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Reading Exam

ENGLISH FILE

EOI Exam Power Pack (Intermediate cycle)

PART 2

Read the article about a talented sportswoman. For questions 1–5 choose the correct answer a, b, or c. Question 0 is the example.

QUESTION	0	1	2	3	4	5
ANSWER	<i>b</i>					

					TOTAL

EOI Topic: Health, exercise, and sport
See: *English File third edition* Intermediate Files 4A, 5A

0 Who is Jemma Mitcham?

- a A police officer from Southend-on-Sea learning karate.
- b A police officer and black belt karate champion.
- c A criminal who became a police officer.

1 What problems did she have with karate when she was young?

- a Her cousin Natalie was better at karate than she was.
- b Seven was the minimum age to start practising karate.
- c Her parents were initially against her practising karate because of her age.

2 How did she feel when she won the children's world championship in the kata discipline?

- a She wasn't surprised she had won the title.
- b She was surprised initially but felt very pleased.
- c She felt very tired so she went to bed.

3 What does Jemma's coach, Frank Brennan, say about her?

- a He doesn't think she will win the senior title in Japan.
- b She's very conscientious and unpretentious.
- c She's got talent but needs to practise more.

4 What does Jemma say about her karate lessons when she was very young?

- a Her grandmother thought she was really good.
- b She discovered she still had a lot to learn.
- c Her technique was what made her successful.

5 What does she say about her general character when she was younger?

- a She was well-behaved and quite passive.
- b She was quite aggressive and a bully.
- c She was like her dad.

PART 2

Karate kid

Anybody on the wrong side of the law had better hope they don't meet Jemma Mitcham. The 20-year-old European karate champion recently became a police officer and has just started work on the streets of Southend-on-Sea, Essex. 'I guess anyone that tried anything with me would be a bit unlucky,' Jemma says, laughing. 'It's only to defend myself, but if there was any serious trouble on the street, I'd be fairly confident of being able to look after myself. Being a black belt obviously helps.'

Jemma wanted to join the police force from an early age, but her love of karate started before that. 'I'd wanted to do it since I was four, but my parents wouldn't let me,' she confesses. 'I think they worried a bit because I was so young, but in the end they let me go along with my cousin, Natalie, when I was seven. I loved it straight away.' Just three years later – the minimum time permitted – Jemma gained her black belt.

At fifteen, she won the world championship in the children's kata discipline – her proudest moment in sport. 'It didn't really hit me at first,' she says, 'but the next day I woke up and thought "Oh my God, I'm world champion."' Soon after that she was competing above her age group (senior competitions start at the age of 21) and only last month, as the European junior champion, she won the senior title and thus became champion in both age groups. In September she heads for Tokyo for the Shoto World Cup, where she hopes to win her first international senior title. It's not an unrealistic ambition according to England coach, Frank Brennan. 'She's got a very good chance although it's always difficult against the Japanese,' he says. 'She's extremely talented and has two great qualities in that she is hard-working and modest.'

Tied up with her police officer duties, Jemma hasn't been able to practise as much as she'd like, although she still manages to fit in an hour of karate a day. Unfortunately for her opponents, she still thinks she's got a lot to learn: 'I'm improving all the time,' she claims.

Jemma's earliest memory of karate shows the commitment, if not the training technique, that has led to her success. 'I used to practise in my grandmother's kitchen all the time,' she says, 'I thought I was really good and went along to lessons all proud of myself. When I got there, I found out I was doing it all totally wrong. I still loved it though.' So did all the training turn her into a bully at school? 'Not at all!' she protests. 'I never really got into trouble. I was a daddy's girl, a bit of a wimp really.' She said it, not us!