Test 1 Exam practice — Reading and Use of English • Part 7

You are going to read an article about four young people taking part in swimming races in open water. For questions **43–52**, choose from the people (**A–D**). The people may be chosen more than once.

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

Tip! Read closely when you think you have found the answer to a question. There may be information in more than one paragraph which appears to answer a question, but it won't be *completely* correct in both. Check carefully!

Which person

made a costly mistake about what strategy to use in the water?	43
found they were handling poor conditions more easily than some other competitors?	44
was lucky to have escaped being injured while swimming?	45
was on the way to victory at an early point in their race?	46
felt confident about producing a good performance prior to the race?	47
remained unaware for some time that others in the race were in difficulty?	48
exceeded their own expectations in the initial stages?	49
missed out on winning due to an unfortunate occurrence?	50
received much-needed support at a critical point?	51
felt they'd learned from the race despite not being successful?	52

Advice

*44 Look for a reference to poor conditions. B says the water was **rough**, and D mentions conditions were **dire**. Which one found that other swimmers were not continuing with the race?*

49 Which person was surprised to keep up with the leaders early on, as they knew those swimmers were better?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Angela

As I was about to set off, I just kept thinking about what my coach had told me: 'The ones who are ready are the ones who win.' And I knew I'd done everything I possibly could to prepare, even swimming the course a few days previously, so I felt his words really applied to me. On the day of the race, the water was calm but I couldn't see far ahead, and I'd lost sight of the other competitors, so I hoped I was leaving them behind. Then suddenly I felt a huge bang on my chest and realised other people were actually ahead of me – and one had kicked me hard. She apologised and no damage was done, fortunately, but it was a reminder to try and keep my distance, if possible. Anyway, the incident didn't affect the result – I was so far back by then that I couldn't possibly have won anyway!

B Sam

On race day, I was a bit cautious getting into the water as it was rough. And there were a lot of other people swimming the same route, so my plan was to try and keep up with them, while also avoiding them so that I didn't get kicked, difficult though that might be. Once in the water, I actually began to swim a lot harder than I'd ever done in practice and I suddenly realised I was keeping up with swimmers who were clearly stronger than me in training. However, I soon noticed they'd all switched to a more relaxed breaststroke, presumably to pace themselves and conserve their energy, while I'd made up my mind to maintain the faster overarm crawl, and becoming worn out in the process. Anyway, to cut a long story short, I just decided to put this race down to experience. I found myself further and further behind, and in the end realised I'd never be able to win!

C Krista

There were so many swimmers taking part that I knew I'd have to swim tactically. The only problem was, I didn't really know any tactics! But I decided to up my speed to pass the swimmer ahead of me, and then settle into a rhythm before I passed the next one. That'd always seemed to work OK before, as long as I managed to swim wide around them to avoid getting hit. Anyway, I was soon up among the leaders and in with a good chance. The aim of the race was to swim out around a marker, then back to the beach, and run straight to our coach who'd be timing us. The three fastest times would win. However, as I hadn't got my glasses on, I rushed up to the wrong person, sadly ... and dropped out of the first three places as a result. Oh well!

D Tom

The sea conditions were pretty dire on race day, with big waves rolling towards the shore. I decided I'd just let others go ahead of me and simply aim to finish – that in itself would be an achievement. I resolved to see each wave as a challenge and meet each one head on, then go with the current as much as possible. The trouble was, doing that, I couldn't really see what the other swimmers were up to, so I was amazed when I heard some of them call out that it was too rough and they were giving up! I'd been coping OK, so I ploughed on, although I was getting tired. What really got me through, though, was finding my close friend swimming just nearby, so we made a promise to each other then to keep going now we'd come so far – and we did! That's what I call teamwork – even though we didn't win!

LIVEWORKSHEETS