B: READING

Time permitted: 60 minutes
Number of questions: 40

Directions: *In this section you will read FOUR different passages. Each one is followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer A, B, C or D, to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.*
You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

Take me out to the Ballpark

Baseball, hot dogs, apple pie... you just can't get more American than that! Frank Bell gives us a look at baseball, no longer just America's favourite sport!

Baseball is sometimes called a national pastime in America because it is a much loved national sport. Of course, baseball is not limited to the USA. It has played for many years in the countries of South America and is very popular in Japan. Europe is another matter, not many baseball teams exist in Europe today. That, however, is slowly changing. Since baseball is an Olympic sport, more and more countries are putting together teams and joining the game! (A)

Going to baseball games is a way of life for many fans. They sit in the stands on hot and sunny spring and summer days, eat hot dogs or popcorn, sip cola or lemonade and enjoy the game. Adults and children alike attend games, and it's a sport that everyone seems to love. Baseball is such a part of American life that nearly everyone's favourite childhood memory includes a day at the ballpark.

When and where did the game of baseball start? Well, people have been playing games with a stick and a ball for hundreds of years! Modern baseball, however, about 150 years ago in New York, USA and has been a popular sport ever since. It has changed a little bit over the years but the basic game remains the same.

Baseball is played with a bat, which a stick about 100 cm long is made of metal or wood, and a small hard ball. Each player also wears one heavy leather glove to catch the ball. Baseball gear usually consists of a lightweight shirt and trousers that come down just past the knees. (B)

Baseball is played on a special outdoor field which has two parts, the infield and the outfield. In the infield is an area shaped like a diamond that indicates the boundaries of the playing area. On the diamond, there are also the three bases that the players must run over to score. The outfield is an open grassy area where players wail to catch balls that are hit by other players.

The game of baseball is divided into nine parts, called innings. During an inning, each of the two teams takes its turn to bat, which means trying to hit the ball that is thrown to them by the pitcher of the other team. After the ball is hit, the player tries to run and touch three different bases before running to home base. The team not batting tries to catch the balls that are hit and stop the runners before they score. The team that scores the most runs by the end of the ninth inning wins. It's a game that can go very slowly for a while then suddenly have a series of fast and exciting moves! (C)

Fans love baseball games! The stands are usually filled for the games. People enjoy a day at the ballpark cheering on their favourite team and relaxing in the summer sun. So what are you waiting for? Put on your baseball cap and give it a try! (D)

1. The writer says that baseball .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A. is played only in America. B. is not popular in countries like Japan.
C. started in South America. D. is becoming more popular all over the world.

2. According to the text, baseball is played in more and more countries because .....
A. it is an exciting game. B. it is included in the Olympic Games.
C. Many American people live there. D. It is easy to play.

3. Which sentence isn't true about baseball?
A. It was first played during the 1850s. B. It is an Olympic sport.
C. The rules have changed quite a lot over the years. D. It started in New York.

4. Which piece of equipment is not mentioned in the text?
A. bat B. ball C. glove D. mask

5. In which space (marked (A), (B), (C) and (D) in the passage) will the following sentence fit?

Players wear shoes with spikes to help them run, just as football players do, and a baseball cap, which is something everyone is familiar with!

A. (A) B. (B) C. (C) D. (D)

6. What is the baseball field like?
A. It has an infield, an outfield and a middle field.
B. There are three diamonds on the ground.
C. There are three bases on the diamond.
D. It is usually in an indoor stadium.

7. The game is divided into .....
A. two halves. B. nine innings.
C. three bases. D. an infield and an outfield.

8. The object of the game is to .....
A. catch as many balls as you can. B. hit the ball the farthest.
C. score the most runs. D. bat as often as you can.

9. What is true about a baseball match?
A. It's slow.
B. It often takes place on hot summer days.
C. Spectators are not allowed to bring foods to the ballpark.
D. The speed of the match may change suddenly.

10. According to the text, most American people have .....
A. childhood memory at a ballpark.
B. a baseball gear.
C. experience of participating in at least a baseball inning.
D. all of them

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PASSAGE 2 – Questions 11-20

Ten Events, One Champion:
THE DECATHLON

Fay Webster takes a look at the world of athletics and finds out what it takes to be a true champion.

