Part 5

You are going to read an article about a successful British songwriter and music producer called Jamie Scott. For questions **31–36**, choose the answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

A career in music

Reporter Eamonn Forde met UK songwriter and music producer Jamie Scott.

Jamie Scott has written and produced some of the biggest hits in the UK music business. He says his mother was 'an amazing singer' who also got him interested in the guitar. The only radio he heard in his house was a local radio station for middle-aged people, which goes some way to explaining what influenced him as he was growing up. He says he was 12 before he heard a contemporary song. At about the same time, he had to choose between tennis, which he played at national level, and music – he was spending his lunchtimes in the music room at school working out songs on the piano. 'With the tennis playing, I was at quite a high level,' he says. 'But it was not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. It was just too much hard work.'

At 17, he left school to try to make it as a performer. He was part of a duo with a friend who, while not sharing his enthusiasm for making a career out of performing, was a reasonably accomplished guitarist. 'I went to my parents and I just broke down,' he recalls. 'I told them this is what I wanted to do, that I had been writing lyrics in economics lessons and I had been playing the piano every day when everyone else was out playing.' His dad was understanding and gave him 18 months to try and make it; but if he didn't, he would have to get a job. After a few near misses with record labels, he was signed to a music publisher when he was 19, off the back of one song. However, record labels were only interested in him as a solo act and so he had to split with his friend.

In the end, it was behind the scenes rather than on stage where he would make his name. After a difficult period signed to a record label in the UK, he asked them to let him go and he switched to another label to release a new album. Fame and fortune did not follow. 'It feels like to me in my own artist career that I've been in the wrong place at the wrong time for most of that time,' he says. 'But as a writer I've been in the right place at the right time.'

Writing for others is where he was to find his feet. 'I'd like to think that I am one of the main writers in the UK that UK labels look to send up-and-coming artists to,' he says. This, he believes, helps launch their careers.

Sometimes he has to explain to the artists he's helping that writing with an eye on the charts – writing something that's likely to sell well – is nothing to be ashamed of. 'Why? Why don't you want to? Don't you want 10 million people streaming your music next month? I'm not saying that they should write a bad song, but we should get to something that they think is amazing and that I think is amazing.'

It is refreshing in an age of false modesty in the world of pop music to hear someone speak so bluntly about wanting to write huge songs that go to number one. There is no sense of arrogance or entitlement with Scott; he just realised long ago that he wants to write number ones and that he has a natural ability to do it. So, rather than tie himself in knots trying to make himself sound acceptable to other people, he just gets on with it.

'That's the endgame for when I go into the studio with someone,' he says. 'Whatever happens, we need to state that this is on the global level and that we need to write the best music of next year. It's not just about what's cool. We want to write classic modern pop songs.'

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31 What do we learn about Jamie Scott's childhood in the first paragraph?

A It was clear to him that he would work in the music industry.
B He wished he had had access to more musical instruments at home.
C He regretted having to give up the idea of playing sport professionally.
D The music of a previous generation was an inspiration to him.

32 What is emphasised about Scott in the second paragraph?

A how determined he was
B how little support he had
C how quickly his talent was recognised
D how much better a musician he was than his friend

33 What does Scott suggest in the third paragraph?

A It was his decision to become a songwriter.
B It is more difficult to become a performer than a songwriter.
C Bad luck prevented him from becoming a successful performer.
D He was unprepared for the challenges he faced as a performer and songwriter.

34 What opinion does Scott express in the fifth paragraph?

A Few writers are able to write a song that will appeal to large numbers of people.
B Only a song that has had a great deal of work put into it can succeed.
C Unless he likes a song himself other people are unlikely to buy it.
D Just because a song is popular does not mean it lacks quality.

35 What is the reporter's attitude towards Scott in the sixth paragraph?

A He appreciates the quality of his song-writing.
B He respects his commitment to his work.
C He admires him for his honesty.
D He approves of his ambition.

36 What does 'this' refer to in line 64?

A the place where they are recording
B the work they are doing
C the style of their music
D the plan they have for the future

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