BTS 8 – EOT 3 – Exam Practice

A) Read the passage and choose the best answer a, b, c or d.

The Most Popular Sports in the World

What are the five most popular sports in the world? Some of the answers may surprise you!

1. Football ("soccer" in the U.S.) is the world's most popular sport. Today, about 3.5 billion people watch or play football. Football is popular in Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, North America ... almost everywhere! (Fun fact: In a professional football game, players run about five miles (eight km)).

2. The world's number two sport is cricket. Cricket is originally from the UK, but today it is also popular in Australia, New Zealand, some African countries, and some Caribbean countries. In India and Pakistan, cricket is more popular than football. About three billion people around the world watch or play cricket each year. (Fun fact: Four hundred million people - 40% of India's population - watch important cricket games on TV.)

3. Field hockey is number three. Approximately two billion people play or watch field hockey, mostly in Asia, Europe, Australia, and Africa. In the United States, field hockey is mainly for high school girls. (Fun fact: Field hockey is a very old sport. In Egypt, 4,000-year-old drawings show people playing field hockey. Of course, the rules of the game are different today.)

4. Next is tennis. Today there are roughly one billion players and spectators of tennis around the world. Tennis is originally from France, but today it is very popular in the United States, Asia, Australia, and Europe. (Fun fact: The longest tennis game lasted eleven hours and five minutes!)

5. Table tennis (ping-pong) is popular around the world, with about 900 million players and spectators. Today, table tennis is especially popular in China, Korea, and Singapore. (Fun fact: In table tennis, the ball can go more than 100 mph (160 km/h)).

There are many popular sports around the world, but these are the top five. What is similar about all these sports? They're fun, they're fast, and they use a ball. Is that why the expression "have a ball" means "have a lot of fun?" Maybe!

Questions:

1- The world's most popular sport is played .....

a) in Asia and South America

b) in India and Pakistan

c) all over the world

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2- A professional football player needs to be a good .....

a) ball b) goalkeeper c) runner

3- ..... is less popular than cricket.

a) Football b) Field hockey c) Soccer

4- Tennis isn't a popular sport in ..... .

a) Germany b) Africa c) Japan

5- In Europe, ... are very popular sports.

a) cricket and ping pong

b) football and table tennis

c) field hockey and tennis

6- Two of the world's most popular sports started in .....

a) Europe b) Asia c) Africa

7- In all the five most popular sports, matches can't be played without .....

a) fans b) balls c) fun

8- The sports in the text are ordered from .....

a) West to East

b) oldest to most recent

c) most popular to least popular



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