Test 1 Exam practice — Reading and Use of English • Part 5

You are going to read a short story by a boy called Dan, who is talking about going out with a group of friends. For questions **31–36**, choose the answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet.**

Tip! Make sure you know who is writing and what they are writing about before you begin answering the questions.

It all started when my friends and I booked some concert tickets to go and see *Pulse*, who we considered to be one of the coolest bands around, playing exactly our type of music. But before we went, one of our group suggested we should practise a few dance moves, like the ones the band was so famous for. We were pretty sure everyone else in the audience would be doing exactly that, so we were keen to avoid turning up to the concert only to feel totally excluded, and reduced to the status of mere spectators in front of the stage. So, after a few hopeless attempts at home, we decided to try a dance studio in the city centre.

I set off early that morning – well, 11 am, which is something I don't intend to repeat very often! I'd reluctantly got out of bed, got ready and rushed down to the studio where we'd be learning how to dance along to the kind of stuff that bands like *Pulse* are into. But I have to say, I wasn't exactly overflowing with confidence when we arrived – I'd be the first to admit that I have two left feet when it comes to dancing. And, sadly, the friends I was going with were some way ahead of me at dancing, although the really gifted dancer in our group didn't actually show up in the end.

We walked into the dance studio where we'd be learning the moves, and instantly felt as if, instead of participating in a class, we'd somehow signed up to take part in some high-profile pop band's dance video which was to be expected actually. Luckily, our instructor appeared just then and told us we shouldn't stress if we couldn't do the moves. Instead, we should just concentrate on enjoying it. Apparently it would be an amazing form of exercise and far more interesting than just spending hours on end at some boring hi-tech gym.

Anyway, I was relieved to find that most of the other people in our class weren't anywhere near becoming professional dancers either. That became pretty clear during the warm-up, when it was obvious some of them were even more uncoordinated than I was. Even so, that part of the class was a bit of a shock to the system. I'd assumed we'd be doing some simple muscle-warming exercises like I do at football practice, but evidently not. We were straight into some tough dances and exercises performed along to some rap music I hadn't heard before.

Finally we moved on to what we'd really come for – the kind of moves the band would be performing at the concert, strutting across the stage like true stars. And after doing it for only a short time I really
line 28 began to imagine I'd got the hang of it and would be looking pretty cool at the concert. Then I suddenly caught sight of myself in the studio mirrors, struggling and straining to keep up with the rest of the class, and saw to my dismay that cool was actually the last thing I'd be looking! But never mind...
Anyway, to cut a long story short, by the end of the session I really felt I'd got somewhere. Afterwards, my friends and I stepped out into the street, safe in the knowledge that even if we weren't going to be wowing the concert crowds with our moves, at least we wouldn't be totally left out!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

31 What motivated Dan and his friends to go to the dance studio?

A They thought their favourite singer might be there, too.
B They were keen to impress at an event they were attending.
C They hoped they might be invited to dance on stage at a concert.
D They knew the studio taught dance moves to their favourite band's music.

32 How did Dan feel when he arrived at the studio?

A nervous that he might not be able to keep up
B disappointed that one of his friends hadn't come
C irritated that he'd had to get up so early
D tired because of a lack of sleep

Advice

32 What does Dan mean when he says he ***wasn't exactly overflowing with confidence*** *when he arrived?*

33 On entering the dance studio, Dan's impression was that

A they were going to focus more on exercise than dance.
B the class was going to be more serious than he'd hoped.
C it resembled a gym rather than a studio.
D they had accidentally enrolled for the wrong activity.

34 Why did Dan describe the warm-up as *a shock to the system*?

A The other students there were even worse dancers than him.
B The music they danced to was not at all what he'd expected.
C The moves were far from the gentle introduction he'd imagined.
D The session was led by some strict professional dancers.

35 What does Dan mean when he says he'd 'got the hang of it' in line 28?

A He'd progressed as far as he was going to.
B He'd understood what he was supposed to do.
C He'd decided he was ready to give up.
D He'd persuaded himself that he was talented.

36 What would be a suitable title for the story?

A My talented friends
B An impossible ambition
C The best concert I've ever been to
D A way of joining in

LIVEWORKSHEETS