

## CHAPTER 4 – CASE STUDIES – FOOTBALL, CRICKET and TENNIS

### Football

#### Popular recreation

As mentioned on page 11 onwards and figure 1.5, rural mob games were played during fairs and wakes in and between villages across medieval England. These games were held on holy days like Shrove Tuesday, May Day, and Whitsuntide (and therefore were **not regular** or frequent). Games were played mostly by male members of the lower classes and were **violent** without many rules. Games often led to injury and sometimes death!

Town games (figure 4.1) were played with a similar lack of rules, but were probably even more violent.

Each town or village would have its own unique tradition of unwritten rules, and games were played according to custom. Most of the population could not read or write, so a verbal tradition of how to play the games was used, and there was very little formal publicity about games - word of mouth arranged the games.

#### Developments in the 19th century public schools

- During the first half of the 19th century, boys from all over the country were sent to the Clarendon Schools by wealthy parents, bringing with them the various versions of mob games from their locality.
- These boys would play the games in their free time, then proceeded to develop a tradition within each school for a particular version of a mob game (usually football) which fitted in with the buildings and grounds of the school.
- This tradition led to rules being made from about 1850, as football became established in many schools, and head teachers began to use games as a way of keeping control over pupils.
- As mentioned above (page 20), schools had different versions of football, for example a kicking and dribbling game at Charterhouse, the wall game at Eton (figure 4.2), and a handling (as well as kicking) game at Rugby School (figure 4.3) which had soft turf in 'The Close' where the game was played.

#### Rational recreation

- But when the schools needed to play between houses (within the school) or between different schools, rules needed to be agreed and written down.
- This was a process developed by the ex-public schoolboys at Oxford and Cambridge Universities (see page 20 above) as the melting pot within which many sports at that time were codified and transmitted to the population as a whole.

#### Codification of two games

- The **Football Association** was created in 1863 (hence association football - soccer), but a number of clubs in the London area withdrew from the association having disagreed with the proposed rules for the handling game.
- Hence two main strands of football emerged, with rugby football being established and fully codified as the **Rugby Football Union** in 1871.

figure 4.1 – 17th century town mob game



figure 4.2 – the Eton wall-game



figure 4.3 – Rugby's game from 1850



figure 4.4 – old-boys' association football



## Soccer

- Although the rules were established by the sons of gentry (within the Oxbridge melting pot), the game originated as **mob football** as played by peasants and city working classes.
- This led to a separation of clubs in which southern teams were based around old boys from the public schools and Oxbridge, and were strictly amateur (figure 4.4), whereas northern teams were based around the working classes from the industrial towns (figure 4.5), with professionalism (players being actually paid).
- The **Football League** was established in 1885 to organise fixtures between city and southern teams.
- Saturday afternoons off work allowed men's soccer to develop, since the working class element developed a strong spectatorism.
- Inner city teams (Manchester City, Birmingham City, Nottingham Forest, Liverpool, Everton, Chelsea, Arsenal and Bristol City for example) were based around grounds placed within the major conurbations.
- The development of the **railways** meant that spectators could travel to away games.
- Some cities had Wednesday half days in shops and stores, and teams evolved to use this time (Sheffield Wednesday).
- This led to **mass support** of inner city teams, since the grounds were within walking distance of the working class back-to-back terraced housing of the early 1900s.

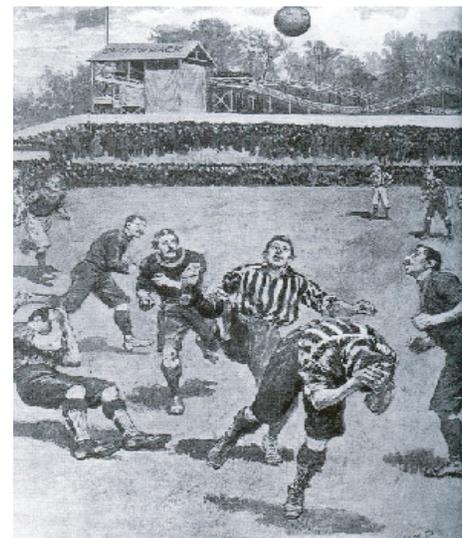
figure 4.5 – soccer in a Northern industrial town



## Lancashire and Yorkshire railway company Newton Heath Football Club

This soccer club was founded in 1878 and based at Belle-Vue stadium Manchester (figure 4.6, notice the Belle-Vue circus park in the background). 'The Heathens' became a professional football team in 1885 and adopted its present name in 1902, Manchester United FC.

figure 4.6 – the Heathens in about 1880



The club came from modest beginnings as a working men's social club - in 1886 the team won its first trophy, Manchester Senior Cup.