The Olympic Games have changed a lot since their origins in Ancient Greece. Today, athletes from countries all over the world take part and the Olympics are big business, watched by millions on television. Some things, though, have stayed the same. The athletes then could make a lot of money from winning, just like today's competitors. In the ancient Games, a great champion might have received as much as a year's pay for winning a race.

Another thing that hasn't changed is the search for an all-round champion, somebody who can defeat their opponents at a number of different sporting events. In the ancient Olympics, athletes competed in the pentathlon. **This** consisted of the long jump, the discus, the javelin, a running race and wrestling. The first winner, in 708 BC, was Lampis of Sparta, who must have been a great athlete to beat so many others from all over the Hellenic world. The pentathlon was an important part of the Olympics until Emperor Theodosius of Rome banned the Games in 393 AD.

The Stockholm Olympics of 1912 brought back this tradition of the search for all round greatness. The modern pentathlon was included (shooting, swimming, fencing, riding and running) and so was the modern decathlon (ten events), with the heptathlon (seven events) for women being introduced later. So what drives someone to take on this running, throwing, jumping challenge and push their body to its limits? I met American decathlete Bruce Thorpe in New York and told him he must have been crazy to take up the decathlon. He laughed.

'Yes, I think I probably was. I could have done lots of different sports, but I chose the decathlon. It's very tough and it demands a lot of different skills. You have to train just as hard as other athletes, only you have to do it in ten different events! I think we're probably all a little crazy, but it's very satisfying in the end,' he said. I asked him to explain what happens in the decathlon.

'The way it works is you complete each event and you get points, depending on how well you do in that event. At the end of two days, the person with the most points is the champion and takes the gold medal, the second person gets the silver and the third the bronze medal. We start with the 100 metres, the long jump, the shot put, the high jump and the 400 metres. The second day, it's the 110 metre hurdles, the discus, the javelin, the pole vault and the one that we all dread, the 1500 metres.' I asked him what made the 1500 metres such a struggle. 'All the other events demand speed or strength. With the long race, it's stamina. Really, decathletes aren't built for that event.'

So what tips does Bruce have for those of you thinking of taking up the decathlon? 'Start as early as you can and join a good club,' he said. 'It takes a long time to master ten different events, or seven for the heptathlon, and you need expert help. And don't expect to have much free time!'

Ten events, one champion. Think you might be the one? If you're interested in finding out more about the decathlon, contact your local athletics club.

11. In the first paragraph, the writer says that athletes today .....
    A. are more popular than in ancient times.
    B. are much better than in ancient times.
    C. treat the Olympics like a business.
    D. can become wealthy through sport.

12. What does the word " **This**" in line 8 refer to?
    A. the champion
    B. the running race
    C. Greece
    D. the pentathlon

13. The ancient pentathlon didn't test athletes' abilities to .....
    A. throw things.
    B. jump high.
    C. run fast.
    D. jump far.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

14. Lampis of Sparta was .....
A. the organizer of the first ancient Olympics
B. Emperor Theodosius of Rome
C. the first winner of the ancient Olympics
D. the greatest athlete in history

15. According to the passage, the heptathlon for women .....
A. became an Olympic event after 1912.
B. similar to the ancient pentathlon.
C. tests the ability to ride a horse.
D. is much easier than the decathlon.

16. How many sporting events were included in the modern decathlon of Stockholm Olympics in 1912?
A. only one
B. five
C. seven
D. ten

17. What did Bruce Thorpe say about decathlon?
A. It is challenging and requires athletes to have various skills.
B. There's no need for participants to train hard.
C. It has only seven events.
D. It takes one day to decide the winner.

18. What do you have to do to win a gold medal in the decathlon?
A. Score more points than all the other competitors.
B. Beat the other competitors in at least three events.
C. Finish each event in the top three.
D. Complete the events in the right order.

19. What does Bruce say about the events?
A. The 1500 metres should be on the first day.
B. The first day is tougher than the second.
C. The 1500 metres is different from the other events.
D. It looks easier than it actually is.

