

وزارة التربية والتعليم العالي المديرية العامة للتربية دائرة الامتحانات	امتحانات الشهادة المتوسطة	دورة سنة ٢٠٠٥ العادية
اسم: الرقم:	مسابقة في اللغة الانكليزية المدة: ساعتان	

### Part One: Reading

(Score: 12/20)

Read the following text in which the writer describes an event in the life of a young Lebanese citizen whose experience caused a turning point in his career. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

- 1 The idea of running a marathon had never occurred to Samir, a 28-year-old ambitious Lebanese citizen, before he accidentally heard from a friend that an international marathon was going to take place in town. Somehow, the Beirut International Marathon seemed to be the kind of challenge that Samir was seeking.
- 2 Having been in the management team of an international business development company for five years, Samir had to make a critical career decision of whether it was the right time to start his own business or not. Fully aware of the risks involved in taking such a giant step, he decided to test the ultimate limits that he could reach in something he had never done before.
- 3 After checking the training requirements and buying the suitable clothing, he began the hard work. Only five months prior to the big event, he set his training schedule of running about 2 km along the seaside road and walking the same distance back. A few days later, the 4 km was changed into a pure run and gradually increased day by day.
- 4 During those long hours of running, several thoughts would stream in and out of his mind. "Why am I going through all this torture?" he would ask. It was very tempting to stop, but he kept on reminding himself that fulfilling this goal meant victory. To commit himself morally to extreme challenge, he told many friends about it. Some of them thought it was crazy for Samir to register in the 42.195 km, and others advised him to try the 10-km race instead.
- 5 At exactly 6:30 a.m. on that big day, he headed towards the starting line. To his surprise, thousands of men and women, young and old, as well as handicapped racers were warming up in their shorts and T-shirts. All of them were full of energy and enthusiasm, and each had a challenge to pursue. In addition to building self-confidence, such an event, Samir thought, would improve health and fitness. It would also promote Lebanon's civilized image as a country for life.
- 6 Samir managed to reach the finish line in 5 hours and 20 minutes. Although he was not among the first winners, he felt a boost of confidence. "Now, I can commit myself to anything I really want," he said. "I am reassured that my career crisis can be resolved, and I am determined to start my own business." He was proud of the lesson he had learned: if you believe in yourself and work hard enough, you can overcome all challenges.

### Questions

A. In your own language, answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What was Samir's career when he decided to run the marathon? (Score: 1)
2. Which race in the marathon did Samir choose to run? (Score: 1)
3. What three advantages of running a marathon are mentioned in the text? (Score: 1.5)

B. The following three sentences are taken out from the end of three paragraphs in the text. Think of Paragraphs, 1, 2, 3, or 4 to find out which paragraph each sentence completes. Copy this chart into your booklet, and then write down the correct paragraph number. (Score: 1.5)

Sentence	Paragraph Number
Later on, the distance was extended to 10 km and then to 20 km.	
Since he had almost no experience in running, the 42.195-km race seemed to be the perfect event,	
However, when the mind of a challenger is set, no obstacles can stand in the way.	

C. Which of the following phrases reflects the main idea of the text? Copy the appropriate one into your booklet. (Score: 1)

- Running the marathon
- Starting a new business
- Overcoming a challenge
- Improving health and fitness

D. Copy the following chart into your booklet. Refer to the text and complete the missing parts to make complete sentences. (Score:1.5)

	CAUSE	EFFECT
1		to test the ultimate limits that he could reach in something he had never done before.
2	Samir checked the training requirements and bought the suitable clothing	
3		to be socially obliged to fulfill his promise of taking the challenge.

E. Rewrite the following sentences into your booklet, filling each blank space with a suitable word from the reading text, as specified in the parentheses. (Score:02)

1. Professional athletes have to be more \_\_\_\_\_ if they want to make great achievements in the world of sports. (Paragraph 1)
2. Starting one's own business implies a great deal of \_\_\_\_\_ and risk. (Paragraph 1)
3. Most of Samir's friends believed that he had no chance of \_\_\_\_\_ in the race. (Paragraph 4)
4. This season, our national team's victory will definitely \_\_\_\_\_ them to the semifinal. (Paragraph 5)

F. Each of the following sentences contains **one** grammatical error. Identify this error and correct it. (Score:02.5)

1. By the time the marathon began, he has already trained for five months.
2. He asked me why was he going into all this torture.
3. Samir was full satisfied when he reached the finish line in 5 hours and 20 minutes.
4. If Samir didn't practice well for the last five months, he wouldn't have managed to reach the finish line.
5. The ultimate limits that Samir was seeking to reach were to test through the marathon.

**Part Two: Writing**

(Score: 8/20)

"If you believe in yourself and work hard enough, you can overcome all challenges."

Write a composition of 150-200 words to explain the above statement. Support your ideas by referring to a daily life experience to show the importance of self-confidence in building up a successful future. Provide your composition with a suitable title and an outline.

[Score: 02 for **outline and title**, 03 for **ideas**, and 03 for **language**.]

Answer Key

- A. 1. He was a member in the management team of an international business development company.  
Or, He was a manager of an international business development company. (Score: 1)
2. He chose the longer one / the 42.195 km race / the 42.195 km marathon. (Score: 1)
3. The three advantages of running a marathon are:
- to build or building self-confidence (Score: ½)
  - to improve or improving health and fitness (Score: ½)
  - to promote or promoting Lebanon’s civilized image as a country of life (Score: ½)
- B. (Score: 1 ½) ( ½ each number)

Sentence	Paragraph Number
Later on, the distance was extended to 10 km and then to 20 km.	3
Since he had almost no experience in running, the 42.195-km race seemed to be the perfect event,	2
However, when the mind of a challenger is set, no obstacles can stand in the way.	4

- C. Overcoming a challenge (Score: 1)
- D. (Score: 1 ½) ( ½ each number)

	CAUSE	EFFECT
1	<i>Samir decided to run the marathon to the finish line</i>	to test the ultimate limits that he could reach in something he had never done before.
2	Samir checked the training requirements and bought the suitable clothing	<i>to participate in the race.</i> <i>to start the hard work / training.</i>
3	<i>Samir told many friends about his decision to run the marathon</i>	to be socially obliged to fulfill his promise of taking the challenge

- E. 1. ambitious (Score: ½)
2. challenge (Score: ½)
3. victory (Score: ½)
4. promote (Score: ½)
- F. 1. has ..... had (Score: ½)
2. was he ..... he was (Score: ½)
3. full.....fully (Score: ½)
4. didn’t practice.....hadn’t practiced (Score: ½)
5. to test.....to be tested (Score: ½)