

Read the text and choose the correct word for each space. For each question circle A, B, C or D.

THE FOUR-MINUTE MILE



It is the nature of athletic records that they are broken and their place is taken by others. Yet in many sports (1) _____, there is a mark which is not (2) _____ in itself, but which becomes a legend as athletes (3) _____ to break it. The most (4) _____ of these is the attempt to run the mile in (5) _____ than four minutes.

In 1945, the mile record was (6) _____ to 4 minutes, 1.5 seconds. And there, for nine years, it stuck. Then, 1954, a medical student (7) _____ Roger Bannister decided to try and break the record. He had been (8) _____ for this day since running the mile in 4 minutes, 2 seconds the (9) _____ year.

Two other runners set the pace for him and (10) _____ 250 yards to go he burst ahead for the finish. He wrote (11) _____: 'My body had exhausted all its energy, but it (12) _____ on running just the same – Those (13) _____ few seconds seemed never-ending. I could see the line of the finishing tape.... I jumped like a man making a desperate attempt to save himself from danger...'

Bannister's time was 3 minutes, 59.4 seconds. (14) _____ this record has been broken on many (15) _____ since, Bannister's achievement will never be forgotten.

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|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. A) happenings | B) events | C) games | D) matches |
| 2. A) central | B) major | C) significant | D) considerable |
| 3. A) try | B) try on | C) try out | D) try for |
| 4. A) known | B) public | C) noticeable | D) famous |
| 5. A) smaller | B) less | C) lower | D) under |
| 6. A) broken down | B) lessened | C) decreased | D) brought down |
| 7. A) entitled | B) called | C) nicknamed | D) known |
| 8. A) trying | B) studying | C) running | D) training |
| 9. A) early | B) previous | C) past | D) former |
| 10. A) on | B) in | C) with | D) by |
| 11. A) afterwards | B) then | C) next | D) after |
| 12. A) went | B) continued | C) ran | D) got |
| 13. A) last | B) late | C) latest | D) later |
| 14. A) But | B) In spite of | C) However | D) Although |
| 15. A) times | B) periods | C) occasions | D) incidents |

Source: FCE Gold Practice Exams