

Part 3

Questions 19 to 26 are based on the following passage.

Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer A, B, C or D. For each question mark your answer on the answer sheet.

It was a scorching sunny afternoon. As expected, the field was packed with students practising for the school sports that was to be held the next day. They were all distraught. The strong spirit of competition and the desire to be the champions was getting to everyone. Serena was no exception. She too felt she had to win.

Her old grandfather was the one who had instilled in her a strong love for sports. He had been an athlete and a high jumper but had failed to make it to the national level. So, he had pinned all his hopes on his granddaughter. He was the one who had been with her when she practised her high jump for months. Serena's favourite activity was browsing through the old photos of her grandfather taking part in sports competitions.

Sweat was trickling down her face and messing it up as she completed her last practice. Her T-shirt was soaked through so she changed into dry clothes before leaving the field. When she arrived home that evening, the house was very quiet. Her mother greeted her with a worried look, "Grandpa's illness got worse today. Go and talk to him."

Serena's grandfather was old and had been sick for the past three months. His illness had taken a heavy toll on him so much so he even found it difficult to sit up. When he saw her, he smiled feebly and asked, "So Serena, how was your practice today?"

They talked for a while and suddenly she asked him, "Grandpa, how tall are you?" The old man rubbed his nose and said, "Oh, I used to be a towering 1.90 metres tall. Now, I've shrunk. Why are you asking about my height?" She nodded, "Someday, Grandpa, I'll make a jump as high as that. I promise you that." The old man patted her hand and said, "That's a very big leap for a girl but I'm sure you'll be able to do it. I can't wait for the day when you fulfil your promise."

The next morning, she woke up early. It was that very important day. Before she left, she peeped into her grandfather's room. He was still sleeping. So she tiptoed to his bed and kissed him on his forehead. When she got to the field, it was already crowded with participants. They looked confident and every inch a winner. Serena jogged a bit and did some warm-up exercises. Thinking of her grandfather's encouraging words, her confidence returned. Just before her event, she saw her mother walking towards her. There was something in her mother's expression that disturbed her. "Is anything wrong?" she asked. "Your grandfather is very ill and is in hospital. But he would want you to do your event. We'll come and fetch you later."

Serena felt tears welling in her eyes when she thought of how ill her grandfather was. But she knew she should not get upset for she had to do her best to make her grandfather proud of her. It was then when she heard her name being called out. The high jump event was about to begin. When it was her turn, she looked at the crossbar and thought that it looked higher than usual. Feeling a sense of panic, she despaired. "I won't be able to do it."

But when she heard the whistle blow, she ran up the runway to gain momentum for the jump. As she did so, she was filled with strong determination to succeed for the sake of her grandfather and for the promise she had made to him: "Someday, Grandpa, I'll make a jump as high as that." So, she leapt in a way that she had never done before. It was a well-performed high jump, and she landed steadily.

The spectators and judges noticed her skill and grace. They applauded loudly. In the midst of all that, she could only hear her grandfather's words, "I'm sure you'll jump higher than that. I can't wait for the day when you fulfil your promise." And she whispered, "Yes, I did it, Grandpa. For you."

- 19 In paragraph 1, why did Serena feel 'she had to win'?
- A She was tense and felt she had enough practice.
 - B Other students supported and wanted her to win.
 - C Winning the competition was very important to her.
 - D The sense of competition and winning was infectious.
- 20 In paragraph 2, what can you say about the grandfather's character?
- A He was the one who discovered Serena's talent.
 - B He was responsible for making Serena fond of sports.
 - C He was discouraged when he could not make it to the national level.
 - D He enjoyed being photographed while taking part in sports competitions.
- 21 In paragraph 3, how did the writer describe her last practice?
- A It was satisfying.
 - B It was enjoyable.
 - C It was hard work.
 - D It was depressing.
- 22 In paragraph 4, what was the proof that Serena's grandfather was very ill?
- A He was old.
 - B He lay in bed.
 - C He could only smile weakly.
 - D He could not sit up on his own.
- 23 In paragraph 5, what effect did Serena's grandfather have on her?
- A She wanted to make him happy by making a promise.
 - B She was curious to know everything about him.
 - C She wanted to please him as he was very ill.
 - D She wanted to jump his height.
- 24 In paragraph 6, why did Serena recall her grandfather's words while warming up?
- A She had lost confidence when she saw the other participants.
 - B She was worried thinking of her grandfather's condition.
 - C She almost did not want to take part in the event.
 - D She missed her grandfather very much.
- 25 In paragraph 7, how did Serena feel when she was taking part in her high jump event?
- A Confident that she would win.
 - B Excited to take part in the event.
 - C Determined to jump well and win.
 - D Hopeful that she would be able to clear the crossbar.
- 26 At the end of the text, we learn that
- A schooldays shape who we are today.
 - B there are difficulties in becoming a sportsperson.
 - C love can be a driving force when succeeding in something.
 - D the precious memories of a mother and grandfather remain.