20. What is Bruce's advice for people thinking of becoming decathletes?
A. Get a trainer to guide you.
B. Get up early to start training
C. Take up the heptathlon instead.
D. Try to get a good time in all the events.

PASSAGE 3 – Questions 21-30

COAST TO COAST

A 27-year-old graphic designer from Oxfordshire in England completed a record-breaking journey across Australia yesterday. It was a 5,800 kilometre odyssey - and he travelled the whole distance on a skateboard. David Cornthwaite, who started skateboarding less than two years ago, decided on his epic journey after waking up one morning and realising he hated his job. 'I thought, the only thing keeping me going is the skate to and from work. I was a bit **disillusioned** and I was looking for something new,' he said. 'I saw a Lonely Planet guide to Australia. There was a map on the back. Perth was on one side and Brisbane on the other and I thought, "that'll do".'

He decided to prepare by skateboarding from John O'Groats to Lands End: the two points furthest apart on the British mainland. That 1.442 kilometre trek, which he finished in June, took just over a month, during which an infected blister swelled to the 'size of a tennis ball'.

Crossing Australia on a skateboard brought unique challenges. The wind caused by huge road trains, the articulated lorries that thunder across the Outback, was so powerful that he was sometimes blown off his board. Multiple blisters and aching ankles, toes and feet, have kept him in almost constant pain for the last six weeks. 'I feel like an old man. I'm not sure that anyone has ever had this many blisters,'

LIVEWORKSHEETS

he said. Temperatures of 40°C and above mean that he has used more than a dozen tubes of factor 30 sunscreen. 'There have been moments where I thought "this is ridiculous, I have to rest", but I never contemplated giving up.' He has worn through 13 pair of shoes and has an over-developed right calf muscle which he compares to 'a giant chicken fillet'.

Skating an average of 50 kilometres a day and hitting speeds of up to 50kph on downhill runs, he left Perth, Western Australia, and skated across the fearsome Nullarbor Plain into South Australia. After reaching Adelaide he made his way to Melbourne and from there to Sydney. A support team of seven people trailed him all the way in a four-wheel drive vehicle, which included camping equipment for night stops. The journey has smashed the previous record for a long-distance skateboard, set by an American, Jack Smith, who covered 4,800 kilometres across the US in 2003.

David Cornthwaite was less than three kilometres from the end of his epic journey when he hit a hole and was so thrown off his skateboard, suffering cuts and bruises to his shoulders, knees, hips and elbows. 'I was only going at 40km at the time, so although it wasn't pretty, it could have been a lot worse,' he said.

In the short term, he hopes to spend the next few days surfing on the Gold Coast, south of Brisbane, to build up some much-needed upper body strength. I've got huge legs but a skinny body - it's a bit ridiculous. I need to give my body a chance to warm down and surfing sounds ideal. For the time being I'm hanging up my skateboard.' In the longer term, he plans to give motivational speeches and write a book. Another long-distance journey is also on the cards. 'I'm certainly not going back to the day job,' he said.

21. Why did David Cornthwaite decide to skateboard across Australia?
    A. He was an experienced skateboarder
    B. He wanted to break a world record
    C. He was bored with his life and wanted to try something different
    D. Somebody gave him a guidebook about Australia

22. The word **"disillusioned"** in line 5 can be best replaced by .....
    A. disappointed B. embarrassed C. fascinated D. delighted

23. His preparation in Britain was .....
    A. successful, but painful
    B. successful, but more time-consuming than planned
    C. successful, but more difficult than he had realised
    D. unsuccessful because he got injured

24. What made David fall off his skateboard several times in Australia?
    A. thunderstorms in the Outback B. the trains that race across the Outback
    C. the injuries on his feet D. the wind created by huge lorries going past

25. At times, David felt as though he .....
    A. needed to stop for a while. B. wanted to give up completely.
    C. wanted to get out of the sun. D. needed a new pair of shoes.

26. During the journey, where did David sleep at night?
    A. in a four-wheel drive vehicle B. in a tent
    C. outdoors on the Nullarbor Plain D. in the homes of his supporters

27. David fell off his skateboard because .....
    A. he was going too fast his journey B. he was exhausted and in pain
    C. he didn't see a hole in the road D. he was thinking about finishing his journey

LIVEWORKSHEETS

28. Why does David think surfing is a good thing to do after his journey .....
A. He can stay close to Brisbane.
B. He's always wanted to surf on the Gold Coast.
C. He wants to strengthen the top half of his body.
D. He needs to keep his legs strong.

