Bond

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Focus on Comprehension Test 3 Practice Test

Read the instructions carefully.

- Do not begin the test or open the booklet until told to do so.
- Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.
- You may write your answers in pen or pencil.
- You may make notes next to the extracts or on a separate sheet of paper.
- If you make a mistake, cross it out and write the new answer clearly.
- You will have 40 minutes to complete the test. It is advisable to spend the first few minutes reading through the extracts before answering any questions.

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Read these four extracts, then answer the questions that follow.

A The expensive game

Around the world, football is the most watched sporting event. There are more countries that are members of FIFA (the football governing body) than there are countries in the United Nations. It really is an international game; any country can now compete for a coveted place in the World Cup, which is held every four years.

Football became popular in England in the 1800s, when it was played in public schools. From there it spread to the universities and then to London, the industrial north and the Midlands. During this period, the game had close links with the Church, as many places of worship encouraged teams of young men to play football in order to let off steam. It also ensured that they would benefit from the healthy, active lifestyle that sport encouraged. The Aston Villa Methodist Chapel Sunday School team, or Aston Villa as it is now known, has become one of the more famous and successful church football teams.

Until the 1960s, the sum of £20 a week during the season and £17 a week out of season was considered a decent wage for a top division footballer. It was the abolition of the maximum wage act in 1961 that paved the way for footballers to earn the vast sums of money we see today. Even lower division footballers now earn more in one week than the combined earnings of every footballer in the 1950s' top division football clubs over their whole careers.

Spectators used to watch the sport for free but by the 1880s, they were charged the equivalent of a penny to watch the game. Now, the typical cost of a seat is over £40, with some clubs, such as Tottenham Hotspur, charging an incredible £70 for some Premiership matches. Will other clubs soon be doing the same?

B SCOTS SHUN SECTARIANISM

This morning the Scottish Executive pledged £75 000 for a new campaign being run by the Newcastle-based charity, Show Racism the Red Card. This high-profile project aims to tackle racism in Scottish football by working with schools to address the problem of sectarianism in the game. It will also make it clear to spectators and players alike that racism will not be tolerated in Scottish football.

One Glasgow resident, Mr Kirkham, commented, "Racism is everywhere in Scottish football, from the small ground matches to the biggest games. Anything that makes football more family-friendly is definitely a bonus." But not everyone agrees with this view. On being told the news of the new campaign funding, Mr Houseman, also from Glasgow, replied, "It's just throwing good money after bad. They should be spending the money on better schools and hospitals, rather than wasting money on a pointless game."

A representative from the charity told this reporter today that, "A cross-party report has proposed a law to make racist and religious hatred an offence. We hope that all football clubs will now be more proactive in giving life bans to fans who show racial or religious hatred. We would also like to see more severe punishments for players who display any racial or religious intolerance. Children often see footballers as role models, so it is important for all unacceptable behaviour to be dealt with publicly."

Show Racism the Red Card was set up in 1996 with the support of many high-profile footballers including: Larsson, Giggs, Ferdinand, Cole, Lineker, Keane, and manager, Jose Mourinho.

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C The dangerous game

[BBC Commentator and Dave 'Golden Boot' Davies (ex-pro footballer) are seen settling into the commentary box ahead of the game.]

Com: Welcome to the biggest match of 1999, the vital game between Glasgow Rangers and Glasgow Celtic – and Dave, the crowd here today is amazing.

Dave: Yes, I've not seen such a good turnout before, but I have to admit to feeling slightly apprehensive. As you know, Harry, Celtic and Rangers matches have a history of being, shall we say, lively! Let's hope that everyone is here to have a good time.

Com: Yes, Dave, let's hope so. *[whistle sounds]* Right, here we go…

[Lights dim on commentary box as action kicks off on pitch.]

[Lights come up on commentary box.]

Com: … So now it looks as if we'll be going into extra time as the whistle is… *[whistle sounds]* Oh and there it is, that's fulltime. So we're going into extra time with the score nil–nil. So Dave, what do you think of it so far?

Dave: Well, Rangers have been the most impressive and retained possession for most of the game but they just haven't been able to break through Celtic's defences. And with every failed attempt to score you could feel the tension mounting in the crowd.