<http://www.manchester2002-uk.com/sports/footballers5.html>

Newton Heath Football Club's early fortunes did not fare well. By 1902 they were declared bankrupt, and only the efforts of full back, Harry Stafford, to raise the money to get them out of trouble saved the club. Stafford's fortunate meeting with local brewery owner, John Davies, resulted in Davies buying the club, paying off their debts, and initiating a fresh start for Manchester United.

## Participation in football today

Traditionally, soccer has been a 'lads and dads' pursuit.

**Factors** that have helped participation are:

- Soccer provides **family entertainment**.
- Soccer provides a pathway from '**rags to riches**' within the UK's highly structured professional leagues.
- Academies have the sole purpose of **developing talent**.
- **Role models**, such as David Beckham, inspire young boys and girls to play.
- On the global stage, there are **prestigious events** such as the World Cup.
- The FA's **Respect** campaign combats issues such as racism and unacceptable behaviour.
- All that's needed is a ball, a space and unlimited players, so anyone can play.

## Recent commercial developments

- In 2003, Roman Abramovich, the Russian oil billionaire, spent £200m to buy Chelsea Football Club and fund the biggest sports spending spree seen in Britain.
- There are hundreds of thousands of devoted fans who will spend thousands of pounds following their clubs. For example, a Chelsea season ticket-holder will pay £805 to sit in the Upper East Stand at the club's Stamford Bridge ground.

## Rugby

From formation of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in 1871, it was expected that players would not be paid and were therefore amateur. This changed in 1895 when the Rugby Football League was formed. But Rugby Union remained amateur until 1995.

### The rugby split of 1895 - The 'Great Schism'

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) as national governing body refused to allow broken time payments (time away from work during which players would train or play rugby). They insisted on rugby being an amateur game. In 1895, 22 northern clubs got together and formed the Rugby Football League - in which payments would be allowed to players. Hence the formation of a professional game in which working class players could be paid for participating.

This split also led to **different rules** (13-a-side, the play-the-ball rule, scoring), and the formation of leagues. The RFU continued as amateur and so rugby union was played by middle/upper class men. Rugby union players played 'friendlies' (not league games) in which they played for the fun (in spite of the violence!). Friendships were cemented over many pints of beer in the bar after the game.

Rugby Union became professional in 1995, and welcomed Rugby League players into club and international sides. This was the beginning of the full-time player in the code.

### Modern opportunities

Modern football with leagues, multi-million pound wages, transfers, nutrition, technological analysis of games, full-time professional coaches and managers in **both football codes**, provide an industry based on the commercialisation of sport. The opportunity for participation is therefore wide and not just dependent on talent at the games.

Alongside this are the provision of facilities or stadia (figure 4.7). The spectators who fund these sports have to be catered for with comfortable seating and clear sight lines to the play, all of which are expensive and add to the total ambience of the game as an industry.



figure 4.7 – the modern soccer stadium

### Women's participation

Rugby was traditionally seen as a man's game, but some women decided they wanted some of the fun (figure 4.8), and started to play. The Women's Rugby Football Union (WRFU) was formed in 1983, with 12 founder member clubs. By 1992, 142 clubs were registered and the first national teams played, and by 1993, 2,000 women were playing. However, the north/south, working-class/middle-class orientation of men's rugby league and union respectively, is reflected in the women's game.

The Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 will have both men's and women's sevens Rugby as part of the programme.

In soccer:

- Women played in the North of England from 1920, and achieved spectatorship of 50,000 in some matches. This was stopped by the FA in 1921 by banning women from playing in men's club grounds.
- Women's participation in England expanded from 1971 (when the FA reversed their 1921 decision). The women's game is not as professionalised in the UK as in the USA.
- Women's teams first appeared in the Olympics in Atlanta 1996.
- Today has seen the massive development of the girls' game, from grass roots school/community level to semi-professional women's leagues and World Cup.



figure 4.8 – women's rugby flourishes

## Barriers to participation

- **Less street football** due to increase in road traffic.
- **Smaller gardens** with modern houses means less room to kick a ball around or play touch rugby.
- Some school fields have been sold for housing and commercial developments, thereby reducing available facilities.
- **Parental work commitments** may impinge on time available to take children to clubs.
- **Armchair spectatorship** provides an easy option for people to watch and not perform.

