SOCRATES

Module E — Full Practice Exam · 90 minutes · 100 points

WRITTEN RECEPTION (70 points)

(ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS)

Read the text and then answer questions 1–9. In the multiple-choice questions, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

SPORTS ANALYTICS: WINNING WITH NUMBERS

I When the Leicester City football club won the English Premier League in 2016, few people noticed the quiet analysts working behind the scenes. Every week, these experts studied thousands of numbers describing how far each player ran, how many passes succeeded and where goals came from. Their work is part of sports analytics: the use of detailed data to help teams make better decisions. Today, almost every professional club employs analysts, and their influence on the world of sport is growing rapidly.

II Analytics began in baseball, where an American team with a small budget discovered that certain unfashionable statistics predicted victory better than the opinions of experienced scouts. The idea soon spread to other sports. Basketball coaches now use data to decide which shots their players should attempt, while tennis players receive reports on their opponents' weakest serves. In cycling and swimming, meanwhile, tiny sensors measure an athlete's speed and heart rate hundreds of times every second.

III Why do numbers matter so much? Supporters explain that data reveals patterns which even the sharpest human eye cannot see. A coach may believe that a striker performs poorly, but the statistics might show that he creates chances his teammates waste. Analytics also protects athletes' health: by tracking how tired a player's body is, teams can rest him before he is injured, which saves both careers and enormous amounts of money.

IV Not everyone is convinced, however. Critics argue that an obsession with numbers removes the joy and creativity from sport. They point out that some qualities, such as courage or leadership, cannot be measured by any computer. There are also concerns about privacy, because clubs now collect personal information about players' sleep, diet and emotions. Some former athletes even complain that young players think about their statistics instead of simply enjoying the game they once loved.

V Despite these worries, analytics is here to stay. Amateur runners already use free apps that offer advice once available only to champions, and schools have begun teaching sports data courses to teenagers. Experts predict that in the near future, artificial intelligence programs will suggest tactics during matches in real time. Whether fans like it or not, the beautiful game — and every other game — will increasingly be won not only on the field, but also on the screen.

QUESTIONS — PART I (70 points)

1. What is "sports analytics"?

i. The use of detailed data to help teams make better decisions.

ii. The study of how far players can run in a match.

iii. A weekly report about goals in the Premier League.

iv. A training programme for young footballers.

(7 points)

2. Analytics was not used in every sport from the start. COMPLETE: The idea began in baseball and soon

.....

.....

(8 points)

3. What do the tiny sensors used in cycling and swimming measure? (paragraph II)

ANSWER:

.....

.....

(8 points)

4. Give TWO ways analytics helps teams and athletes, according to paragraph III.

(1)

.....

(2)

.....

(8 points)

5. A coach may believe that a striker performs poorly. COMPLETE: However, the statistics might show that he

.....

.....

(8 points)

6. According to the critics, what can no computer measure?

i. The number of successful passes in a game.

ii. A player's speed and heart rate.

iii. The distance a player runs in a match.

iv. Qualities such as courage and leadership.

(7 points)

7. Why is privacy a concern in modern sport?

i. Fans photograph players everywhere they go.

ii. Analysts publish players' salaries every week.

iii. Clubs collect personal information about players' sleep, diet and emotions.

iv. Young players share their statistics online.

(8 points)

8. What can amateur runners do today that was impossible in the past? (paragraph V)

ANSWER:

.....

.....

(8 points)

9. What is the main purpose of the text?

i. To persuade readers to study mathematics.

ii. To describe how data is changing sport, for better and for worse.

iii. To prove that analytics has ruined football.

iv. To compare baseball with basketball and tennis.

(8 points)

PART II — VOCABULARY (30 points)

Answer questions 10–14. In each question, match THREE of the six words or expressions (1–6) to the definitions. Write the number of the word next to the definition.

10. *(6 points)*

1. shake your head	2. determine	3. remain calm/open, etc
4. frequent	5. particular	6. for the sake of sth/sb; for sth's/sb's sake

____ a) to stay in a particular state without changing

____ b) special, or this one and not any other

____ c) to decide something, or to control what happens

11. *(6 points)*

1. sensitive	2. certificate	3. impression
4. stare	5. in	6. infection

____ a) an official paper proving a fact or achievement

____ b) an illness caused by germs entering the body

____ c) an idea or feeling you get about someone or something

12. *(6 points)*

1. right	2. chance	3. reserve
4. peculiar	5. account	6. use up sth or use sth up

____ a) a risk or possibility that something bad will happen

____ b) a written or spoken report of something that happened

____ c) to arrange to keep something for later use

13. *(6 points)*

1. unhealthy	2. believe in sth	3. float
4. barrier	5. judgment	6. hang about/around

____ a) to stay on the surface of water without sinking

____ b) to feel sure something exists, or that it is good

____ c) something that blocks the way or stops progress

14. *(6 points)*

1. illustrate	2. proposed	3. planning
4. detect	5. collar	6. union

____ a) an organization of workers protecting their rights

____ b) the part of a shirt around the neck

____ c) to add a picture or pictures to a book or text

חוברת אימון של Socrates בסגנון מחברת הבחינה — אינה מסמך רשמי של משרד החינוך. © Yaniv Holtzberg, M.Ed, M.T