SET 3

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

Questions **30** *to* **37** *are based on the following passage.*

I no longer played in the alley of Waverly Place. I never visited the playground where the pigeons and men gathered. I went to school, then directly home to learn new chess secrets, cleverly concealed advantages, more escape routes.

But I found it difficult to concentrate at home. My mother had a habit of standing over me while I plotted out my games. I think she thought of herself as my protective ally. Her lips would be sealed tight, and after each move I made, a soft "Hmmmmph" would escape from her nose.

"Ma, I can't practise when you stand there like that," I said one day. She retreated to the kitchen and made loud noises with the pots and pans. When the crashing stopped, I could see out of the corner of my eye that she was standing in the doorway. "Hmmmph!" Only this one came out of her tight throat.

My parents made many concessions to allow me to practise. One time I complained that the bedroom I shared was so noisy that I couldn't think. Thereafter, my brothers slept in a bed in the living room facing the street. I said I couldn't finish my rice; my head didn't work right when my stomach was too full. I left the table with half-finished bowls and nobody complained. But there was one duty I couldn't avoid. I had to accompany my mother on Saturday market days when I had no tournament to play. My mother would proudly walk with me, visiting many shops, buying very little. "This my daughter Wave-ly Jong," she said to whoever looked her way.

One day after we left a shop I said under my breath, "I wish you wouldn't do that, telling everybody I'm your daughter." My mother stopped walking. Crowds of people with heavy bags pushed past us on the sidewalk, bumping into first one shoulder, then another.

"Aiii-ya. So shame be with mother?" She grasped my hand even tighter as she glared at me.

I looked down. "It's not that, it's just so obvious. It's just so embarrassing."

"Embarrass you be my daughter?" Her voice was cracking with anger.

"That's not what I meant. That's not what I said."

"What you say?"

I knew it was a mistake to say anything more, but I heard my voice speaking. "Why do you have to use me to show off? If you want to show off, then why don't you learn to play chess?"

My mother's eyes turned into dangerous black slits. She had no words for me, just sharp silence.

I felt the wind rushing around my hot ears. I jerked my hand out of my mother's tight grasp and spun around, knocking into an old woman. Her bag of groceries spilled to the ground.

"Aii-ya! Stupid girl!" my mother and the woman cried. Oranges and tin cans careened down the sidewalk. As my mother stooped to help the old woman pick up the escaping food, I took off.

I raced down the street, dashing between people, not looking back as my mother screamed shrilly, "Meimei! Meimei!" I fled down an alley, past dark, curtained shops and merchants washing the grime off their windows. I sped into the sunlight, into a large street crowded with tourist examining trinkets and souvenirs. I ducked into another dark alley, down another street, up another alley. I ran until it hurt and I realised I had nowhere to go, that I was not running from anything. The alleys contained no escape routes.

(Adapted from *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan)

30 *I no longer played in the alley...* (line 1) shows that

A Meimei spent a lot of time in school training to be a chess player

B Meimei's life changed drastically after winning the tournament

C Meimei was not interested in playing chess with the old men

D Meimei's mother did not allow her to play in the alley

31 Meimei made the demands as described in paragraph 4 because she

A was fussy about her food

B wanted a room of her own

C knew that her parents wanted her to play more tournaments

D took advantage of her parents' hope on her winning tournaments

32 *...visiting many shops, buying very little* (lines 18 and 19) emphasises the point that

A Meimei was unhappy that her mother took a long time shopping

B Meimei's mother is proud of her daughter's beauty

C Meimei and her mother have a close relationship

D Meimei's mother liked to show off her daughter

33 Which of the following does **not** describe Meimei's mother?

A Cruel

B Proud

C Fierce

D Sensitive

34 The details given in the last paragraph about Meimei's running show

A how stubborn she could be

B how hard she wished to escape

C her familiarity with her neighbourhood

D her wish to get away from the crowded market

35 *The alleys contained no escape routes.* (lines 47 and 48) implies that

A Meimei found it difficult to escape through the alleys

B Meimei realised that no one would help her with her problems

C Meimei knew that her problem with her mother had to be resolved

D Meimei had to stop running because she knew she would be caught

36 There is mention of *escape routes* (lines 3 and 48). This phrase implies that

A a winner has to be a clever strategist

B the moves in chess and in life are very similar

C Meimei is planning to run away from her parents

D playing chess gives as much pleasure as playing in the alley

37 The passage is mainly about

A the spiritedness of a young girl

B a young girl trying to be a good chess player

C a mother who is too ambitious for her daughter

D the conflict of emotions that exists between a parent and a child