

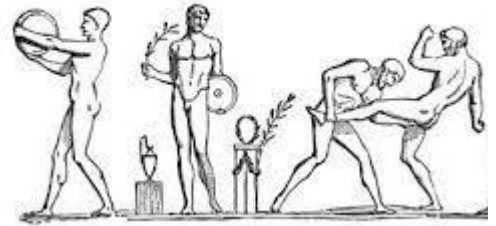
Year 9 English Test Term 2

Name:

Reading Comprehension 1 (6 marks)

The Olympic Games

We tend to think of Olympic sports as fixed throughout the noble history of Olympic competition. But the truth is that, like most things, the Olympic Games are influenced by trends.



The original Olympic events were based around skills necessary for Greek warriors. In the ancient Greek Games, Olympians competed in pankration—a cross between wrestling and boxing with disturbingly few rules. As useful as it may have been for Greek warriors and as entertaining for spectators, it didn't make it to the modern Games.

The modern Games have seen a number of events, either for competition or demonstration sports, come and go. In Paris in 1900, you could have enjoyed watching live pigeon shooting. It is difficult to picture a modern-day audience relishing the killing of animals as an Olympic sport. The same Games also had an underwater swimming race.

That would have been challenging for spectators, trying to cheer for contestants they couldn't even see. There was a swimming obstacle race; that one sounds more like a novelty event at a school carnival.

Tug-of-war was only an Olympic event from 1900 until the 1920 Games which were held in Belgium. It joined club swinging, rope climbing and hot-air ballooning as events that just didn't seem to have Olympic credibility. The ancient Greeks raced horse-drawn chariots in their Olympic arena and in the 1908 London Games, motor-boat racing made a brief appearance. Neither has lasted, but cycling and sailing are probably their present-day equivalents.

We may laugh at some of these events, but ancient Greeks would probably be equally amused by the inclusion of beach volleyball and synchronised swimming at our modern Games.

Questions

1 The original Olympic Games were held in

- Greece.
- Paris.
- London.
- Belgium.

2 The text states that pankration had disturbingly few rules. What is disturbing about having few rules?

- It would be hard to select participants.
- A fight could easily get out of control.
- Many people dislike wrestling.
- A competition would take too long.

3 Why does the text describe the underwater swimming event as challenging for spectators?

- It was a very long race.
- Spectators were expected to take part.
- The competitors were out of sight.
- It was difficult to understand the rules.

4 Where was the tug-of-war event first held?

- Greece
- London
- Paris
- Belgium

5 The first paragraph of the text

- summarises the main points.
- dismisses a common idea.
- defines the main terms.
- previews the main argument.

6 The purpose of the second last paragraph is to discuss Olympic sports that

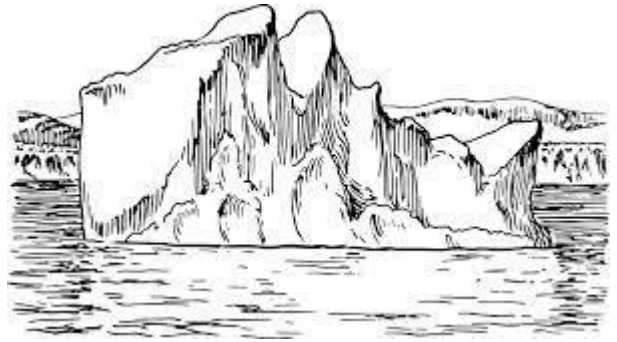
- involve the use of dangerous equipment.
- are no longer included as events.
- were replaced by cycling and sailing.
- originated with the ancient Greeks.

Reading Comprehension 2 (5 marks)

Icebergs

What is an iceberg?

Icebergs are floating masses of freshwater ice that have broken off (calved) from a glacier or a polar ice sheet. They vary in size from a few square metres up to thousands of square kilometres in area.



The life cycle of an iceberg About 10000 to 15000 new icebergs form each year, most from the ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland. Icebergs float around in the northern and southern oceans following the ocean currents and winds. Those in the south last longer—an average of 10 years—while northern hemisphere icebergs last a mere two years.

An iceberg's life ends when it reaches the warmer waters of the Pacific, Indian or Atlantic oceans. The melting of the ice is often accompanied by fizzing and popping sounds as compressed air bubbles, trapped for thousands of years when the ice was formed from compacted snow, are released.

Appearance

The appearance of an iceberg is affected by the type of ice it is made from and the shape of the land that the ice formed over. Antarctic icebergs generally break off from large ice sheets and form tabular icebergs that are broad and flat. Pinnacle, or castle, icebergs are steep peaks of ice and form in the Arctic where they are calved from steep-sided mountain glaciers.

