

Your name: _____

Date: _____

QUICK CHECK – READING 1 – TRUE/ FALSE/ NOT GIVEN

QUESTION TYPE:

True/ False/ Not
given



EXAM ADVICE:

- **Step 1:** Read all the statements carefully, trying to understand the **whole sentence's meaning** rather than simply highlighting keywords. Watch out for qualifying words (e.g. some, always).
- **Step 2:** Try to **think of the synonyms** that might be in the passage. This will help you identify the matching part of the passage.
- **Step 3:** Match the statement with the correct part of the text.
- **Step 4:** Focus on the statement again and then **carefully read the matching part of the text** to establish if it is true or false. Remember the meaning should exactly match that of the statement if it is true.
- **Step 5:** **Underline the words that give you the answer**, as this will help you focus, and you can check back later. Again, be careful there are no qualifying words in the text.
- **Step 6:** If you are really unsure or can't find the answer, mark it as 'not given'.

The race to break the four-minute mile reached a crescendo in the 1950s and became a major sporting challenge of the day. At the turn of the twentieth century, the world record had stood at about four minutes ten seconds. But despite efforts around the globe, by 1952 the record remained intact. The press regularly stated at that time that man had reached his athletic limits; that room for improvement was minimal. Then in May 1954, in a run that was to go down in history, Roger Bannister stopped the clock at 3 minutes 59.4 seconds.

Few records have so captured the public's attention and provided such an enduring benchmark. Public fascination partly reflected the seeming symmetry of the event - four laps in four minutes. A very similar achievement is that of the less well-known Russian swimmer Vladimir Salnikov, who in 1980 became the first man to break 15 minutes for 1500 metres. That was 30 consecutive laps in less than 30 seconds, which had once been regarded as impossible.

Part of the appeal of athletes such as Bannister and Landy is linked to the amateur environment in which they competed. For both men, running was an aside to the real matters of life and they received no monetary reward. And as evidence of the temporal nature of all records, Bannister's record has since been reduced by a further 17 seconds, but the four-minute mile remains a landmark in sporting history.

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the reading passage? Write:

- **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information
 - **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information
 - **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this
1. In the mid 20th century, there was little interest in breaking the four-minute mile.
 2. In the early 1950s, the media promoted the idea that nobody could run a mile in under four minutes.
 3. In 1980, Vladimir Salnikov swam 1500 metres in less than 15 minutes.
 4. John Landy and Roger Bannister were professional sportsmen.
 5. Bannister's record was broken within three years.