## Cricket

### Popular recreation

- In 1598 there was a written record of a game called 'creckett' or 'crickett' played as an evolution of target games (stoolball and rounders), played in the villages and hamlets of southern England. The first identifiable games were played on the South Downs (figure 4.9).
- By 1611 cricket had become an adult game, which was unfortunately considered illegal and immoral.
- Two men were arrested for playing the game on a Sunday rather than going to church.
- At the end of the English Civil War in 1648, the new government clamped down on recreational cricket that was played on Sundays.
- At this time cricket was played mostly by the working class and Sunday was their only opportunity to play.

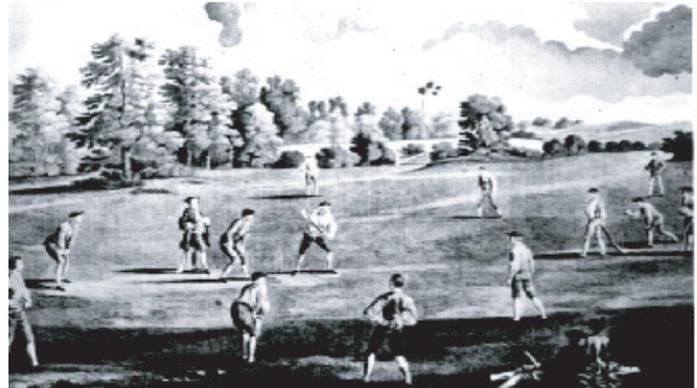


figure 4.9 – 18th century village cricket

### Rational recreation and county cricket

Kent and Hampshire were the first counties to have clubs playing regularly in the eighteenth century, with Hambledon club the most famous village team. By the 1840s, the gentry employed **groundsmen as professional players**, county level competitions increased, and more **gentry played as amateurs**. There was a huge growth in gentlemen's county cricket clubs due to the All-England tour (see page 33 overleaf), and there was a large increase in the number of urban middle-class clubs and spectators.

The gentry were able to participate in cricket because it was **non-violent** and therefore posed no physical threat. The way the game was played was gentlemanly with respectable overtones, and it was played in the summer when light was at its best and people could play on long summer evenings (after work).

### Women's participation

- Women also played in this pre-Victorian era and there was a thriving county championship for women (1811 Hampshire v Surrey - figure 4.10). The game became accepted in women's public schools (see page 17 above), and there was a famous women's match in 1745 in which Bramley (village) played Hambledon, which was reported in local papers.
- From figure 4.10 note the freedom of female opportunity prior to the Victorian period. Women had bare legs and unrestrictive clothing. Women then had the freedom to run about and get hot and sweaty!
- The first women's club was established in 1887, and the women's cricket association was formed in 1926.



figure 4.10 – 1811 women's cricket

England's women's team won the 2009 World cup, but did not acquire the financial rewards or kudos of their male counterparts. The media do not look favourably on women's sport in general, and give far less exposure to their exploits than relatively low quality men's sport.

## Codification and development of the game

- The **first written rules** were drawn up by the Duke of Richmond in 1727 to control country house games on which large sums of money were wagered. Clubs pre-dated this codification - for example the White Conduit Club for gentlemen 1719, which became the MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) in 1787.
- Cricket remained in the hands of the gentry, with the lower classes acting as 'players'. This led to an annual game between 'gentlemen' and 'players'.
- **County games** were generally played mid-week, making it necessary to give middle class players expenses. The Saturdays particularly attracted large crowds, and led to the growth of venues like Lord's cricket ground and those in major county towns.
- **Professional leagues** like the Lancashire League, were created for working class players and spectators from the 1880s.

## Developments in the 19th century public schools

**Headmasters** embraced the game of cricket because it was **codified, non-violent** and **respectable**. Inter-house and inter-school matches lasted all day, and so kept the boys out of mischief.

## The All-England Tour

In 1846, William Clarke formed the All-England Eleven (figure 4.11) as a touring team of leading players to play matches at big city venues throughout the country, and as such spread interest in the game. Clarke's team was a top-class side worthy of its title. Some of these professional players became employed in public schools, and coached cricket to the boys. This spread expertise, and led to a higher level of cricket being played throughout the country.

