

THE WORLD'S COOLEST MARATHON

1 You are going to read an article about the North Pole Marathon. Tick (✓) the ideas that you think will be mentioned.

- 1 how many people have run the North Pole Marathon
- 2 which country the marathon takes place in
- 3 what motivates some people to do the marathon
- 4 the amount of time it takes to complete the marathon
- 5 how long it takes to train for the marathon
- 6 how much it costs to enter the marathon

2 Read the article quickly and check your answers.

If you think running a marathon is difficult enough, you'd be amazed at the brave athletes who complete the North Pole Marathon. Wearing extra-warm clothes, they have to deal with heavy snow and temperatures of -30°C to complete the 49-kilometre race. Although marathons take place all over the world, this particular marathon is the only one that's entirely on 'water'.

(1) _____ That is the only time when the whole course becomes solid ice, giving the hopeful runners the best chance of finishing the race.

Since the annual event started in 2003, 480 people from around the world have successfully completed the race. Stefanie Pettersson from Brazil is one of the youngest people to achieve this. She was just 16 years and two weeks old on the day of the race. (2) _____

An experienced runner, Anders Pettersson encouraged Stefanie not to give up when she felt too cold or

exhausted to continue. Another competitor who ran with Stefanie and Anders was Ted Jackson from the UK. He took up running when his father and brother developed health problems. (3) _____ To avoid that situation, he decided to get really fit.

How long does this marathon take? The men's record is 3 hours 36 minutes, and the women's is 4 hours 52 minutes. Runners have sometimes said they felt disappointed with their finishing times because they have run much faster in other marathons. But it's never possible to predict how well someone is going to do. (4) _____

Many of those who run the North Pole Marathon are trying to raise money for various charities. They collect money from friends and family by advertising what they plan to do. (5) _____

They are grateful for everything they receive because the entry fee alone is £16,000. This does, however, include all flights, accommodation and medical support.



3 Five sentences have been removed from the text. For each question, choose the correct answer (A–H). There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

- A Neither of them actually expected to finish it.
- B He was scared the same thing might happen to him.
- C The difficult conditions meant he never felt relaxed.
- D This could be on the internet or local TV.
- E The darkness made them feel confused and stressed.
- F For obvious reasons, it can only be attempted during winter.
- G Weather conditions vary so much from year to year.
- H Her dad was also one of the competitors.

4 Match the **highlighted** words in the article with their meanings.

- 1 the best or fastest ever
- 2 the money you pay to join an organisation, go into a place or take part in something
- 3 happening once a year
- 4 said good things to someone to make them confident about doing something
- 5 official organisations that give money, food or help to people who need it