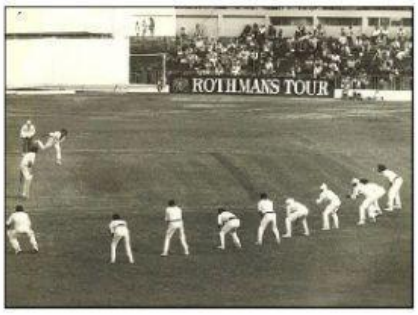
Task Three: Multiple-Choice Reading *(15 minutes) – Questions 14-20*

You will read an article about cricket.

- Read the following article.
- Answer the multiple-choice questions and choose the correct answer: A, B, C or D.
- Place a [X] in the appropriate box on your Answer Sheet.

Cricket



London correspondent Salvo Tomasello investigates the world of cricket.

As 'typically English' as tea at five, "The Changing of the Guard" or inclement weather, cricket is a sport that might take a lifetime to understand, never mind appreciate. Matches might last anything up to five days, with nothing appearing to happen for hours on end and then when it does you will probably either be looking the other way or be fast asleep. Never mind that its rules are so complex that you probably need a PhD to comprehend them fully. Many Americans might decide it's not really worth the bother.

The precise origins of cricket are highly debatable and there are many theories as to how it started. It might have been invented by shepherds or played in churchyards as far back as the thirteenth century, although some accounts suggest that it might pre-date this by as much as two hundred years. The first source which British historians consider completely reliable describes Prince Edward playing something which resembled cricket in 1300, although even this account fails to firmly establish the sport's origins. The rules of the modern game were not completely developed until the nineteenth century. The first organised internationals took place in 1861, with England and Australia commencing what soon developed into a fierce, ongoing competitive rivalry. As the rules and regulations of the game were being formally established, other countries joined the growing international playing community.

To attempt to explain the rules of cricket comprehensively in an article of this length would be impossible. It could be argued that the basic principles of the game are similar to those of baseball, although the game play and rules are very different. Cricket is an outdoor, fair-weather sport played mainly in countries belonging to the British Commonwealth, such as England, Australia, the West Indies, India, Pakistan and South Africa. The balance of power in international cricket tends to swing between these competing nations. At present Australia predominate having been virtually unbeatable for the last decade or so and teams always face a tough match against them.

Although it might appear to be a sedate, sleepy pastime, cricket has always demanded fierce concentration and immense courage. Since becoming fully professional in the 1970's standards and training facilities have improved immensely across the game. Cricket is now as competitive and technical as any global sport, and who knows, perhaps its popularity might yet spread to new, previously unexplored territories.

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Questions for Task Four:

14. In the first paragraph the author suggests that ...

A cricket is only played in good weather.
B people understand cricket quickly.
C people enjoy cricket before understanding it.
D some foreigners might not take the trouble to understand the game.

15. Concerning the start of cricket...

A there is little dispute.
B it was first played by shepherds in churchyards.
C it was already in existence by 1300.
D Prince Edward established the rules.

16. England and Australia...

A were the first nations to play official matches.
B organised world tournaments.
C finalised the official rules of cricket.
D played each other annually.

17. The writer doesn't explain all of the rules of cricket because...

A there isn't enough space in the article.
B they are in a constant state of change.
C they are so similar to baseball.
D he doesn't understand them himself.

18. The writer says that the current Australian cricket team...

A have better facilities than other teams.
B are the best team in the world at the moment.
C are losing their dominant position in the sport.
D are a team other teams don't like to play.

19. The process of professionalism...

A has made the sport more popular.
B has made cricket more difficult to understand.
C has raised the standard of the sport.
D has required its participants to be braver.

20. Whom is the text aimed at?

A Amateur cricketers.
B Cricket fans.
C Newcomers to cricket.
D People who don't like cricket.

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