The largest observed northern iceberg towered 168 metres above sea level. The most famous attribute of an iceberg is its deceptive appearance. Because of the difference in density between fresh water and salt water, only about one-ninth of an iceberg is visible above the waterline. This means that most of its mass is hidden from view. The expression 'tip of the iceberg' is used to describe a problem that is only a small part of a larger challenge.

Questions

1 The main purpose of this text is

- to explain common misconceptions about icebergs.
- to warn people of the hidden dangers of icebergs.
- to describe the origins and categories of icebergs.
- to provide precise location details of icebergs.

2 The process of an iceberg breaking off from an ice sheet or glacier is called

- splitting.
- cracking.
- popping.
- calving.

3 According to the text, which of the following is correct?

- Pinnacle icebergs tend to form in the Antarctic.
- Southern icebergs last longer than northern icebergs.
- Most icebergs melt in the Atlantic Ocean.
- One-ninth of an iceberg is usually invisible.

4 According to the text, the shape of an iceberg is affected by

- the temperature at which it forms.
- the amount of freshwater it contains.
- the landscape over which it forms.
- the age of the ice it contains.

5 According to the final paragraph, what is the most well-known characteristic of icebergs?

- their concealed bulk
- their unusual composition
- their difficult challenges
- their extreme height

Spelling

9 marks

Each sentence contains a spelling mistake. Write the word correctly on the line.

1. The orchestra mainly performs traditionel music. _____
2. We learned a new dance rootine for the concert. _____
3. The scientist spent many years proving her theary. _____
4. The rocket was launched into orbet. _____
5. We calculated the radias of the coin. _____
6. Tuna and sammon are both good fish to eat. _____
7. My friend tells hillarious jokes. _____
8. The dairy farm was four hundred hectairs in size. _____
9. The music had been downloaded illegaly. _____

Language Usage

15 marks

1. Which sentence is correct?

- The dog eaten my homework.
- The dog has eaten my homework.
- The dog eat my homework.
- The dog has eat my homework.

2. Which option completes this sentence correctly?

Everyone is aware of the need _____ accidents at work.

- for prevention
- to prevent
- prevent
- preventing

3. Which option completes the sentence correctly?

_____, I expect to perform well in the competition.

- Although the strength of my rivals
- Once the strength of my rivals
- Even the strength of my rivals
- Despite the strength of my rivals

4. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

The final twist in the plot was revealed _____ the last minute of the movie.

- to
- in
- under
- until

5. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- Even if, the weather is fine tomorrow the festival will not go ahead.
- Considering how much work is involved, the cost is, justified.
- Although we thought we were well prepared, the debate was disastrous.
- Having made our lists, together, we did not expect to forget anything.

6. Which sentence uses brackets correctly?

- The website had an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section.
- The website had an (FAQ) Frequently Asked Questions section.
- The website had an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions section).
- The website had an (FAQ Frequently Asked Questions) section.

7. Which is a complete sentence?

- As soon as he had finished the meal.
- The best thing you can say about a place.
- At times the solution is obvious.
- Once you feel terrified.

8. What does 'It' refer to in this text?

Fear of flying, although a relatively common phobia, can be a serious impediment to an individual's ability to travel for work. *It* can therefore restrict employment opportunities.

- fear of flying
- a relatively common phobia
- a serious impediment
- an individual's ability to travel for work

9. Which option completes this sentence correctly?

I asked Jack if _____ could share the paints.

- he and I
- him and I
- he and me
- him and me

10. Which word has the same meaning as *ought to* in this sentence?

Students *ought to* do their homework as soon as they get it.

- must
- should
- could
- will

11. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- The course dealt with some simple coding, creating logos, and planning and building websites.
- The course dealt with some simple, coding creating logos, and planning, and building websites.
- The course dealt with some simple, coding creating logos and planning and building websites.
- The course dealt with some simple coding, creating, logos, and planning, and building websites.

12. Which option completes this sentence correctly?

Answering every question without hesitation, ...

- there was a favourable impression.
- the witness made a favourable impression.
- was a favourable impression.
- the witness making a favourable impression.

13. Which suffix, when added to *resent*, makes it into an adjective?

- ness
- ment
- ful
- ion

14. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- The beetle seems ordinary but its in the light that we see its beauty.
- The beetle seems ordinary but it's in the light that we see its beauty.
- The beetle seems ordinary but its in the light that we see it's beauty.
- The beetle seems ordinary but it's in the light that we see it's beauty.

15. Which is a correct sentence?

- You can choose between going to camp and you can go to the party.
- You can choose between going to camp and going to the party.
- You can choose between going to camp or can go to the party.
- You can choose between going to camp or go to the party.

Writing

200 words

15 marks

Write about three things you cannot do without in your life. Explain why you cannot live without these things.