Com: Yes, tensions are certainly running high as we wait for extra time to get under way. I can see a couple of police officers trying to break up a spat between two spectators in the stands next to that family just below us. Hang on, now they've run out onto the pitch and… my word… the rest of their group have followed. The police are struggling to control them. Wait… it's as if floodgates have opened… Hoards of spectators are spilling onto the pitch…

Dave: Oh steady on, this is ridiculous. Someone's starting a fire and…

Com: … and it's bedlam here. The fire is catching fast and… would you believe it…

Dave: … some fans are pouring whisky on the fire and it's spreading rapidly.

Com: The ground is full of rampaging bulls; wherever we look people are getting hurt. Dave, this is becoming a full-scale riot…

Dave: Yes, look! Pockets of fighting are breaking out all over.

Com: The police are battling to separate the opposing sides, oh, and I see the fire brigade has just turned up.

Dave: No! I cannot believe what I am seeing! The crowds are out of control, they are attacking the fire brigade and…

Com: … and someone is hacking through the hoses with a knife. I have never seen anything so appalling in all my time as a commentator.

D The Beautiful Game

It began with my dad and his dad before him,
He said, "It's better than rugby, cricket or the gym."
We'd queue for a ticket, him holding my hand,
And then we'd find our seats, near the exit in the stand.
We'd have on our shirt, and the hat, and the scarf,
And we cheered when we scored, and booed the other half.

Over the years we've been down and back up,
We've not been in the Premiership yet, and have lost nearly every cup.
But now I am a grandma and I turn up still the same,
My excited grandchildren come with me, to watch the beautiful game.

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SECTION 1: These questions are about 'The expensive game'.

1 Tick the phrase that best completes the sentence.

Footballers are paid more now because:

a some clubs charge over £40 for a ticket ☐

b footballers play a longer season ☐

c more teams are in the top divisions ☐

d an act of parliament was overturned ☐

e football is more popular now than in the 1960s ☐ 1

2 What type of word is 'public', as used in the phrase, 'it was played in public schools'? 1

verb ☐ adjective ☐ adverb ☐ pronoun ☐ noun ☐

3 Give two reasons why the Church encouraged football.

_____

_____

_____ 2

4 Label each phrase 'past', 'present' or 'future' tense.

a 'will other clubs soon' (line 22) _____

b 'it was the abolition of' (line 14) _____ 2

SECTION 2: These questions are about 'SCOTS SHUN SECTARIANISM'.

5 Each extract has come from a different type of source. Where do you think this extract has been taken from? Explain your answer.

_____

_____

_____ 4

6 What do you think 'sectarianism' means?

_____

_____ 2

7 Fill in the gaps in this passage.

a _____ is running a new campaign. Its aim is to
b _____. The charity wants clubs to be
c _____ and to give
d _____. 4

8 Underline the correct answer.

a 'SCOTS SHUN SECTARIANISM'. This is an example of:

personification metaphor alliteration simile idiom

b 'It's just throwing good money after bad.' This is an example of:

personification metaphor alliteration simile idiom 2

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SECTION 3: **These questions are about 'The dangerous game'.**

9 Which two phrases imply that more than just one or two people have gone onto the pitch?

_____

_____ 2

10 Give a synonym for each word as it is used in the extract.

a bedlam (line 27) _____ **b** spat (line 21) _____ 2

11 'The ground is full of rampaging bulls.' What literary technique is used in this sentence?

_____ 1

12 Explain the effect of pouring whisky onto a fire.

_____

_____

_____

_____ 3

13 What do you think started the riot?

_____

_____

_____ 3

SECTION 4: **These questions are about 'The Beautiful Game'.**

14 In this extract, the suffix '-ed' has been added to the word 'score'. A particular grammar rule must have been applied before this suffix could be added.

a Find another word in the text that also follows this rule. _____ 1

b What is the grammar rule?

_____

_____

_____ 2

15 Select four things from the text that define the football supporter.

_____

_____ 4

16 What do you think is meant by the phrase, 'Over the years we've been down and back up'?

_____

_____

_____ 2

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SECTION 5: **This question is about all of the texts.**

17 These extracts show that football has no benefits. Is this statement true or false? Explain your answer.

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