

Test 1

PAPER 1 READING (1 hour)

Part 1

You are going to read a magazine article about the film actor Jamie Bell. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Jamie Bell: This boy's life



Jamie Bell recalls his first cinematic experience. 'It was Jurassic Park,' he says. 'I was eight years old and amazed because, you know – dinosaurs! They seemed so real! At the end of the film, it said: "Directed by Steven Spielberg" and I thought: "I'm going to remember that name – he's really impressed me."'

Now 24, Jamie has finally got to work with Spielberg on the director's latest project. 'If you'd told that kid watching those dinosaurs: "You're going to work with him one day . . ." ' He shakes his head. 'Incredible!' So how did it happen? At 14 years old, Jamie played the title role in *Billy Elliot*, a hugely successful film about a young ballet dancer. Most child stars prefer to distance themselves from their early work as they grow up, but not Jamie; 'It wasn't really acting to me. My real life at that time was a bit like that of the boy I was playing, so the awards I won didn't feel like an achievement. The achievement was getting the role.'

Billy Elliot includes a part where the boy leaves home; something Jamie has done plenty of. 'I don't know where my home is. It moves with me from one job to the next. I'll always feel a strong tie to my childhood neighbourhood, but I haven't yet created my own place, which is what you start doing as a young adult.' Throughout his teens he made movies in exotic locations. It was romantic and exciting, jetting off to pretend to be someone else. But the adventure wore thin. 'It got frustrating, because eventually you want to put down some roots and feel like: this is my place.'

He currently lives in Los Angeles; his own choice. 'It wasn't new. I'd been coming here since I was tiny. It's a film industry town, which I'm comfortable

with.' When not making movies he explores the coast, plays computer games or walks his dog. It seems perfect for Jamie – a city where almost everyone is in the same business. Jamie is a keen supporter of British football club Arsenal, which might suggest a family tradition. But according to Jamie, he first got interested in football because he wanted to be accepted at school. 'As a dancer, I had no idea about football, so I bought a football sticker book, and studied every page. Then I asked my mum to get me a football shirt, and she bought a red Arsenal one, so that was it'. It didn't occur to him to simply pick the local team. If there was ever an obvious path to follow, Jamie avoided it, although he says he is now a proper fan.

Jamie has worked with world-famous directors in his career. His films have all been well received, and he no longer has to audition. The mere suggestion, however, that life has been easy makes him bristle, and it's obvious this is an accusation he won't accept. 'It's not like I just walk into a room and someone gives me a job,' he says. 'Everything is a battle. Dancing was hard work, and then after *Billy Elliot*, I was suddenly an actor, but I didn't have a clue. Things didn't come easy.'

So when will Jamie move from portraying boys to men? He knows he appears boyish, and he embraces it. 'I think it's great – I get to extend my childhood!' he says. 'I can't play school kids any more, but I find young people interesting to play. Their energy is unmatched and their emotions are intense.' Jamie is not short of energy himself. Despite so many movies, he calls himself lazy. 'I should be more motivated to do things,' he claims. And yet he does a lot, including screen writing in his spare time. If he wasn't doing interviews, that's what he'd be doing today. He describes it as 'play' rather than work, but clearly he takes 'play' seriously. It seems inevitable that he'll move into directing eventually. He's only just getting started.

line 60

- 1 Jamie mentions his first visit to the cinema because
 - A the film had such a strong impact on him.
 - B he was so frightened by the film.
 - C it was when he decided he'd like to act.
 - D it was the beginning of his interest in dinosaurs.
- 2 In the second paragraph, we learn that
 - A Jamie's own life was the basis for the *Billy Elliot* story.
 - B Jamie worked with Spielberg when he was still a child.
 - C Jamie is still happy to acknowledge the *Billy Elliot* film.
 - D Jamie has a lot in common with other young actors.
- 3 What is meant by the expression 'the adventure wore thin' in line 35?
 - A Jamie was no longer enjoying the constant travelling.
 - B Jamie had been to all the places he wanted to see.
 - C Jamie got tired of pretending to be other people.
 - D Jamie started to miss his family after a while.
- 4 The writer thinks Jamie is content in Los Angeles because
 - A it's a city he already knew quite well.
 - B it's a pleasant city to live in.
 - C there's plenty to do when he's not working.
 - D many people who live there are similar to him.
- 5 Jamie first got interested in football
 - A because all his friends supported Arsenal.
 - B to help him fit in more with his classmates.
 - C because he was given a famous team's shirt.
 - D to have a chance of being chosen for a local club.
- 6 The word 'bristle' in line 60 tells us that Jamie
 - A fails to understand the writer's opinion.
 - B feels offended by the writer's opinion.
 - C is amused by the writer's opinion.
 - D agrees with the writer's opinion.
- 7 What do we learn about Jamie in the final paragraph?
 - A He looks younger than he really is.
 - B He enjoys recreating his own childhood in films.
 - C He feels he has had to grow up too quickly.
 - D He's finding it difficult to get work now he's older.
- 8 In the final paragraph, it's clear that the writer
 - A believes Jamie would be better at directing than acting.
 - B wishes Jamie could give more time to the interview.
 - C admires the fact that Jamie works hard.
 - D thinks Jamie takes his job too seriously.