

第5問 (配点 15)

Your English teacher has told everyone in your class to find an inspirational story and present it to a discussion group, using notes. You have found a story written by a high school student in the UK.

Lessons from Table Tennis

Ben Carter

The ball flew at lightning speed to my backhand. It was completely unexpected and I had no time to react. I lost the point and the match. Defeat... Again! This is how it was in the first few months when I started playing table tennis. It was frustrating, but I now know that the sport taught me more than simply how to be a better athlete.

In middle school, I loved football. I was one of the top scorers, but I didn't get along with my teammates. The coach often said that I should be more of a team player. I knew I should work on the problem, but communication was just not my strong point.

I had to leave the football club when my family moved to a new town. I wasn't upset as I had decided to stop playing football anyway. My new school had a table tennis club, coached by the PE teacher, Mr Trent, and I joined that. To be honest, I chose table tennis because I thought it would be easier for me to play individually.

At first, I lost more games than I won. I was frustrated and often went straight home after practice, not speaking to anyone. One day, however, Mr Trent said to me, "You could be a good player, Ben, but you need to think more about your game. What do you think you need to do?" "I don't know," I replied, "focus on the ball more?" "Yes," Mr Trent continued, "but you also need to study your opponent's moves and adjust your play accordingly. Remember, your opponent is a person, not a ball." This made a deep impression on me.

I deliberately modified my style of play, paying closer attention to my opponent's moves. It was not easy, and took a lot of concentration. My efforts paid off, however, and my play improved. My confidence grew and I started staying behind more after practice. I was turning into a star player, and my classmates tried to talk to me more than before. I thought that I was becoming popular, but our conversations seemed to end before they really got started. Although my play might have improved, my communication skills obviously hadn't.

My older brother Patrick was one of the few people I could communicate with well. One day, I tried to explain my problems with communication to him, but couldn't make him understand. We switched to talking about table tennis. "What do you actually enjoy about it?" he asked me curiously. I said I loved analysing my opponent's movements and making instant decisions about the next move. Patrick looked thoughtful. "That sounds like the kind of skill we use when we communicate," he said.

At that time, I didn't understand, but soon after our conversation, I won a silver medal in a table tennis tournament. My classmates seemed really pleased. One of them, George, came running over. "Hey, Ben!" he said, "Let's have a party to celebrate!" Without thinking, I replied, "I can't. I've got practice." He looked a bit hurt and walked off without saying anything else.

Why was he upset? I thought about this incident for a long time. Why did he suggest a party? Should I have said something different? A lot of questions came to my mind, but then I realised that he was just being kind. If I'd said, "Great idea. Thank you! Let me talk to Mr Trent and see if I can get some time off practice," then maybe the outcome would have been better. At that moment Patrick's words made sense. Without attempting to grasp someone's intention, I wouldn't know how to respond.

I'm still not the best communicator in the world, but I definitely feel more confident in my communication skills now than before. Next year, my friends and I are going to co-ordinate the table tennis league with other schools.

Your notes:

Lessons from Table Tennis

About the author (Ben Carter)

- Played football at middle school.
- Started playing table tennis at his new school because he .

Other important people

- Mr Trent: Ben's table tennis coach, who helped him improve his play.
- Patrick: Ben's brother, who .
- George: Ben's classmate, who wanted to celebrate his victory.

Influential events in Ben's journey to becoming a better communicator

Began playing table tennis → → → →

What Ben realised after the conversation with George

He should have .

What we can learn from this story

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問 1 Choose the best option for

30

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- ① believed it would help him communicate
- ② hoped to become popular at school
- ③ thought he could win games easily
- ④ wanted to avoid playing a team sport

問 2 Choose the best option for

31

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- ① asked him what he enjoyed about communication
- ② encouraged him to be more confident
- ③ helped him learn the social skills he needed
- ④ told him what he should have said to his school friends

問 3 Choose **four** out of the five options (①~⑤) and rearrange them in the order they happened.

32

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33

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34

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35

- ① Became a table tennis champion
- ② Discussed with his teacher how to play well
- ③ Refused a party in his honour
- ④ Started to study his opponents
- ⑤ Talked to his brother about table tennis

問 4 Choose the best option for 36.

- ① asked his friend questions to find out more about his motivation
- ② invited Mr Trent and other classmates to the party to show appreciation
- ③ tried to understand his friend's point of view to act appropriately
- ④ worked hard to be a better team player for successful communication

問 5 Choose the best two options for 37 and 38. (The order does not matter.)

- ① Advice from people around us can help us change.
- ② Confidence is important for being a good communicator.
- ③ It is important to make our intentions clear to our friends.
- ④ The support that teammates provide one another is helpful.
- ⑤ We can apply what we learn from one thing to another.