

20. In the first paragraph of the first passage, Deford suggests that sports is different from other fields because
- (A) people have to train harder and longer to achieve success
 - (B) athletes seem to keep surpassing their predecessors
 - (C) history has shown that sports are more enduring than other traditions
 - (D) other fields require more years of technical schooling
 - (E) an individual athlete's talents are less important than how lucky he or she is
21. According to the first passage, the best players in the NBA have what qualities in common?
- (A) They are all veterans of the game.
 - (B) They developed superior techniques as young stars.
 - (C) They are recognizable as unique individuals.
 - (D) They are renowned for their humility.
 - (E) They are adept at sports other than basketball.
22. In lines 24–29, Deford conveys the message that the players on the list are
- (A) extraordinarily gifted people
 - (B) interested in fan approval
 - (C) remarkable in only one way
 - (D) determined and focused athletes
 - (E) intimately familiar to sports fans
23. In the second paragraph of the second passage, Jordan cites Larry Bird as an example of someone who
- (A) relied on his natural athletic ability
 - (B) could have been a more significant player
 - (C) proved that heart and intelligence are important
 - (D) showed that speed is essential on the court
 - (E) was always dependable as a friend and mentor
24. The first-person viewpoint in the second passage provides the reader with
- (A) a glimpse into the private observations of an insider
 - (B) verifiable information about the sport
 - (C) the opinions of several well-known players
 - (D) an overview of the history of basketball
 - (E) the secret of Jordan's early success
25. The tone of Jordan's essay can best be described as
- (A) humorous
 - (B) ironic
 - (C) straightforward
 - (D) mournful
 - (E) indifferent
26. With which of the following statements would both Deford and Jordan probably agree?
- (A) The mastery of certain skills is the most important factor in becoming a star.
 - (B) Players in the NBA have been getting better and better over time.
 - (C) It is cooperation that makes a team successful.
 - (D) To be an outstanding NBA player you have to have personality and a strong will.
 - (E) Talent makes up for a lot of other deficiencies on the court.
27. The two passages are similar in that they both
- (A) express the opinions of an NBA legend
 - (B) focus on what it takes to be a part of the basketball elite
 - (C) explain the advantages and disadvantages of playing in the NBA
 - (D) make a comparison between basketball and other sports
 - (E) refer to the history of basketball as a sport