

You are going to read a magazine article about baseball. For questions 16–30, choose from the sections of the article (A–F). The sections may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

3.

In which section of the article are the following mentioned?

- a game that may or may not have been baseball 16 17
- the reason why a false story about the history of baseball was made public 18
- a past belief that it was not worth keeping records on matters such as baseball 19
- the importance of baseball in people's lives 20
- the discovery of a document indicating that baseball existed even earlier than had previously been thought 21
- uncertainty as to what future investigations of the origins of baseball will focus on 22
- a belief that the true origin of baseball might never be firmly established 23
- a generally accepted belief about the origin of baseball that was shown to be false 24 25
- a belief that baseball developed gradually rather than having a single starting point 26
- a contrast between what is known about baseball and what is known about well-known people in US history 27 28
- the enormous importance of facts and records in baseball 29
- the identification of an individual who was claimed to be the inventor of baseball 30

TEST 4

Reading

The origins of baseball

A Textbooks once stated with complete certainty that baseball was invented in Cooperstown, New York, in 1839, and provided as proof the picture of a dusty, ripped ball pulled from an attic trunk. It turned out to be a hoax. The next official version put the origin in Hoboken, New Jersey, in 1846. That story stood until 2001, when a librarian found two 1823 newspaper references to baseball games in Lower Manhattan. Then, in May 2004, a clerk walked out of a library vault in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, waving a faded ordinance from 1791 that banned the playing of baseball within 72 meters of the big church in the town square. Which raises the question: How come history can say what John Adams, America's second president, had for lunch on January 24, 1776 (wild goose), but baseball cannot pinpoint its origins to within hundreds of years or thousands of kilometers?

B For baseball, there is no agreement on which century the first game was played. It could have been the 18th century; it could have been the 13th century. There is some record of each. There is no agreement on which continent baseball was invented in. Was it North America, Europe or Africa? There is evidence for all three. 'With a sport like baseball, which so cares about statistics and its past,' the historian Doris Kearnes Goodwin said, 'you would think that this major detail of the past would be the crown jewel to find. Baseball, after all, is the ultimate sport of figures and dates. The origin of the game is the fabulous treasure.'

C 'People ask: when was the first baseball game?' said John Thorn, the baseball historian who uncovered the existence of the Pittsfield ordinance during a middle-of-the-night Internet search. 'It may be an unanswerable

question. That's what makes it eternally fascinating.' Tom Shieber, the curator of new media at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, said: 'We know there were ball-games going back many centuries. There is a reference to the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock playing ball. But was it baseball as we know it? And what is that?' Ted Spencer, the Hall of Fame's longtime curator, added another perspective. 'Did you know the Pittsfield ordinance also bans another bunch of sports, including football?' Mr Spencer said. 'Did you know nobody cares? But they care that it mentioned baseball. I get calls from reporters all over the country. That's because baseball has a spiritual hold on the American public.'

D The most commonly-accepted theory is that baseball has no specific starting date or place of invention. The game, they say, evolved over time. Still, it does raise some fundamental questions: Why has baseball's earliest history been so undiscovered? Why is it that the small details of the lives of celebrated American pioneers are so public but until recently little was done to trace baseball before 1823? 'Because the daily lives of prominent leaders in the American colonies were considered important and someone wrote the details down,' said Mr Shieber. 'But the games were child's play and often regarded as a wasteful use of time. They weren't documented in the same way.'

E Placing the origin of baseball in Cooperstown in 1839 was the work of a turn-of-the-century commission empowered by A.G. Spalding, the sports goods businessman, who influenced the findings to ensure the sport had, in his words at the time, 'an American dad'. That became Doubleday, an officer during

the American Civil War, who was supposed to have laid out the first baseball field in Cooperstown. In the latter half of the 20th century, this tale was totally discredited. Baseball researchers now focus their energy on disproving other myths, like the long-held belief that baseball evolved from the English game of rounders.

F At the Hall of Fame, Mr. Spencer pointed to a reproduction hanging on a wall. It is a drawing from Spain in 1251 of people playing a game. 'There's a bat and there's a ball,' he said, looking at the drawing. 'It looks like two guys playing baseball to me.' Not far away is another reproduction of an Egyptian wall inscription: pharaohs perhaps engaged in another ball game. 'I guess the searching could go in any direction,' Ms. Goodwin said, 'though it's hard to imagine John Adams playing baseball. But you never know.' On page 31 of David McCullough's biography *John Adams*, Adams describes in his diary his idyllic boyhood activities: 'making and sailing boats' and 'swimming, skating, flying kites and shooting marbles, bat and ball.' John Adams was born in 1735.