29. What does David hope to do eventually?
A. encourage other people to feel more positive about themselves
B. put his skateboard away
C. return to work as a designer
D. persuade other people to make long-distance journeys

30. According to the text, in some days, David plans to skate on .....
A. Perth B. Adelaide C. Melbourne D. Gold Coast

PASSAGE 4 – Questions 31-40

On Tour with the London Symphony Orchestra

'Footballers and musicians are in the same business. They both do stressful jobs in front of critical audiences. The only difference is that football crowds are noisier.' So says Rod Franks. And he should know. Franks started his working life with Leeds United Football Club, neatly changed direction, started playing the trumpet instead of football, and is now **principal** trumpeter with the LSO (London Symphony Orchestra). Franks might have made a further observation about the similarities between orchestras and football clubs: it is playing away that presents the real challenges.

London's oldest orchestra has been playing away since it was formed almost a century ago. Nowadays, the orchestra's trips abroad are kept to tours of a maximum of two and a half weeks. But since touring is clearly expensive and presents major organisational and technical problems, why bother to tour at all? Clive Gillinson, the managing director, says: 'A great international orchestra needs to work with the greatest conductors and soloists. No recording company will record a conductor or soloist if he or she is only known in one territory - they need an international reputation. So for the recording side to work, you have to visit the key markets; you need to tour.'

By touring with projects or festivals, Gillinson is able to create an event, not just provide a series of concerts. **It** is more expensive to do, but when you leave town you are not so easily forgotten.

For Sue Mallet, the orchestra's administrator, the difficulties of her job lie in getting a symphony orchestra and its instruments on stage, on time and in one piece. However well she plans each tour, and she does her planning **with scientific accuracy**, events sometimes take an upper hand. On one occasion a concert had been advertised for the wrong night, and on another the lorry carrying the instruments from the airport to the concert hall broke down and got stuck in snow.

It is a tiring and stressful business flying around the world, and yet on balance it is one of the rewards of the job. Certain moments are **unforgettable**. At the end of a concert in Moscow an enthusiastic audience had brought the orchestra to its feet. As one of the musicians was about to sit down, an elderly lady in the front row pressed a piece of paper into his hand. It said, in words of simple English, what lovely music the orchestra had made.

31. What do footballers and musicians have in common?
A. Their work abroad earns a lot of praise.
B. They receive too much unfair criticism.
C. They enjoy extremely noisy audiences.
D. They experience tension in their work.

32. What are we told about Rod Franks?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A. He used to be the director of a football club. B. He switched from one career to another.
C. He used to be a professional trumpeter. D. He disliked his original choice of career.

33. Before joining London Symphony Orchestra, Rod Franks worked for .....
A. a football club B. a travel agency
C. a consulting firm D. an event organizing firm

34. The word **"principal"** in line 4 can be best replaced by .....
A. original B. main C. prime D. initial

35. The LSO began playing abroad .....
A. only fairly recently. B. over a hundred years ago.
C. when it was first set up. D. when it needed money.

36. Orchestras have to travel abroad .....
A. to play with foreign conductors. B. to record with foreign companies.
C. to make themselves better known. D.to record with new solo players.

37. What does **'It'** in line 15 refer to?
A. organising a number of recordings B. visiting the most important markets
C. the expense of touring in a country D. providing more than just concerts

38. Sue Mallet's arrangements for the LSO can be .....
A. affected by external circumstances. B. made difficult by awkward players.
C. spoilt by overlooking tiny details. D. spoilt by very careless planning.

39. What does the phrase **'with scientific accuracy'** (line 18) suggest about Sue Mallet's planning?
A. It's very neat and tidy. B. Her figures are correct.
C. She used to be a scientist. D. The details are excellent.

40. According to the writer, what made a certain moment **'unforgettable'** (line 23)?
A. the fact that the orchestra stood up B. an individual's appreciation
C. the enthusiastic applause D. the fact that a message was in English

LIVEWORKSHEETS