

Part One: Reading (score: 24/40)

Read the following text about Marwan who, after losing a race, learned the value of loss and how to keep on trying in order to win when you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

A Winner or a Loser?

- 1 Marwan is a boy of 17. He learned that to be the best he had to keep challenging himself. He once enjoyed the taste of winning and he hasn't forgotten the taste. He is more serious about it now. He is going to make a good runner. Soon he started cutting classes to go out and practice running.
- 2 One day he had to report to his father, who told him that school had called and hoped that he would become a big success at running, but that he had to stop cutting classes. He had been found out. So he stopped. Even so, he went before all others to practice, and finished after them.
- 3 Then came a big meet in Cairo, Egypt. It was the most important of all meets, as racers from all countries were invited to compete. They were going to stay there for 3 days, and they had other activities when the boys weren't out running. Their coach was going to take them to the Sphinx and the Pyramids. They were told to expect a tough competition, especially against the boys from Algeria and Morocco.
- 4 Just before his first competition, Marwan started getting a nervous feeling. It developed to a horrible feeling down the bottom of his stomach, a feeling of nervous and hunger. When he got to the track, those boys from Morocco really looked like runners, but he paid them no attention. He felt more than certain that he could wipe them out because, after all, he had won every single race he had been in. so, what happened? He got wiped out. It was the worst experience of his life, and so failed to qualify for anything. He was totally crushed.
- 5 On coming back home, he thought to himself how much work was waiting him, and he would like nothing better in the whole world than to go back to Egypt, the coming year and beat the pants off those fantastic runners.
- 6 After losing to those boys, he realized that he couldn't do it depending on his natural gifts alone, that there was more to track than just running fast. He realized it was going to test him as a person. Could he come back and win again after being totally crushed?
- 7 Going back to school, Marwan couldn't cut classes now anymore. So he faked sickness and went to the track and ran everyday until he got a sense of determination, a sense of high spirit that he would never give up, no matter what happened. Winning all the time on the track had given him confidence. It made him feel like a winner, but after Cairo he didn't feel like a winner anymore.
- 8 Marwan learned a big lesson for the rest of his life. He learned that winning is great, but learning how to handle loss is far greater. He realized that he couldn't go undefeated all the time. He had a new motto now. Losing shouldn't destroy a person. If it does, then it's all over.

A) Answer the following questions in 1-3 sentences of your own words.

1. Describe Marwan’s condition before his first Cairo competition. (2pts)
2. What other activities are the runners going to do in Egypt? (2pts)
3. Identify the mood prevailed in Paragraph 4, and then compare it to the mood in Paragraph 7. (2pts)
4. In the light of Marwan’s experience here, what do you think provides a better learning and motive? Explain. (2pts)

B) Find the referent of the underlined pronouns in the text. (2pts)

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| a. He (paragraph 2): | c. It (paragraph 4): |
| b. It (paragraph 3): | d. It (paragraph 8): |

C) The following three sentences are taken out from the end of three paragraphs in the text. Think of paragraphs 2,3,7,and 8 to find out which paragraph each sentence completes. (3pts)

Sentence	Paragraph Number
He has learned to handle loss, never to give up, but to keep on trying.	
He had many meets at school and locally, and he kept on winning all the races he joined in.	
They had caused his confidence to shatter, and the only way he could put it altogether was to get back the coming year and defeat them.	

D) The following statements are false because they misinterpret information in the text. Rewrite each statement so that it harmonizes with what the writer implies. (2pts)

1. Marwan absented himself from the classes because he was sick.
2. Marwan regained self-confidence after he defeated the fantastic runners of Morocco.

E) Use contextual clues to figure out the meaning of each word in the box below. Then fill in the blanks with the correct words to complete the following sentences. (4pts)

Crushed (paragraph 4)	determination (paragraph 7)	faked (paragraph 7)
Motto (paragraph 8)	undefeated (paragraph 8)	

1. A real friend and a ----- friend can be hard to distinguish, but they are very different.
2. She was completely ----- after being failed in her first romantic date.
3. Failure will never overtake me if my ----- to succeed is strong enough.
4. My life ----- is to do my best, so that I can’t blame myself for anything.

F) Correct the ONE grammatical mistake in each of the following sentences. (5pts)

1. Judging others unkindly make your mind small.
2. A number of reasons prevents him to be self-confident.
3. This month, we practice sports.
4. Marwan faked sickness, go to the track, and ran every day.
5. He is running for three hours.

Answer Key

A)

1. Before his first Cairo competition, Marwan was in continuous challenge with himself. He promised his father not to cut classes and practice more and more in order to be a big success at running. (2pts)
2. Together with the coach, the runners are going to visit the Sphinx and the pyramids when they are not out running. (2pts)
3. The mood prevailed in paragraph 4 is that of nervousness, worry, and frightening where Marwan feared failure and defeat. Whereas the mood in paragraph 7 is that of determination and self-confidence where Marwan would never give up even if he didn't win. (2pts)
4. In the light of Marwan's experience, we can say that winning is something great, but what really teaches in life is defeat, since people are taught from their own mistakes. Thus, whenever they do a job, they do it better than the time before. So better learning is achieved through learning from someone's own experiences. (2pts)

B)

- a. He refers to Marwan (0.5pt)
- b. It refers to a big meet (0.5pt)
- c. It refers to a nervous feeling (0.5pt)
- d. It refers to losing (0.5pt)

C) (3pts)

Sentence	Paragraph Number
He has learned to handle loss, never to give up, but to keep on trying.	Paragraph 8
He had many meets at school and locally, and he kept on winning all the races he joined in.	Paragraph 2
They had caused his confidence to shatter, and the only way he could put it altogether was to get back the coming year and defeat them.	Paragraph 7

D)

1. Marwan absented himself from the classes to go out and practice running. (1pt)
2. Marwan regained self-confidence after he was defeated by the fantastic runners of Morocco. (1pt)

E)

1. faked (1pt)
2. crushed (1pt)
3. determination (1pt)
4. Motto (1pt)

F)

1. Make ----- makes (1pt)
2. Prevents ----- prevent (1pt)
3. Practice ----- are practicing (1pt)
4. Go ----- went (1pt)
5. Is running ----- has been running (1pt)