

You are going to read an extract from an article about a trip to study the bottlenose whale. Six sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences **A – G** the one which fits each gap (37 – 42). There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

In the exam, you mark your answers **on a separate answer sheet**.

## Bottlenose whales: deep-sea divers of the North Atlantic

*Douglas Chadwick joined the crew of the research boat the 'Balaena'*

I have joined the crew of the *Balaena*, a fifteen-metre research boat, and we're now a few kilometres off the east coast of Canada, sailing over what seafarers call the Gully. Gully means 'narrow channel', but this is more like a drowned Grand Canyon, about ten kilometres across and, in places, over a kilometre straight down to the bottom of the sea. The Gully, with its abundant fish, is home to a dozen species of cetaceans.

We've come in search of northern bottlenose whales. Hal Whitehead, a whale expert, and his crew are here to study the behaviour of these enigmatic creatures. I'm hoping to see at least one today, but I'm prepared to be disappointed. I've been told that, as a rule, the first things you see are spouts, the typical jets of water coming out of the animals' heads, which are visible from a distance. **37**

Already some three-metres long at birth, northern bottlenoses continue to grow in size until the age of twenty, when they may reach ten metres. Adults weigh between five and seven tons, roughly the same as African elephants. **38**  'These are probably among the most intelligent animals on the entire planet, and we hardly know a thing about them,' says Hal Whitehead.

It's very **quiet** and all we can hear is the creak of the ship's masts **as it sways**. Suddenly, breaths like great sighs sound **through** the fog. **39**  The smallest one **swims for** the boat and a larger companion cuts it off. Then **they rejoin** the others to float like swollen logs a short distance **away**.

I can see them well. They have small fins but big, domed heads with imposing foreheads above narrow, protruding jaws. Their heads are two-thirds out of the water now, all pointing our way. **40**  We are being studied by northern bottlenose whales, which is only fair, since that is what we came to do to them.

If the bottlenoses don't swim too fast, we can keep up and observe them. Their movements are accompanied by grunts, whistles and cheers made by the blowholes. Every so often, one repeatedly lifts its tail to give the water a resounding slap. This display may function as yet another way to be heard. **41**

The biggest question is what goes on when these animals aren't on the surface, which is most of the time. To find out, the researchers attached a time-depth recorder (TDR) to one whale's skin. The TDR stayed on four-and-a-half hours and surfaced with the first solid data ever obtained about a bottlenose in its submarine kingdom. **42**  This revelation seems to prove Hal Whitehead's theory that the world's deepest diver is the bottlenose whale – or maybe one of the many other related species of beaked whales, which are yet to be studied.

- A** When you come closer, though, you may find that they have submerged on a long dive, presumably in search of food.
- B** On one of its dives, the bottlenose had reached a depth of nine-hundred metres.
- C** These animals aren't just watching us, they are scanning us with rapid clicking noises just above the range of human hearing.
- D** Whale hunting reduced the population by at least seventy per cent, and the species remains depleted today.
- E** The same holds for leaping skyward and making a huge splash, though they may do this just for fun.
- F** Beyond these basic facts, little is known about the lives of northern bottlenoses.
- G** These strange noises come from four creatures, twenty to thirty feet long, which have risen from the depths.