

Write away

- 1) Write a short paragraph on a happy memory associated with your favourite sport or a famous sportsperson.

Answers may vary. Accept all correct responses. Sample answer

Happy memory of my favourite sport.

I love to play football. Once, when I was 5 years old, I saw my cousin playing football, since then no other sport has fascinated me as much as football. There are many happy memories associated with football but I cannot forget my 17th birthday when my father arranged a football match as a surprise. All my friends and family were in jerseys and we played together. It was the best day and the best birthday one could ask for.

Answer these questions

- 1) How did Sachin find moving schools beneficial?

Sachin's previous school did not have cricket facilities so he moved to his new school, Shardashram Vidyamandir where Achrekar was a cricket coach. All the cricketers used to play together during lunch breaks and discussed cricket all the time. Sir would coach them after school. His new school allowed him the opportunity to play competitive matches regularly which helped him improve his game.

- 2) Why was the final incident not 'a happy occurrence'?

The incident involved Sachin's first appearance in a newspaper. The rule in Mumbai at the time was that a player's name only appeared in the paper if she or he has scored 30 runs. Sachin had scored 24 in the match but the scorer credited six extras to him thinking it would not make a difference overall. The next morning when Sachin's name appeared in the newspaper, Achrekar Sir was seriously unhappy with what Sachin had done and told him off for the same. Hence the final incident was not a happy occurrence.

- 3) How could Sachin perform well at the summer camp trials?

Sachin first trialled at the sub-junior nets. He had never batted in nets before and in turn got nervous as a lot of people were watching him including Achrekar Sir. Unfortunately, he failed to make an impact in his first attempt but after his brother Ajit requested the coach to watch from a distance, Sachin was able to play well.

- 4) Describe the daily ritual of Sachin and his uniform.

As a child Sachin had only one set of cricket clothes, and the routine was to wash them as soon as he returned from the morning session. The clothes would dry during lunch and he would wear them again in the afternoon. The same pattern was repeated in the evening so that he can wear it the next morning. It generally worked well for him but he recalls having to play with wet pockets for the entire duration of his camp.

- 5) Was Sachin only interested in batting from the very start?

No, Sachin was interested in bowling too. He loved bowling and tried his hand at different kind of deliveries. As soon as he finished batting, he would pick up a tennis ball and start bowling to whichever batsmen were around at the time.

Think and answer.

- 1) Sachin describes a rigorous schedule he had to follow to keep improving his performance and work towards his dream. Do you believe that following a fixed schedule makes it easier to achieve our goals? If so, how?

Answers may vary. Accept all suitable responses. Sample answer: Yes, I believe that following a fixed schedule helps us achieve our goals because a fixed schedule gives us a fixed path, ensuring that we achieve our predetermined goals leaving less room for distraction.

Answer these questions with reference to the context.

- 1) In the second match, I got out for another duck, and it was only in our third game that I managed to score my first run, having survived seven deliveries. I was seriously relieved to get off the mark.

- a. Who is the speaker?
- b. What do these lines reflect about the speaker?
- c. Why was the speaker 'seriously relieved to get off the mark'?

a. The speaker is Sachin Tendulkar.

b. The lines reflect that Sachin never lost hope or accepted his defeat. Even after two unsuccessful matches he gave his best in the third one and scored a run.

c. Sachin was relieved to get off the mark because in the previous two matches he was out for a golden duck and it was only in his third match that he managed to score a run after surviving seven deliveries.

- 2) Achrekar Sir, as I refer to him, started playing cricket at the age of eleven in 1943, which is the age I was when I went to him for the first time.

- a. Who is the speaker?
- b. Why had the speaker met Achrekar Sir?
- c. Did Achrekar Sir play an important part in Sachin's life?

a. The speaker is Sachin Tendulkar.

b. Sachin's brother Ajit had taken him to Achrekar sir's nets in Shivaji Park to try his luck as his brother wanted him to join the camp and learn under Achrekar Sir's guidance.

c. Yes, he helped Sachin in practising his cricket, made changes to his batting style, taught him the value of competitive matches, and encouraged him to change schools to pursue cricket seriously. Apart from being a brilliant coach to Sachin, he also taught him a very important personal lesson, to play the sport with honesty and integrity at all times.