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International Examinations

IGCSE

# First Language English

## Workbook

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# Contents

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <i>Introduction</i>  | <i>iv</i>  |
| <i>Exam technique tips</i>   | <i>v</i>   |
| <b>1 Olympic Games</b><br>vocabulary, passive voice, prefixes<br>persuasive letter, formal report  | <b>1</b>   |
| <b>2 Furry creatures</b><br>comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, parenthesis<br>magazine article, informal report, formal letter  | <b>12</b>  |
| <b>3 Simply flying</b><br>vocabulary, spelling, dashes, hyphens, prefixes<br>informal dialogue, application letter   | <b>26</b>  |
| <b>4 Football crazy</b><br>vocabulary, spelling, past tenses, apostrophes, semicolons<br>informal conversation, formal dialogue  | <b>38</b>  |
| <b>5 Going places</b><br>vocabulary, parts of speech, complex sentences, commas<br>formal dialogue, informative talk, complaint letter, informal report                                  | <b>50</b>  |
| <b>6 On the road</b><br>vocabulary, phrasal verbs, prefixes<br>advertisement, leaflet, formal report, information sheet  | <b>61</b>  |
| <b>7 Bricks and stones</b><br>vocabulary, prepositions, sentence punctuation<br>news report, formal argument dialogue, informal talk, magazine article,<br>conversation, informal letter | <b>72</b>  |
| <b>8 Medical notes</b><br>comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, general punctuation<br>diary entry, formal discussion, persuasive letter  | <b>87</b>  |
| <b>9 All in the mind</b><br>vocabulary, spelling, colons, speech punctuation<br>formal discussion, formal report   | <b>97</b>  |
| <b>10 Watching the screen</b><br>vocabulary, grammar, conditionals, prepositions<br>informal dialogue, argument speech, formal report, magazine article                                  | <b>108</b> |
| <i>Answers</i>   | <i>123</i> |

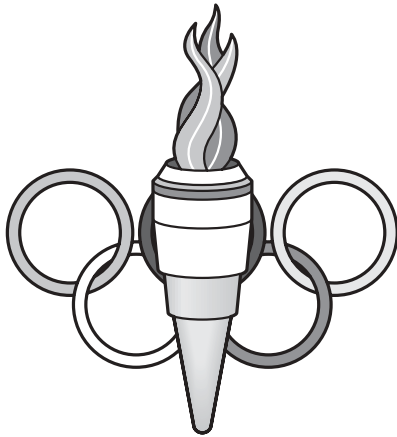


# Olympic Games

## Reading

1 Read the article below.

### PASSAGE A: The Olympic flame



The carrying of the Olympic flame from its **source** in Olympia in Greece is one of the more **spectacular** features of the Games. It is also one of the ways in which the modern Games are linked to the original Ancient Greek games of 2,500 years ago, although when the modern Olympic Games were first held in Athens in 1896, the Olympic flame played no part. It was not introduced into the opening ceremony until the 1928 Games in Amsterdam, and the relay, the carrying of the flame from Olympia itself, was only introduced eight years later at the

**celebrated** Berlin Games of 1936. The flame was lit at Olympia by women wearing traditional Greek costume and it was then carried by relays of runners the 1,910 miles overland to Berlin in 12 days. They passed through five other countries on the way.

Sometimes the flame goes out, and a **backup** lantern is always carried from Olympia in case relighting is necessary. In 1976 and 1984 this happened and the torch was successfully relit. The 1964 Tokyo Olympics involved the largest number of torch-bearing runners: 101,839. The longest Olympic relay was for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, when the torch travelled 37,500 miles through 14 countries over 120 days.

The Olympic flame **features** in both summer and winter Olympics. For the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, 11,500 individual torches were **manufactured**, one for each **participating** runner; fresh torches were lit from the Olympic Lantern each morning, and each of the runners was given the **option** of purchasing their torch as a **memento**.

Once the Olympic flame finally arrives at the Games stadium, it is used for the ceremonial lighting of the Olympic cauldron, the giant flame which burns throughout the Games and forms the symbolic **focus** of the event. It is the dramatic physical reminder of nearly three millennia of Olympic tradition.

## Language and style

2 Give synonyms for the following words, as they are used in Passage A. Look up any words you do not know.

|             |       |               |       |
|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| source      | ----- | manufactured  | ----- |
| spectacular | ----- | participating | ----- |
| celebrated  | ----- | option        | ----- |
| backup      | ----- | memento       | ----- |
| features    | ----- | focus         | ----- |

3 Next to each of the above words, write which part of speech it is, as used in Passage A. Write *N* for noun, *V* for verb and *Adj* for adjective.

4 Look at the word *millennia* in the last line of Passage A. In two lists give as many other words as you can think of using the prefix 'mill' (meaning thousand) and the stem 'ann' or 'enn' (meaning year).

