SET 2

Write your answer A/B/C in the box provided:

Questions **22** *to* **29** *are based on the following passage.*

1 He stares at the face in the mirror. A stranger's face framed by a shock of grey hair and sideburns, a slightly creased forehead, a fine, pointed nose, thin lips that form a small "o" and a sharp chin marked with stubble. He strokes it with his fingers, tracing its planes and angles, marvelling at the unfamiliar texture. "I'm still me," he says fiercely to himself. "It's me with a new face."

2 Jerome, a private man who asked that his last name not be used, is stepping out from the shadows. He is the world's first full face transplant, from his hairline down to his neck, with tear ducts that work, eyelids that blink and a five o'clock shadow he will have to shave.

3 Arlette gazed down at her new baby, Jerome. It was January 30, 1975, winter in Brittany on France's west coast, and she was chilled, as if the wind was gusting into the hospital room. "What is it?" she asked, frightened. Only a few hours old, the tiny infant, his hands bunched into fists, had a dropping right eyelid and a terribly swollen upper lip. The doctor said only that an ophthalmologist could see Jerome because he needed surgery on the eyelid so his sight could develop normally with exposure to light. So the ordeal began, a hint of what was to come.

4 When Jerome was a toddler and later in primary school, he had more surgeries or cosmetic procedures to snip the odd growth from his face. But it would be nine years before doctors even diagnosed his condition, a relatively common genetic disease called neurofibromatosis or NF. The symptoms can include skin discolouration and benign tumours that grow along nerves. Doctors told her the genes spontaneously mutate in up to half the cases, a cruel lottery that chose her younger son. The disease could get worse as he got older.

5 No one could have imagined how bad it would get. Although Jerome did not develop skin discolouration, when he hit puberty, the tumours came fast and furious. His face became a creepy mask, the right side slipping down, his nose squashed and his mouth stretched and bowed down under the weight of his skin. "Hey, monster!" strangers called from across the street. Others called him Quasimodo, after the deformed Hunchback of Notre Dame. Heartbroken, hurt and frightened, he never responded.

6 Then in 2007, Arlette, Jerome, and Jerome's stepfather, Jacques, saw a television documentary about a man who had the same condition and had had a partial face transplant. His face was so disfigured that his mouth opening actually fell below his jaw. He too had spent his life in hiding. Arlette grabbed Jerome and Jacques in excitement. She remembered that the first partial face transplant had been performed in France in 2005 on a woman who had been mauled by a dog. But she never once imagined that the procedure could be done on someone with a genetic condition like her son. She wrote down the name of the doctor, Laurent Lantieri. Then she urged Jerome to get in touch with him.

7 It was not easy. It took Jerome four months to get up the courage to make an appointment with the doctor. Finally, in the winter of 2008, he found himself sitting across Lantieri in the surgeon's office at Henri Mondor hospital in Creteil, southeast of Paris. Lantieri was the chief of the hospital's plastic surgery department and had successfully completed four partial transplants. Now, he was ready to go further. Yet, what he envisioned for Jerome had never before been done: A full face transplant. It would not be easy. Jerome would have to go through a series of tests beforehand to ensure he had the physical strength to survive the surgery and the mental strength of having someone else's face become his own. Worse, if Jerome's body rejected the transplant, it would be a fatal one.

8 The wait for a donor was agonising. One month passed, two, three and four. Finally, in June 2010, the call came that a donor had been found. Jerome, went to the hospital, excited and afraid. Prepped to go into the operating room on June 27, he thought that this could be the last time he would ever see his family. After almost 12 hours of painstaking procedures, the operation was a success.

9 Three months after the operation, Jerome admits he is no Tom Cruise, but a work-in-progress, a man who is slowly turning a donor's gift into his own visage, with his bone structure to give it shape and his personality to give it soul. Jerome looks forward to a future where anything is possible. When he had the operation, people feared he would wake up a different person but he is still the same guy, bookish and quirky, a man who wants to find a good job in the theatre or in television, and who is ready to open himself to love. And for the first time, he is amused to find that he is beginning to show a hint of what most people already have: A sense of vanity. "Look at this nose," he says. "It's perfect!"

(Adapted from *Reader's Digest*, July 2011)

22 ... *he says fiercely to himself* (line 5) indicates that

A he wants to convince himself

B he is angry with himself

C he is expressing surprise

23 ... *stepping out from the shadows* (lines 6 and 7) suggests that Jerome

A has now gain confidence to face the world

B is afraid that people will laugh at him

C is excited to start a new life

24 *So the ordeal began, a hint of what was to come* (line 16).

This suggests that

A Jerome was destined to be disabled from birth

B the doctor could not do anything to help Jerome

C Jerome's condition was about to go from bad to worse

25 Paragraph 5 is mainly about

A how badly society treated Jerome

B the unimaginable distortion to Jerome's face

C the physical and emotional changes in Jerome

26 Why did Jerome take four months to make an appointment with Dr Lantieri?

A He was afraid that he would be disappointed.

B He was fearful of undergoing a long procedure.

C He was scared that he might die from the surgery.

27 *agonising* (line 50) can best be replaced with

A taxing

B unbearable

C demanding

28 What happened to Jerome after the operation?

A He wanted to be an actor.

B He started to become normal.

C He developed a new personality.

29 The passage is developed mainly through

A problem and solution

B compare and contrast

C description and narration