

## Part 6

You are going to read part of the autobiography of David Coulthard, who is a retired Formula One racing driver. Six sentences have been removed from the autobiography. Choose from the sentences **A–G** the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

## Grand Prix driver

I'm a great believer in success, in achieving whatever goal you set on a particular day, so whether I was practising on the track or working out in the gym, I always put my heart and soul into it.

When I was learning my trade, racing on karts as a teenager, I would look after my helmet and race suit carefully. Everything had to be perfect; it was all about preparation. At 18, I progressed to Formula Ford racing, a stage before Formula One, and I'd even get the car up in the garage and polish the underside until it was gleaming. **37**  But I made the point, jokingly, that if I ever rolled over in a race, my car would have the shiniest underside in history.

It may be that the environment of Formula One fuelled this obsession with neatness and cleanliness. It's a profession based on precision and exactness. If you walk around a team factory it looks like a science laboratory. **38**  A Formula One factory couldn't be further from that; it's like something from another planet.

Everything is aircraft standard and quality. And so it should be. If some mega-rich potential sponsor walks into a dirty factory to find people lounging around, that doesn't make a great impression. If they walk in and everyone's working hard and there's not a speck of dust anywhere, that's another matter. **39**

Polishing my helmet was a specific ritual I had. The race helmet is an important and prized possession. When you're starting out, you only have one helmet for several years and it can be a pricey piece of kit. **40**  By the time you get to Formula One, you're getting through probably a dozen or more expensive ones a year. Normally I'd never have dreamed of wearing someone else's, but I did have a problem with the front of my helmet some years ago at the Monaco Grand Prix, and just couldn't see properly. In the end I used one belonging to Nelson Piquet.

He very kindly let me keep the helmet after the race. He'd finished second in the Brazilian Grand Prix with that helmet, so it's a unique piece of history – two drivers wearing the same helmet and finishing second in different races. Four years later, Nelson said he wanted to swap another helmet with me. This was before he'd announced he was retiring, so my immediate thought was, what's with this helmet collection thing? **41**  There must be something in it. So I gave him a helmet and he gave me a signed one of his.

Helmetts are treasured and it's quite rare for me to give race ones to anyone. I only gave my friend Richard one recently, although we've known each other since we were five. Sometimes it's easy to forget obvious things. **42**  It should be the other way round.

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| <p><b>A</b> I certainly took good care of mine as a result.</p> <p><b>B</b> You take for granted those you're closest to and you make an effort with people you hardly know.</p> <p><b>C</b> But it was only natural for me to be so particular about cleanliness before racing.</p> <p><b>D</b> Think of a motor mechanic, and you think of oil and dirt, filthy overalls, grubby fingers.</p> | <p><b>E</b> Some people said this was ridiculous because it wasn't as if anyone was ever going to see it.</p> <p><b>F</b> Perhaps I should be doing it as well.</p> <p><b>G</b> That's why all the teams try and compete hard with each other on presentation.</p> |
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