

Aim High 4 Exam practice 4

Reading

Tips

- Read the text quickly to find out what it is about.
- Read the sentences and the options (a–d).
- Find the part of the text that relates to each sentence.
- Remember, the sentences follow the same order as the text.
- Choose the correct option, then check that the other options are definitely wrong.

Read the text. Choose the best option (a–d) to complete the sentences (1–5).

What price sporting success?

Football is big business, and managers of big European clubs like Manchester United and Real Madrid are desperate to win trophies, because these not only improve the club's reputation but also bring it huge financial rewards. Clubs are always on the look-out for talented new players, and increasingly they are turning to other countries, especially Africa, in their hunt for that new striker who can lead them to a multi-million pound victory. Sure, they can buy in a big name from elsewhere, but for a big price – so the real dream for these clubs is to find a new, undiscovered talent who can bring something fresh and dynamic to their team and, more importantly, who won't cost them anything to recruit.

In theory, European clubs aren't allowed to recruit and sign up under-sixteens from abroad, but there are plenty of ways of getting around this rule. For example, if the players' parents 'decide' to move to the European city in question, the youngster can then legitimately sign with the club. There have been countless stories in the press of clubs fixing up jobs and arranging work permits for a player's family members in order to get the young player into the country and onto their books. For players who subsequently make it to the highest level, this provides a fantastic opportunity to achieve wealth and status they could never have dreamed of in their own country. But what about the hundreds of hopefuls who never quite make it?

Sixteen is the age at which clubs first offer formal contracts to players. For those who are good enough, this is the moment at which they first taste success. But those who aren't good enough are 'released' – sent away to get on with the rest of their lives. These young hopefuls have dedicated their teenage years to training and playing football, often sacrificing friendships, academic achievements and a social life to their dream of making it as a player. It is a bitter blow to find that the dream will never come true. For players who have moved to a new country, either with or without their families, failure is even more tragic, with youngsters left stranded in a country they barely know, with few options for alternative careers.

- 1 Clubs want to win trophies because
 - a trophies improve the manager's reputation.
 - b the manager feels desperate.
 - c trophies earn money for the club.
 - d they might get a reward.
- 2 Clubs especially want to find players who
 - a are big names.
 - b have already been discovered.
 - c will never be discovered.
 - d they don't have to pay for.
- 3 According to the rules, European clubs
 - a can sign foreign players who are under sixteen.
 - b can't sign foreign players who are under sixteen.
 - c can force young players to move to Europe.
 - d can give jobs to players' families.
- 4 Some clubs
 - a force players to move to Europe.
 - b don't allow players to move to Europe.
 - c make arrangements for players to move to Europe.
 - d offer players too much wealth and status.
- 5 According to the writer
 - a being released at sixteen is worse for foreign players.
 - b sometimes talented players are released.
 - c young players aren't prepared to make sacrifices.
 - d young players should spend more time training.

Use of English

Tips

- Read each sentence and look at the gap. Decide the part of speech of the missing word.
- Look at the word in brackets. Change it to the correct part of speech.
- Remember to think about possible spelling changes.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- 1 He has taken part in a lot of sports _____. (compete)
- 2 She hit her head and lost _____. (conscious)
- 3 He tried to become a professional footballer, but he was _____. (success)
- 4 Winning that trophy was one of my greatest _____. (achieve)
- 5 She's one of the most _____ athletes in the world. (fame)

Listening

3.5 You will hear three volunteers talking about their work. Read the questions 1–7 below. Then match the questions to the three speakers by marking a tick (✓) in the correct box.

Which person ...	Juliet	Bill	Evelyn
1 has been involved in volunteering for the longest period of time?	☐	☐	☐
2 helps people from all age groups?	☐	☐	☐
3 has to rely on others in his/her work?	☐	☐	☐
4 doesn't need to contact the people he/she helps?	☐	☐	☐
5 combines his/her volunteer work with their job?	☐	☐	☐
6 helps people who are at home on their own?	☐	☐	☐
7 helps people who can't go out?	☐	☐	☐

Writing

Tips

- Remember to include an introduction and conclusion to your report.
- Organize your report into paragraphs.
- Use the Writing Bank on page 90 of the Workbook to help you.

Write a report on sports facilities in your town. Include the following points:

- What facilities are there in your town?
- Who uses them?
- How could they be improved?
- What new facilities should be provided?

Speaking

Preparation

- Look at the photos A–D and discuss what each one shows.
- Discuss which sports activities are most attractive for young people.
- Use expressions to agree and disagree with each other, e.g. *Yes, you're right.*
I agree with you. Yes, but on the other hand.

Work in pairs. Imagine your town wants to build a new sports facility to encourage young people to do sport. Discuss the ideas in photos A–D and decide which sports facility would be the most attractive for young people.

