Exam practice: Reading Part 3

3 Read the title of the article about two young men who travelled from the North to the South Pole. Look at the map of their route and read the first sentence. What means of transport do you think they used on their journey?

From Pole to Pole – Manpowered

In May 2008, at the age of 20, Rob Gauntlett and James Hooper became the first people to travel from the North Pole to the South Pole without engines or motors, using only natural power.

They set off for the North Pole from Qaanaaq in Greenland on April 8th 2007. They began their journey on skis, but their progress was so slow that after a few weeks they changed to dog sleds. It was on this part of the journey that Rob almost lost his life. They were racing over the ice when Rob dropped his glove into the snow. As he was running back to get it, he fell straight through the ice into the freezing water, hitting his head as he fell. He lay face down in the water for three minutes until James was able to pull him out. 'It was four hours before he was rescued and taken to hospital,' explained James. 'Our parents wanted us to give up at that point, but we knew we had to continue.'

After their three-month trek on foot across the Arctic, Rob and James sailed from Upernavik in Greenland to New York. There they began a 17,000-kilometre bike ride through Central and South America to Punta Arenas in Chile. Some of their best memories are of this part of the trip. 'We cycled 160 kilometres a day, which was tiring, but every night when we stopped, people met us with big smiles and offered us food!'



Finally the boys boarded their 107-metre yacht for the voyage across the Southern Ocean. But just four days before they reached the South Pole, a huge storm almost swept James into the sea. 'I was working on the deck while Rob was trying to sleep below. The wind was blowing at about 100 kph and the waves were rising 25 metres into the air. Suddenly a huge wave crashed into the boat. I wrapped my arms around a pole and held it tightly. The boat turned over on its side, but luckily when it came back up again I was still holding on.'

They finally sailed into Sydney Harbour, Australia, 396 days after setting off. Now back in the UK, the pair are working on a book and a documentary about their experiences. 'We don't have plans for another expedition just yet, but I'm sure we will one day. It's just a matter of time!'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Read the text to decide if each sentence is correct (A) or incorrect (B).

		A: YES	B: NO
1	Many travellers have completed this journey without powered transport.	☐	☐
2	Rob and James changed to dog sleds in order to improve their speed.	☐	☐
3	Rob's accident in the Arctic happened because he fell off the dog sled.	☐	☐
4	Rob managed to climb out of the water alone.	☐	☐
5	Rob and James had to wait for several hours before help arrived.	☐	☐
6	The boys' parents persuaded them to continue with their journey.	☐	☐
7	People in South America were very friendly to Rob and James.	☐	☐
8	Both Rob and James were on deck when the storm hit their boat.	☐	☐
9	James was knocked off the boat during the storm.	☐	☐
10	Rob and James are confident that they will go on another journey together.	☐	☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS