



Exam task

3

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

0 A complete B finish C fulfil D succeed

Example answer: C

Coming second: pleasure or pain?

Every ambitious athlete hopes to (0) their dream of winning a gold medal at the Olympics. However, not everyone can win, and often talented athletes must accept second place. A team of psychologists recently (1) some research on the emotional responses of those finishing second. For certain individuals, a silver medal may (2) their expectations and so naturally they will be delighted. They may also enjoy surprising experts and journalists who believed they had absolutely no (3) of achieving anything. In (4), the athlete who everyone assumed would win with ease, but then suffers a (5) defeat, may not celebrate their silver medal. This reaction differs sharply from the athlete who comes second but finished a long way behind the winner. There is a (6) in the research that shows such a person will feel significantly happier.

To a certain (7), these findings are not surprising. Silver medallists who were close to victory will almost certainly (8) on what might have happened if they had trained harder, or done things differently.



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|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 A controlled | B conducted | C directed | D guided |
| 2 A exceed | B overtake | C pass | D overcome |
| 3 A outlook | B view | C estimate | D prospect |
| 4 A opposition | B contrast | C distinction | D contradiction |
| 5 A thin | B tight | C narrow | D slight |
| 6 A habit | B trend | C custom | D tendency |
| 7 A extent | B amount | C range | D level |
| 8 A review | B wonder | C consider | D reflect |