***You are going to read a magazine article about a woman called Clare Hall who used to train racehorses in Britain. Choose the answer which you think fits best according to the text.***

**A change of lifestyle**

An allergy made Clare Hall give up her job training racehorses, but she has now created a new career for herself as a best-selling author. Jane Henman interviews her.

In the large field which would normally contain horses, there are three big dogs running wildly around. As I talk to Clare Hall and her husband, Daniel, he says, 'I'm not allowing Clare to have anything larger than those dogs.' It's said with a smile, but persuading one of Britain's most successful racehorse trainers to give up her work can't have been easy. Clare explains her situation: 'I'd been ill for some time, and then I discovered that I had actually developed an allergy to horses. Giving up training horses after so long was a horrible decision to take. But it wasn't as if I needed the money anymore. And at least it allowed me to try writing on a full-time basis — I'd been scribbling away in my free time for years!'

Clare was brought up on a small farm. Her father couldn't afford to hire any farmworkers so Clare was expected to take her share of the workload. 'One of my earliest jobs was to carry the lamp for my father when he went to feed the pigs at night. I remember feeling really grown up the day I was allowed to feed them on my own.' Sometimes Clare accompanied her father to the fields on her pony: 'I was little then and not confident on a horse. My father used to run alongside shouting, "Up, down, up, down."' As soon as she could, Clare got a weekend job at the local racing stables to be with the horses. Then, after leaving school, she worked at the stables full-time. Her parents were always supportive: 'They were there if I needed them, but thankfully they took a back seat,' she says.

Clare's career as a trainer is legendary. She was not afraid of upsetting people and had a reputation for being outspoken. 'I have endless patience with horses — they respond to kindness and are prepared to work just as hard as you are — but I've no time for people who are in horse-racing purely for financial gain. The old, established trainers were helpful, but some of the rich newcomers were really spiteful and resented my success. I had my battles. But when everyone knew I was leaving, I was quite taken aback by the number of people who said, "Clare — you can't go!"'

Since giving up racehorse training, Clare has made a new career as a novelist. She writes laboriously in longhand at the dining-room table. 'Writing is a challenge but also very isolating,' Clare says. 'When I started, I had all the feelings I used to get before an important race — fear, apprehension, but that all disappears when you win or you're published!'

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Clare's son Tim has now taken over her training business, keeping eighty of her horses. Despite the fact that Tim's only been doing this for two years, Clare announces proudly that he's already had several winners. 'But racehorse owners have high expectations. Keeping them happy is not an easy task,' she says. 'It is something you really have to work at and I just hope he can cope.' She sometimes visits Tim's stables — not just to see the horses, but to see her granddaughter, who is also crazy about horses. 'Tim and his family come over here every Sunday and we talk about everything except horses, as I feel he needs a break from that,' she says.

Clare says she is trying to put her life in horse-racing behind her, but in the next breath, she's talking about a young horse at Tim's stables. There are compensations in her new lifestyle, however, such as more time to relax. 'My books are selling and I'm having golf lessons three times a week,' she says, smiling. 'We do need to sort things out better, though, so we have time to take holidays, and enjoy our hard-earned money!' However, as hard as she tries, there is obviously a huge gap in Clare's life that has yet to be filled.

**1. What do we learn about Clare in the first paragraph?**

A. She is still worried about her financial security.

B. She likes to follow her husband's advice.

C. She was relieved to begin a less stressful job.

D. She accepted that a change of career would be beneficial.

**2. What does Clare mean by 'they took a back seat' in the second paragraph?**

A. They gave her confidence.

B. They had high expectations of her.

C. They did not try to influence her.

D. They did not ask her for help.

**3. How did Clare feel at the end of her career as a trainer?**

A. upset by some people's personal criticism

B. surprised at her colleagues' reactions

C. relieved that the hard work was over

D. proud of her contribution to horse-racing

**4. According to Clare, horse training resembles writing in terms of _____.**

A. the extremes of emotion involved

B. the experience needed to succeed

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C. the loneliness of the activity

D. the amount of effort required

**5. What is Clare's attitude to her son?**

A. She considers that he is too competitive.

B. She worries that he is under too much pressure.

C. She believes that she should have more contact with him.

D. She thinks he should spend more time with his daughter.

**6. In the final paragraph, the writer suggests that Clare _____.**

A. plans to return to the horse-racing business

B. is exaggerating the size of her income

C. misses her involvement with horses

D. is concentrating too much on her hobbies

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