READING PART-WB PAG 97

CAMBRIDGE EXAMS: Preliminary

Reading part 4

1 **Read the text. Circle the correct option: A, B, C or D.**

1 What is Dan's reason for writing the text?

A to encourage young people to take up a sport

B to show how you're never too old to start a new sport

C to talk about how his running has changed over the years

D to explain his love of the sport

2 How does Dan compare his running these days with when he first started?

A He's slower and his body suffers more, but he still enjoys it as much.

B He finds it more difficult to train.

C He's only about ten minutes slower.

D He isn't enjoying it as much.

3 What does he enjoy most about the half marathon races?

A trying to go quicker each time he races

B being cheered on by people

C meeting up with old friends

D beating younger people

4 Why does Dan visit schools?

A to race the children

B to pick up his grandchildren

C to encourage children to do sport

D to show that old people can still do things

5 What might Dan write in his autobiography?

A 'In my later years, running became a really important part of my life. It kept my body and mind younger and helped me fight against getting older.'

B 'When I was younger, I was a really competitive runner, but as I got older, I was just happy to run and I didn't really care how fast I went.'

C 'I've always loved running. I've loved the way it's kept me healthy and I've loved the way it's brought me into contact with so many people.'

D 'As I got older, running became more difficult. I thought about giving it up, but my doctor told me to keep going. I'm happy he did and these days I love inspiring young people to start running.'

Exam guide: multiple-choice questions

- In this question you will read a text that focuses more on someone's opinion than on facts and figures. To choose the right answer you need to understand the writer's attitudes, opinions and reason for writing the text. The first question usually focuses on the reasons why the writer has written the text and the final question usually looks at the meaning of the text as a whole. The other three questions usually pick up on information in the order that it is given in the passage.
- Read through the text quickly to understand what it is about. After this reading, think about why you feel the writer wrote this text.
- Read the text for a second time. This time, read it a lot more carefully. It's often a good idea to look at questions 1 and 5 first since they need an understanding of the whole passage.
- For questions 2, 3 and 4, find and concentrate on the parts of the text that each question is asking about and study them carefully. Remember: these questions might be asking you about the writer's opinions and not just about facts.

Dan Collins: Half marathon enthusiast

I started running half marathons in the 1960s. I'm 78 now, I've been doing them for nearly fifty years and I still get the same excitement at the beginning of each race as I always have. I don't do as many as I did. I used to run around 30 every year and in my thirties I got quite good at them. I think my personal best was around 1 hour 17 minutes, which was only ten minutes over the world record back then. These days I do about ten a year and my time is quite a bit slower. At my age you need a lot more preparation and your body doesn't recover as quickly, but it's well worth all the extra work.

There are two main reasons why I still run half marathons. Firstly, it means I'm keeping myself fit. My doctor told me that I'm healthier than most 50-year-olds. But I think the real reason why I love the sport so much is the other people it brings you into contact with. You meet other athletes and I've made many good friends over the years, but the most amazing thing is all the people who line up along the sides of the streets to cheer you on. I get more and more support the older I get.

I also spend quite a lot of time visiting schools to get children interested in doing sport. I think it's really important to get involved at an early age. It makes it so much easier to keep doing it the older you get. The kids are always really enthusiastic and they ask me loads of questions. Many of them can't believe that I'm the same age as their grandfathers. Sometimes I challenge them to a five-kilometre race. There aren't many of them that can beat me!