### mill

### ann/enn

e.g. **milligram**

e.g. **anniversary**

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## Reading

5 Read the following news article.

### PASSAGE B: Torch of hope



The organisers of the Athens Olympic Games of 2004 intend to use the symbol of the Olympic torch to do much more than simply open the Games, or even remind the world of the historical roots of the Olympic movement. They want to focus attention on an aspect of the original Games which has been almost entirely forgotten: the Olympic Truce. In the eighth century BC, the oracle at Delphi urged King Iphitos to use the Olympic Games as an opportunity to bring peace to the perpetually warring city-states of the Greek world, and for more than a thousand years this was achieved. From the first of the quadrennial Games in 776 BC, the Olympic Truce, or *Ekecheiria*, was declared seven days before the opening of the Games and continued for seven days after the close. This not only enabled competitors to travel to Olympia in safety, but also

meant that for the **duration** of the Games old **hostilities** were put aside and all competed honourably and fairly in the hope of bringing glory to their city.

The modern Olympic Games, refounded in 1896 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, have preserved many features of the original Games, including their amateur status (however much this may seem to be threatened by commercial pressures) but to recreate the Olympic Truce would be a major **innovation**. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Greek government have come together to **promote** the idea through the creation of the Olympic Truce Centre in Athens. Stavros Lambrinides, its director, is passionate about what he believes can be achieved by making the runners carry the Olympic Torch through every war-zone in the world, more than 60 of them, under the full **glare** of the international media, in an effort to promote a truce for the duration of the 2004 Games. Lambrinides hopes that this will set a **precedent** for future Games, which will be closer to their roots than has often been the case in recent decades: 're-Greekifying the Olympics' is how he describes it. He believes that 'breaking the cycle of violence for just a few days' may offer a real opportunity for **mediation** and an alternative to fighting. Although **partial** attempts were made in 1992 and 1998 to **revive** the Olympic Truce, the scale of the proposal for 2004 **dwarfs** them by comparison. Whether the high hopes of Lambrinides and the IOC will be realised, however, we must wait to see.

## Language and style

6 Find synonymous words or phrases for the following words, as used in Passage B:

duration ----- precedent -----

hostilities ----- mediation -----

innovation ----- partial -----

promote ----- revive -----

glare ----- dwarfs -----

7 Underline the passive verb structures in Passage B. What effect do they have on the passage? Why do writers choose to use passive rather than active verbs in certain types of text?

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8 English uses Greek and Latin prefixes for numbers. The one used in Passage B is 'quad' (4). Give words beginning with the prefixes below, and say which number is being referred to:

dec -----

oc -----

pen -----

tri -----

bi -----

uni -----

quin -----

sept -----

## Comprehension and summary

**9** In one sentence, summarise what Passage B says about the Olympic Truce in the past.

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**10** Beginning 'I believe that ...', write a one-sentence statement as Stavros Lambrinides in Passage B, giving your views on the Olympic Truce in the future.

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**11** Using Passages A and B, write a one-paragraph summary of the information given about the Olympic Games in the past.

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## Directed writing

**12** Imagine that you can win a free trip to the next Olympics by writing a letter to the President of the IOC. You must explain persuasively why you wish to attend. Refer to material in Passages A and B, and add ideas of your own.

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**13** Look at the bids to host the Olympics in 2012 by the three cities below.

### City A

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>July climate</b>  | temperate; max temperature 27 °C; slight possibility of rain   |
| <b>Venues</b>        | 8 in existence, total capacity 42,000<br><br>8 planned, increasing capacity to 128,000, to be completed in 2012                              |
| <b>Transport</b>     | advanced bus system in place; new buses to be purchased in 2011<br><br>new international airport under construction, to be completed in 2012 |
| <b>Accommodation</b> | 18,000 rooms within 50 km; 36,000 under construction   |
| <b>Security</b>      | security police efficiently suppress any opposition; no terrorism in the past 10 years   |

### City B

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>July climate</b>  | cool; max temperature 22 °C; moderate rain likely   |
| <b>Venues</b>        | 17 in existence, total capacity 140,000<br><br>2 planned, increasing capacity to 165,000, to be completed in 2010                 |
| <b>Transport</b>     | state-of-the-art Urban Rapid Transit System under construction, to be completed in 2008; new international airport opened in 2002 |
| <b>Accommodation</b> | 78,000 rooms within 50 km; 12,000 under construction  |
| <b>Security</b>      | the Liberators' movement has caused difficulties in the past; government claims it is now under control                           |

**City C**

**July climate** tropical; max temperature 38 °C; high humidity; rainfall can be severe

**Venues** 12 in existence, total capacity 98,000  
6 planned, increasing capacity to 144,000, to be completed in 2011

**Transport** new underground railway to be built; construction commences 2008

**Accommodation** 43,000 rooms within 50 km; 22,000 under construction

**Security** minor terrorist conflict in the north but capital is secure

**14** Imagine you are the President of the IOC. Write a report evaluating each bid and recommending to the committee which one should be selected.

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## Composition

### Argumentative/discursive writing

- a Discuss the benefits and problems of the existence of the Olympic Games.
- b 'International sport is war by another name.' Do you think this is true?

### Descriptive writing

- c Describe the environment and atmosphere of the stadium during an international athletics competition.
- d Give an account of a real or imaginary experience of taking part in an important sporting event.

### Narrative writing

- e 'The Marathon'. Write a story with this title.
- f Write a story which involves an athlete as a main character.

## Coursework topics

- 1 Describe the sports programme at your school, and give your views on competitive sport, compulsory sport, team versus individual sports, the role of sport in society, and social perceptions of sportspersons and their occupation.
- 2 'Fitness, health and the human body'. Discuss aspects of life in the twenty-first century which relate to these issues.