Part 3 Longer Text

SPM Paper 1: Part 3 (Q19-Q26)

You are going to read an extract from an article. For **questions 19 to 26**, *choose the correct answer (***A**, **B**, **C**, *or* **D***).*

Sports: How it affected my life

Since I was born, my whole life revolved around sports. I had sports posters, sports pillowcases, sports shirts, sports magazines and even watched only sports movies. Sports are not only games I played with my friends, it is more than that!

When I was young, I was just like any other kids. Nevertheless, I had some genetic faults that made it so hard to play my favourite sports – football. I have always been short. Up until about sixth grade, I was skinny as a twig. It is a big trouble for me as due to my size, I did not meet the weight requirements to play. Reluctantly, I chose to play other sports which were soccer and basketball. Even as a child, I knew playing these sports would only make me better, but still, I just wanted to play football. I was not always motivated to play these sports until they taught me the key element that would be necessary later in both football and life, teamwork.

By the time I reached high school, my dream came true. As the years passed, I had always been known to be a hard worker and thanks to what I was taught earlier, I was a great team player on the field. Interestingly, I was also awarded for being the most committed player. The people in the team used to jokingly call me Rudy because my heart and love for the game was noticeable to anyone who knew me. While for some people, football was only a seasonal thing, I was either lifting or running routes and going over things with coaches the whole year.

Because I was so devoted to football, my grades and sometimes social life suffered. Throughout the four years I played, coaches would always constantly strike phrases in the players' heads; never quit and fight through adversity no matter what the odds are against you and it will only make you stronger. At that time, I never realized what all that truly meant. For me, it was just things they had heard in the glory days and liked to yell at us. I knew those words had meaning, but I guess it just never clicked to me in high school how important they really were.

After the high school was over and I began to enter my adulthood, I began to recall all the things sports had taught me and those phrases I had heard so many times. I realised that

LIVEWORKSHEETS

those weren't just phrases, they were keys to life to help you be successful. I started to figure out that the things they had pounded into my head all that time weren't just for the game.

Sports may be just games played for fun, but in reality, the things that you learn in sports are taught for a significant purpose. As I think about it now, I still haven't totally got it implemented with my school work, but in the workplace I constantly get complimented for my good teamwork. I look to implement the things I was taught in every aspect of my life. As I look at things such as divorces and broken families, I wonder that all would have been the same if they had been pounded with the things I had been told over and over again. Never quit, fight through adversity as it will make you stronger to work through obstacles in your life.

All in all, I feel comfortable going into my future with the characteristics and mindset I have developed through sports. Sports have impacted my life by making me understand that I can get past any obstacles that come my way with hard work and a will not quit attitude. I also feel that these are things I can pass on to my children and they can experience themselves through sports. Sports have made a lasting impact on my life. For this, I believe.

Adapted from: Sports how they impacted my life « Joshua | This I Believe

19 In paragraph 2, which of these is not the obstacle for the writer to play football?

A Being short.
B Being small.
C Being overweight.
D Being underweight.

20 In paragraph 2, why did the writer say he reluctantly choose soccer and basketball?

A Soccer and basketball were tiring sports.
B His favourite coaches were not teaching soccer and basketball.
C Both soccer and basketball were played in a team.
D Both soccer and basketball were not his passion.

21 In paragraph 3, why did the writer say 'my dream came true'?

A He was able to play football.
B He was awarded the most committed player.
C He was chosen as a great team player.
D He was called Rudy.

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22 In paragraph 4, which word has the same meaning as 'enthusiastic'?

A Devoted.

B Strike.

C Stronger.

D Glory.

23 In paragraph 4, who did 'they' refer to?

A The players.

B The coaches.

C The audience.

D The opponent teams.

24 In paragraph 6, the writer was praised for...?

A His hard work.

B His punctuality.

C His collaboration.

D His humbleness.

25 In the last paragraph, "a will not quit attitude" **cannot** be replaced with..?

A Bold

B Perseverance.

C Determined.

D Indolence.

26 Which of these is the similarity between football and basketball?

A The rules and regulations.

B The number of players.

C They are played in teams.

D The size of the ball.

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