

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Your friend has sent you a mini-biography of his favourite athlete. Read the mini-biography.

Text 3 Mini-biography

Ning Zetao

- 1 Hailing from China, Ning Zetao is a renowned swimmer who won a gold medal in the men's 100-metre freestyle event at the 16th FINA World Championships in 2015. He completed the event in 47.84 seconds, making him the first Asian to win a medal at the championships.
- 2 This feat was no walk in the park, as Ning was not naturally inclined to swimming in the beginning. In fact, Ning's swimming career began not because of his natural talent, but because his parents wanted to help him overcome his fear of water. They sent him to a swimming school where he gradually became used to the aquatic environment. Eventually, his coach noticed his talent for swimming. When he was 11, Ning joined the Henan provincial swimming team, and soon after, at the age of 14, he entered the Chinese Navy swimming team. The training was harsh, including long hours and exhausting drills.
- 3 All this hard work has of course paid off. Ning is now a popular sports figure and has millions of followers on his social networking site. Many feel inspired by his never-say-die attitude. Ning's story demonstrates that people can achieve greatness so long as they devote themselves to their goals.



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Comprehension 3 *Your friend wants to know how well you know Ning Zetao's mini-biography. Answer his questions using information from the mini-biography. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 i) In what event did Ning Zetao win a gold medal?

ii) Why was this gold medal significant?

2 Which of the following best matches the meaning of 'a walk in the park' (line 9)?

A something that is unimpressive

B something that is impressive

C something that is difficult to do

D something that is easy to do

A B C D

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3 Why did Ning's parents put him in swimming lessons?

4 Find a words in paragraphs 1–2 that mean the same as the following:

i) famous

ii) motivated

iii) related to water

iv) tiring

5 According to paragraphs 1–2, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)?

Statements

T

F

NG

i) Ning finished the race in just over 50 seconds.

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ii) No Asian athlete won any medals in the first 17 FINA championships.

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iii) Ning has always loved swimming.

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6 Order the following events. Number the events (1–5).

Ning Zetao became a member of the Chinese Navy. _____

Ning Zetao's coach noticed his talent. _____

Ning Zetao took part in the FINA World Championships. _____

Ning Zetao started to take swimming lessons. _____

Ning Zetao joined the swimming team in Henan province. _____

7 Who does 'They' refer to in line 12?

8 Is it difficult to be a member of the Chinese Navy swimming team? Give evidence to support your answer.

9 Why do people follow Ning on social media?

10 What is the main theme of this text?

A Ning Zetao won gold at the FINA World Championships.

B Ning Zetao became successful because of his hard work.

C People should take swimming lesson.

D Fear of water can be overcome.

A B C D

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11 Would you want to be a professional athlete like Ning Zetao? Why or why not?

