

CAMBRIDGE

Marian Cox

Cambridge IGCSE

# First Language English

Workbook

Third edition

Completely **Cambridge**  
Cambridge resources  
for  
Cambridge qualifications

Endorsed by  
**University of Cambridge**  
International Examinations

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	v
<b>1 Olympic Games</b> vocabulary, passive voice, prefixes summary, persuasive letter, report	1
<b>2 Furry creatures</b> vocabulary, parenthesis, stylistic effects summary, advertisement, report, speech	11
<b>3 Simply flying</b> vocabulary, spelling, prefixes, dashes and hyphens summary, dialogue, application letter	23
<b>4 Football crazy</b> apostrophes, semicolons, vocabulary, spelling, speech punctuation, prefixes summary, dialogue, informative writing, persuasive letter	34
<b>5 Great rivers</b> parts of speech, commas, sentence structures, fact and opinion, stylistic effects summary, dialogue, complaint letter	47
<b>6 On the road</b> phrasal verbs, prefixes, vocabulary, synonyms, structuring summary, presentation, magazine article, news report	60

<b>7</b>	<b>Bricks and stones</b> vocabulary, synonyms, past tenses, relative clauses, prepositions, sentence punctuation, stylistic effects summary, dialogue, news report, magazine article, discussion dialogue, informative letter	72
<b>8</b>	<b>Medical notes</b> punctuation, homophones, spelling, stylistic effects summary, diary entry, argument dialogue, charity appeal letter	87
<b>9</b>	<b>All in the mind</b> vocabulary, spelling, synonyms, stylistic effects, colons, speech punctuation summary, discussion dialogue, argument speech	96
<b>10</b>	<b>Watching the screen</b> initial adverbials, conditionals, prepositions, stylistic effects, persuasive devices summary, argument dialogue, debate speech, survey report, magazine article	106
<b>11</b>	<b>Hot and cold</b> vocabulary, synonyms, sentence structures, stylistic effects summary, advertisement, informative writing	118
<b>12</b>	<b>Technological invasion</b> stylistic effects, vocabulary, apostrophes, hyphens, fact and opinion, structuring summary, argument dialogue	127
	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	138
	<b>Answers</b>	139

# Unit 1 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 2500 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 1910 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.

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| a source _____      | f manufactured _____  |
| b spectacular _____ | g participating _____ |
| c celebrated _____  | h option _____        |
| d backup _____      | i memento _____       |
| e features _____    | j 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(i)* (meaning thousand) and the stem *ann* or *enn* (meaning year). An example of each has been given to start you off.

mill(i)	ann/enn
<i>milligram</i>	<i>anniversary</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Reading

5 Read the following article.

### Passage B: The Olympic story

The Ancient Olympic Games were held at Olympia in southern Greece. A popular myth identifies Heracles and his father Zeus as the creators of the Games. Heracles, the eldest son, defeated his brothers in a running race and was crowned with a wreath of

wild olive branches. He then went on to build the Olympic stadium, which is 200 metres long, in honour of his father, after completing his legendary 12 labours.

In the 8th 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 Games started in Athens 1500 years later, in 1896, thanks to the **vision** of Pierre de Frédy, Baron de Coubertin, who believed that the French were defeated in the Franco-Prussian war because the soldiers had not received proper physical education. His vision was to bring together athletes from around the world to compete in a variety of sporting events under the **motto** *Citius, Altius, Fortius* ('Swifter, Higher, Stronger'). He tried to preserve as many features of the original Games as possible, including the amateur status of the athletes.

The first modern Olympics had only nine events (athletics, cycling, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, swimming, tennis, weightlifting and wrestling) and fewer than 250 athletes took part, representing 14 nations. Greece offered to host the Games permanently, but the second Games took place in Paris, and it was here that women were first allowed to compete.

