'I'm going to swim the channel,' he claimed one day over breakfast. My mother stared at him, open-mouthed, her spoonful of cereal slowly dripping milk back to the bowl as it hovered in mid-air. I said nothing as I cleared my bowl and packed my bag for school. I could hear my mum finally regaining her voice to ask 'But why?' as I closed the door for the walk to school. It was likely that this was going to be another of Dad's crazy ideas: running the marathon or skateboarding, both of which he failed to keep up. But there was something in his voice and manner that made me think that somehow *this* was different. He was actually going to stick to it and prove us all wrong.

The next morning, dad wasn't at his usual place at the breakfast table; the Saturday newspaper remained untouched next to his empty place setting. I thought nothing of it as I put on my shoes to leave. Saturdays were cleaning days and it was better if I was out of the house. Closing the front door as I left, I looked out over the sea as I had done previously. The sight was indeed breathtaking and the morning mist was gradually lifting from the surface of the water, soon to be replaced by the burning rays of the sun. The beach appeared deserted as I had expected, except for a small gathering of people standing close to the water's edge as well as a few swimmers in the water. I stopped to take a closer look and squinted my eyes to see if I could recognise anybody – not that I hoped to because I didn't really know many people in the area at all. And there he was. The unmistakeable form of my father: big, broad-shouldered and his typical pose of towering over anyone he was talking to. He was talking enthusiastically with the people around him, waving his arms and pointing out to the horizon over the sea. He looked right at home.

I made my way down to the beach, making sure that my shoes didn't slip on the pebbles as I got closer to the group of people. I found a spot with a large rock and eased myself onto it to watch. I could only hear snippets of conversation from this distance, but it was evident that the people were talking about an important day in the future. The swimmers had now come out of the water and were drying themselves off and keeping warm. It was at this point that my dad glanced in my direction, smiled and started walking carefully over the stones towards me. 'Didn't think I was serious, did you?' he said when he was close enough. I looked down in embarrassment and said nothing.

A month later, we were all back on the beach. It was such an event that the local media were there and interviewing all the swimmers. Little did we know that dad had been secretly training for months for this moment and now I had been roped in for training for the following year. As they set off on their adventure, I had never been prouder or happier. Perhaps moving here hadn't been such a bad idea after all.

- 1 From the first paragraph, we understand that the writer was
 - A excited about living by the sea.
 - B aware of the reasons for moving.
 - C hesitant about the relocation.
 - D moving from a small house to a big house.

- 2 How does the writer's mother feel about the announcement?
 - A She was unsurprised about the decision.
 - B She was so unhappy that she couldn't finish her breakfast.
 - C She didn't like it, but understood the reasons why.
 - D She was taken aback at the announcement.

- 3 What does the word 'this' in line 12 refer to?
 - A the writer's father's voice
 - B the activity of swimming the channel
 - C the writer's mother's reaction
 - D the challenge of running a marathon

- 4 When the writer saw the group of people on the beach, he
 - A was on his way to school.
 - B thought that the weather was too hot.
 - C didn't expect to know them.
 - D was surprised to see so many people.

- 5 While the writer was sitting on the rock,
 - A the swimmers were just coming out of the water.
 - B he tried to listen to what the people were saying.
 - C his father looked very cold.
 - D he tried to catch his father's attention.

- 6 What can the reader infer from the final paragraph?
 - A The writer has changed his mind about the relocation.
 - B The writer will assist his father with training.
 - C The event the writer was attending was insignificant.
 - D The writer had been forced to go swimming.