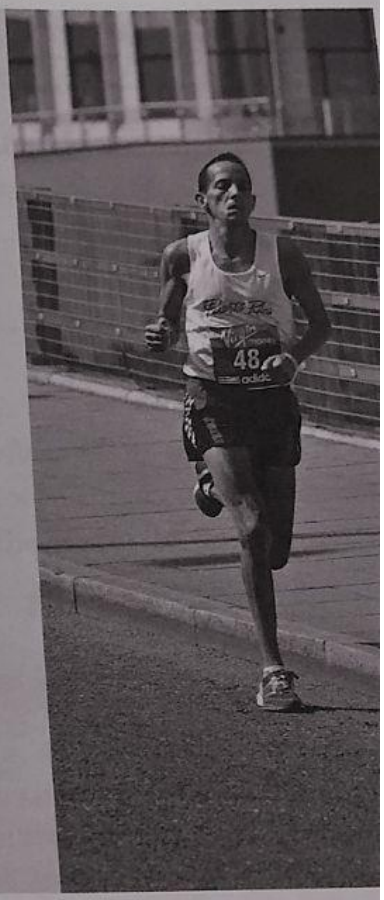
1 Match each word 1–5 with its meaning a–e.

1 rumours	___	a supported
2 mood	___	b gossip
3 resentment	___	c focused
4 reassured	___	d atmosphere, feeling
5 single-minded	___	e dislike

E Use of English: exam practice

Read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.



One of the most punishing forms of athletic sport is long-distance running. To be a top marathon runner requires years of (1) _____ and a lot of (2) _____. As in most athletic sports, marathon runners are (3) _____. They do the sport because they are (4) _____ to it, not to get rich. As it's such a (5) _____ sport, even people who do it as a hobby need to get into a (6) _____ of running at least 20 km a day in the run-up to a major race if they are going to have any (7) _____ of doing well in it. Those marathon runners who want a chance of running in the Olympics® are likely to (8) _____ someone who can help them gain an edge over their competitors. A good (9) _____ can make all the difference.

When actually participating in an event, it is vital that long-distance runners (10) _____ themselves if they want to avoid (11) _____. But for some runners, all the hard work will (12) _____ off when they cross the finishing line ahead of the rest of the pack.

1 **A** teaching	**B** learning	**C** training	**D** testing
2 **A** practices	**B** sacrifices	**C** suggestions	**D** resentments
3 **A** athletes	**B** volunteers	**C** champions	**D** amateurs
4 **A** keen	**B** determined	**C** devoted	**D** focused
5 **A** asking	**B** begging	**C** requesting	**D** demanding
6 **A** routine	**B** tradition	**C** custom	**D** design
7 **A** beliefs	**B** prospects	**C** events	**D** actions
8 **A** focus	**B** earn	**C** take on	**D** aim
9 **A** rival	**B** coach	**C** referee	**D** leader
10 **A** pace	**B** speed	**C** race	**D** compete
11 **A** loss	**B** beating	**C** defeat	**D** ruin
12 **A** give	**B** take	**C** run	**D** pay

LIVEWORKSHEETS