The Olympic Games now constitute an international multi-sport event for both summer and winter sports. They were extended to include winter Games in 1924, first held in Chamonix, France. Since 1994 they have alternated on different four-year cycles from the summer Games. The Paralympic Games (which began in 1960 and are hosted by the same city as the summer Olympics) and the Youth Olympic Games have also been added. Baron de Coubertin's hope of

total world peace during the time of the Games was not achieved: three Olympiads were missed because of World War I and World War II, and in what is known as the Munich massacre nine athletes were killed after being abducted during the Games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), the governing body of the modern Olympic movement, was **founded** in 1894. It is the umbrella organisation whose job is to ensure that the host city, after it has been chosen in competition with other contenders, meets its obligations. The IOC visits the future host city to check that the building works to house the events, accommodate the athletes and visitors, and improve the transport systems are all on schedule. The committee also makes all the important decisions concerning the events programme. French and English are the official languages of the Olympic movement, plus the language of the host country in each case.

The five Olympic rings were designed in 1913 and first introduced on the Olympic flag flown at the Antwerp Games in 1920. They represent the five inhabited continents (with the Americas regarded as one). The colours – red, blue, green, yellow and black on a white background – were chosen because each nation has at least one of these colours in its national flag. Other symbols and **rituals** were established during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most of these traditions are displayed during the opening and closing ceremonies, such as the Parade of Nations which opens the Games, followed by the raising of the Olympic flag, which must fly for the duration of the Games between



the Greek flag and the host nation's flag. The national anthem of the gold medal winner's country is played during the presentation of the three medals after each event. At the end of the Olympics, the flame is **extinguished** while the anthem is being played, and the flag is carried horizontally from the stadium. Since 1968, there has been an Olympic **mascot**, an animal or human figure representing the cultural **heritage** of the host country; in 1980 Misha, a Russian bear, made a popular appearance.

Participation in the Games has increased to the point that nearly every nation on earth is represented. Now the combined winter and summer Olympics involve more than 10,000 competitors from more than 200 countries, who take part in 35 different sports and more than 400 events. This growth has created numerous challenges, including political **boycotts**, use of performance-enhancing drugs, bribery of officials, demands of sponsors, terrorist attacks and the financial commitment of a host country, sometimes resulting in disapproval of the government by its people. The artistic displays alone at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Games reportedly cost \$100 million. It is one of the world's largest media events, with an estimated 3.7 billion television viewers, and is therefore an irresistible opportunity for a country to promote itself.

## Language and Style

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

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>a</b> duration _____    | <b>f</b> rituals _____      |
| <b>b</b> hostilities _____ | <b>g</b> extinguished _____ |
| <b>c</b> vision _____      | <b>h</b> mascot _____       |
| <b>d</b> motto _____       | <b>i</b> heritage _____     |
| <b>e</b> founded _____     | <b>j</b> boycotts _____     |

**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?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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.

- |                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>a</b> dec- _____  |
| <b>b</b> oct- _____  |
| <b>c</b> pent- _____ |
| <b>d</b> tri- _____  |
| <b>e</b> bi- _____   |
| <b>f</b> uni- _____  |
| <b>g</b> quin- _____ |
| <b>h</b> sept- _____ |

**9** Passage B contains the phrase *fewer than*. Fill the blanks in the following sentences with one of the options below, then explain the rule for how these words are used.

**few fewer fewest a few little less a little least at least**

- a** \_\_\_\_\_ countries participated in the 1896 Games in Athens than in the 1900 Games in Paris.
- b** At the Paris Games, there were \_\_\_\_\_ women athletes, but much \_\_\_\_\_ than half of the competitors were female.
- c** Comparatively \_\_\_\_\_ countries participate in the winter Games.
- d** Some of the competitors had \_\_\_\_\_ hope of gaining a medal, but \_\_\_\_\_ of them managed to be placed \_\_\_\_\_ in the first five, so they felt they had achieved \_\_\_\_\_ success.
- e** The number of television viewers increases each time, and it is now slightly \_\_\_\_\_ than 14 billion.
- f** No \_\_\_\_\_ than nine athletes were killed in the Munich massacre.
- g** The specialist sports attract the \_\_\_\_\_ spectators and are the \_\_\_\_\_ likely to be televised.

## Comprehension and Summary

**10a** In one sentence, summarise what Passage B says about Baron de Coubertin.

---



---



---

**b** In one sentence, summarise the role of the IOC.

---



---



---

**c** In one sentence, summarise the facts given about the Olympic rings.

---



---



---