Matches were a huge success and very profitable, Clarke kept the surplus profit, and thus became the first cricket entrepreneur - the 19th century equivalent of Kerry Packer! (see below).

figure 4.11 – William Clarke's eleven in 1846



## The Ashes

- On the 29th August 1882, an Australian team defeated the English team in a test match at the Oval. A week later a newspaper printed the notice in figure 4.12.
- Since then, when England and Australia play **test matches** at cricket, we say they are playing for the '**Ashes**'.
- The ashes were from the stumps used in the original game - which were ceremonially burnt.
- Afterwards they were stored in a wooden urn which has been kept in the Lord's Museum as a memorial of that occasion (figure 4.13).
- The debate remains as to whether, if Australia win a series, they have the right to hold the urn in their country.
- The argument against is that the urn is a memorial not a trophy.

figure 4.12 – the Ashes announcement

In Affectionate Remembrance  
of  
**ENGLISH CRICKET**  
on  
29th August, 1882  
Deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing  
Friends and Acquaintances  
RIP  
N.B. The body will be cremated and the Ashes  
taken to Australia

## Into the 20th century

The system of gentlemen and players (amateur and professional) in which amateurs played against paid professionals persisted into the 1960s. This reflected the **rigid social class system** of the time (different dress, changing rooms and entrances) which was gradually relaxed during this period until all the players at the top level became professional.

Cricket became the sporting symbol of the British Empire, and most present-day Commonwealth countries play the game.

- **Kerry Packer** was an Australian businessman who owned Australia Channel 9 TV. Packer was best known for founding **World Series Cricket** in 1977 in opposition to the World cricketing authorities.
- He promoted players in coloured kit, playing with a white ball under floodlights (figure 4.14). Top players from several countries rushed to join Packer at the expense of their national sides.

figure 4.13 – the Ashes



- They played a **limited-over game** (started in England in 1963) - which was the forerunner of present one-day and twenty20 formats.
- This was **professionalism at its extreme** - as long as players were paid large amounts, they ignored the then international cricket authorities.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) eventually had to concede to the new patterns of play, and incorporated them in the World Cup and most match series between nations.
- **Sky Sports** have had a big influence on the earning potential top players. Sky successfully bid for the TV contract for very important matches. For example, England games and the World Cup, which provided a big income stream for World cricket.

figure 4.14 – commercialisation of cricket



## Participation in cricket today

Between 2008 and 2010 there has been a significant **increase in participation** in club cricket, estimated at a 50% annual increase for females and 25% increase for males.

**Factors** that have helped participation:

- From 2008 the ECB initiated a **£30million investment** in facilities, club development and supporting new initiatives such as 'Get into cricket'. This investment is paying dividends in increasing the numbers participating in club cricket in England and Wales.
- **Academies** have the sole purpose of developing talent.
- England's Women's cricket team won the 2009 World cup, enhancing the status of the women's game, supported by **role models** such as the captain Charlotte Edwards.

## Barriers to participation

- The pressure of the **short summer term** and conflict with annual **examinations** reduces the time available in schools to play cricket.
- **Public schools** are able to offer more opportunities in terms of facilities, professional coaching and fixtures when compared with state schools.
- At the elite end of the game, **Kolpaks** (cricketers within the EU who can play domestic cricket in England without being classified as an overseas player) provide a cheaper option and short term fix that is undermining the development of the ECB youth programmes.

## Tennis

**Real tennis** (also called Royal tennis - figure 4.15) was a game which originated in France in the 12th century. It was played by royalty within the enclosed courts of the various palaces in which they lived.

The racquet was not introduced until the 16th century, before this the ball was hit by hand.

