

Part 3

Questions 11–15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

The teenage snowboarder

15-year-old Vanessa Hanson writes about her sport.

I was born in Denver, USA, and started snowboarding aged eight when my dad took me to a resort in the mountains, about two hours from Denver. The hill looked unbelievably steep and scary, so my dad had to do a lot of persuading to get me on a board. Because I was so young, I hadn't even thought of asking him if I could start snowboarding, but he was already into it and wanted me to love it too – he made it look so simple. And in the end, I managed just fine.

After this experience, it wasn't long before I'd developed a love of the sport and had improved my ability too. I started competing aged ten. Some people enter loads of competitions and end up getting bored of snowboarding, but my love of taking part, and winning too, if I'm honest, has got stronger as I've gotten older, which always helps me to push myself harder. I enjoy not having a fixed plan, and sometimes this goes well, like when I became the first female ever to get a perfect 100 at a local competition. I wasn't sure I'd even attempt the jumps that got me this score until I actually set off. That achievement increased my trust in my own abilities.

During the summer, I focus on training and my studies while there's no snow. Although I train daily, it's nice not having to stick to quite a strict diet like I do in the winter. I also get to spend lots of time with my friends then. It's the best way of dealing with not being able to do what I love so much and what I'm really good at.

I have to think carefully about my future. Snowboarding is such a huge part of my life now, but I also feel it's important to have something else I can do, just in case I don't succeed as a professional snowboarder or if I get injured. I'm wondering whether becoming a doctor is a possibility, if my active life allows time for doing a college degree. It's impossible to imagine myself growing tired of the sport, but I can't go on snowboarding my whole life.

11 Just before Vanessa snowboarded down a hill for the first time, she felt

- A worried she was too young.
- B nervous about doing it.
- C keen to copy her father.
- D pleased to be allowed to do it.

12 What does Vanessa say about taking part in competitions?

- A She expects too much of herself.
- B She sometimes loses interest.
- C She always plans for them carefully.
- D She enjoys them more and more.

13 In the summer, Vanessa enjoys

- A the good weather where she lives.
- B not having to train regularly.
- C being able to eat whatever she likes.
- D having plenty of time to do her schoolwork.

14 Vanessa says that in the future, snowboarding

- A may not be her main career.
- B will be a way for her to make a lot of money.
- C might not always be interesting for her.
- D will help her stay fit and healthy.

15 What would Vanessa say to one of her friends?

A

I love snowboarding, but it's a shame I have so many accidents.

B

I'm pleased that I'm more confident now. I hope this will help me, whatever I decide to do.

C

I'm so happy to be a champion snowboarder like Dad – but I think he enjoys the sport more than I do.

D

I'm sorry I've never been able to see you that much, even during the summer holidays.