



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1123/02

Paper 2 Comprehension

October/November 2009

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

Leave a space of **one** line between answers to **each part** of a question, e.g. between **2(a)** and **2(b)**.

Leave a space of at least **three** lines after your completed answer to each **whole** question.

The insert contains the passage for comprehension.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the Paper.

Dictionaries are **not** permitted in this examination.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **3** printed pages, **1** blank page and **1** insert.



Read the passage in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below.

You are recommended to answer the questions in the order set.

Mistakes in spelling, punctuation and grammar may be penalised in any part of the Paper.

From paragraph 1:

- 1 (a) What is it about the Olympic Games that the writer finds amazing? [1]
- (b) Why did sports play 'a key part in the education of Greek boys'? [1]
- (c) The Greeks 'honoured their gods through athletic competition'. What was the other connection between the Greek gods and the Olympic Games? [1]
- (d) Why do you think it was convenient that Olympia was situated 'near the coast'? [1]

From paragraph 2:

- 2 (a) The Greeks made a truce 'to allow competitors to reach Olympia safely'. How can we tell that the Greeks thought that the truce was important? [1]
- (b) Explain **in your own words** why an Olympic winner was 'treated as a celebrity' when he went home. [2]

From paragraph 3:

- 3 Explain fully how the organisers ensured that competitors were fit enough to take part in the Games. [2]

From paragraph 4:

- 4 (a) The ancient Olympic Games 'eventually died out'. For what **two** reasons did interest in reviving the Games grow? Number your answers (i) and (ii). [2]
- (b) Pierre de Coubertin believed that the 'spirit of solidarity' fostered in young people by the Olympic Games would contribute to a 'peaceful world'. **Without copying from the passage**, explain what this means. [2]
- (c) Why was it appropriate that the 1896 Olympic Games took place in Greece? [1]

From paragraph 5:

- 5 Why do the sporting events of the Olympic Games take place mainly in capital cities? [1]

From paragraph 6:

- 6 Airport security is described as 'the tip of the iceberg'. What does this tell us about security arrangements at the Olympic Games? [1]

From paragraph 7:

- 7 Pick out and write down **two consecutive words** which tell us that the Olympic Games attract a lot of visitors.

From paragraph 9:

- 8 What is it about Olympic competitors which inspires young people, and what is the result?  
**Answer in your own words.**

[2]

From paragraph 10:

- 9 What is the writer's purpose in giving us 'such astounding statistics'?

[1]

From the whole passage:

- 10 Choose **five** of the following words. For each of them give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage.

1. key (line 5)
2. mounted (line 13)
3. elaborate (line 22)
4. schedule (line 23)

5. regrettably (line 48)
6. stage (line 55)
7. regeneration (line 75)
8. obsession (line 81)

[5]

- 11 According to the passage, a country which hosts the Olympic Games encounters both disadvantages and advantages.

**Using your own words as far as possible**, write a summary of the disadvantages and advantages of hosting the Olympic Games.

**USE ONLY THE MATERIAL FROM LINE 35 TO LINE 83**

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 160 words, including the 10 words given below.

A serious disadvantage of being the host country is that ...

[25]

