Unseen G

N [redacted] Datea_____

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy

Concussions are brain injuries that occur when a person receives a blow to the head, face, or neck. Although most people who suffer a concussion experience initial bouts of dizziness, nausea, and drowsiness, these symptoms often disappear after a few days. The long-term effects of concussions, however, are less understood and far more severe. Recent studies suggest that people who suffer multiple concussions are at a significant risk for developing chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain disorder that causes a variety of dangerous mental and emotional problems to arise weeks, months, or even years after the initial injury. These psychological problems can include depression, anxiety, memory loss, inability to concentrate, and aggression. In extreme cases, people suffering from CTE have even committed suicide or homicide. The majority of people who develop these issues are athletes who participate in popular high-impact sports, especially football. Although both new sports regulations and improvements in helmet technology can help protect players, the sports media and fans alike bear some of the responsibility for reducing the incidence of these devastating injuries.

Improvements in diagnostic technology have provided substantial evidence to link severe—and often fatal—psychological disorders to the head injuries players receive while on the field. Recent autopsies performed on the brains of football players who have committed suicide have shown advanced cases of CTE in every single victim.

In response to the growing understanding of this danger, the National Football League (NFL) has revised its safety regulations. Players who have suffered a head injury on the field must undergo a "concussion sideline assessment"—a series of mental and physical fitness tests—before being allowed back in the game. In an effort to diminish the amount of head and neck injuries on the field, NFL officials have begun enforcing stricter penalty calls for helmet-to-helmet contact, leading with the head, and hitting a defenseless player. Furthermore, as of 2010, if a player's helmet is accidentally wrenched from his head during play, the ball is immediately whistled dead. There is hope that these new regulations, coupled with advances in helmet design, will reduce the number of concussions player endure, and thus curb the number of CTE cases.

Efforts by the NFL and other professional sports leagues are certainly laudable; indeed, we should commend every attempt to protect the mental and physical health of players. However, new regulations at the professional level cannot protect amateur players, especially young people. Fatal cases of CTE have been reported in victims as young as 21. With appropriate equipment and form, tackling need not be dangerous. Proper tackling form—using the arms and shoulders to aim for a player's midsection rather than leading with the top of the head—should be taught at an early age. Youth, high school, and college leagues should also adopt safety rules even more stringent that the NFL's. Furthermore, at an early age, athletes should be educated about the serious dangers of head injuries.

Perhaps the most important factor in reducing the number of traumatic brain injuries, however, lies not with the players, the coaches, or the administrators, but with the media and fans. Sports media producers have become accustomed to showcasing the most aggressive tackles and the most intense plays. NFL broadcasts often replay especially violent collisions, while the commentators marvel at the physical prowess of the players involved. Some sports programs even feature weekly countdowns of the hardest hits. When the media exalts such hazardous behavior, professionals are rewarded for injuring each other on the field, and amateurs become more likely to try to imitate their favorite NFL athletes. Announcers, commentators, television producers, and sportswriters should engage in a collective effort to cease glorifying brutal plays. In turn, fans should stop expecting their favorite players to put their lives on the line for the purposes of entertainment. Players must stop being encouraged to trade their careers, health, happiness, and their lives for the sake of a game.

Questions

1) The author apparently believes that (6 points)

A. NFL officials have not thoroughly implemented stricter safety regulations
B. doctors need to do more research about the potential long-term effects of CTE
C. amateur athletes suffer more serious long-term effects of CTE than professional athletes
(D) fans share some of the blame for athletes' injuries
E. young people should not be encouraged to play football due to CTE risks

6/6 20/20

G
Uns 46/60
Comp 33/40
79

E
Uns 65/70
Voc 26 30
91

Name _____

2) According to the author, each of the following statements are true EXCEPT which one? (6 points)

A. Tackling itself is not dangerous; however, players who use improper tackling form may suffer injury.

B. Scientists have established a link between players who shoot themselves and others and the onset of CTE.

C. NFL officials have done nothing to address the problem of CTE.

D. Athletes who are praised for exceptionally brutal hits are likely to continue engaging in such dangerous behavior.

E. Sports programs showcase exceptionally hard hits.

3) Complete the sentence according to the ideas in para 4 (10 points)

Tackling would not be so dangerous if it is done in the right form

4) According to the author, which of the following contribute(s) to an increase in incidences of CTE in amateur players? (10 points)

I. fewer safety regulations than professional players

II. a lack of education geared to youth players about the dangers of head injuries

III. a desire to emulate professionals

A. I only

B. II only

C. I and II only

D. II and III only

E. I, II, and III

5) As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for laudable? (6 points)

A. praiseworthy

B. ineffective

C. determined

D. blameworthy

E. satisfactory

6) The author's tone in the final paragraph can best be described as (6 points)

A. apologetic

B. depressed

C. confused

D. solemn

E. hopeless

7) As used in the final paragraph, which is the best antonym (opposite) for exalts? (6 points)

A. ignores

B. misrepresents

C. praises

D. reports

E. criticizes

Name [redacted]

8) In the final paragraph, the author explains why Some B players risk their health themselves in football games.

C 10 8/8 G 12/16 (10 poin
V 9/10 M 5/6

3

COMPOSITION (40 points)

Write a 120-150 word composition on the following subject, including all the Bagrut requirements:

9) Because of the health risks associated with concussions, injuries, and CTE, many parents are starting to forbid their children from participating in high-risk sports such as football. What do you think of these parents' decisions, given what you have just read?

I personally think that in some cases the parents are right, some parents can not bear the sight of their kids getting hurt, as a parent I would not be ~~ki~~ to see my kid getting tackled by someone who+G is ~~much bigger then them. my kids.~~ twice his size. that commonly

However I am sure that not all of the trainers let the kids get hurt, If I saw my kid getting hurt and his trainer would not care I would sense that something isnt right and I wouldnt let kid train with the same trainer. Trainers who dont care what happens with these who he trains is a bad trainer.

train

-G!!

If I would see my kid play football with someone who wants to perform like they are in the NFL (and hurt my kid) +V I also would not allow my kid to train with him, not only that I would tell the trainer to keep an eye on this afterwards -½G +V

Overall I think it's vital to make sure your kid has a good trainer, Although rarely have I seen a +½G trainer who lets kids get hurt.

In addition parents need to check that the -G kids who trains with their kid isnt doing something dangerous therefore I would probably keep an eye on my kids when he is training -½G