The Tudor monarchs of the early 16th century popularised the game, and in 1536, acts of parliament were passed to restrict the playing of this game in England to the nobility.

figure 4.15 – jeu de paume, Real Tennis

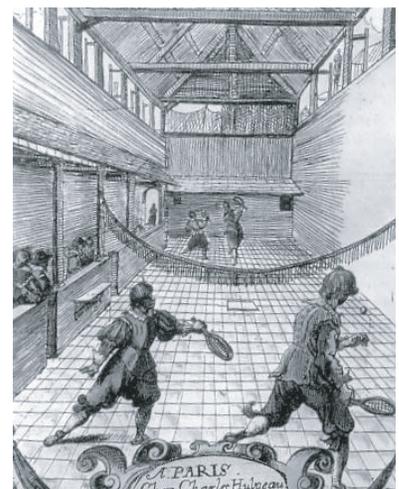
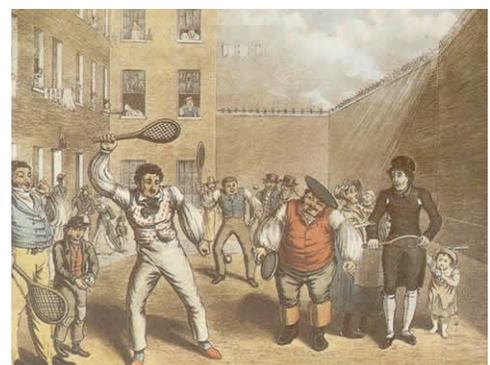


figure 4.16 – rackets played in 18th century prison



## Rackets and fives as popular recreation

Apart from cricket the main striking game which evolved for the lower classes alongside real tennis was **rackets**.

This game involved striking a ball with a hand or racket **against a wall**. Opponents would take it in turns to hit the ball - sometimes there were 4 or 5 people on each side (striking in turn). The game was played in pubs, prisons (figure 4.16), and schools, where any wall could be adapted to play the game.

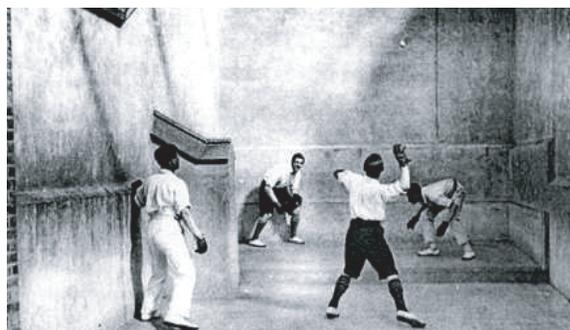
### Development of rackets in the public schools

**Fives** was a variation of rackets in which a ball was struck against a wall normally with the hand. Some versions used gloves, others just bare hands. Courts were different in each place where fives was played, depending on the shape of the buildings. Two versions of this game survive today:

- **Eton fives** (figure 4.17) in an indoor court which looks like the buttressed and stepped courtyard in which the game was developed at the school.
- **Rugby fives** in a plain rectangular court.

**Squash** (originally called ‘squash rackets’) is a development from both fives and rackets in 19th century public schools. It was played with a **squashy** ball with a racquet on a plain indoor court to help younger players enjoy the game.

figure 4.17 – Eton fives played on a school court



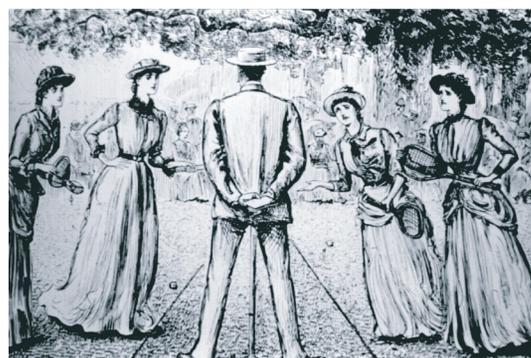
### Lawn tennis as a rational recreation

**Lawn tennis** was a game developed by the **wealthy middle classes** in the 19th century. It was played on their lawns (figure 4.18) within the privacy of walled gardens. The middle classes wanted a game to occupy increasing leisure time, hence the name ‘lawn tennis’.

### Tennis as a vehicle for women’s emancipation

- The nature of lawn tennis was seen to be particularly suitable for **middle class women**, to be able to play privately away from public gaze. This was a game which could remove some of the stereotypes.
- Women could run around becoming increasingly energetic, and clothing could become less restrictive. This was a stimulus for women’s sport development.

figure 4.18 – tennis played on 19th century lawns



### The roots of modern lawn tennis

- 1866, Major Gem introduced the game at Leamington, and had written rules by 1870.
- 1873, J.H.Hales introduced Germain Tennis.
- 1873, Major Wingfield patented a game called Sphairistike, which had an hour-glass shaped court and could be purchased in a ‘kit’ form for playing on people’s lawns.
- 1875, the modern rules were codified by the MCC (the Marylebone Cricket Club).
- 1876, the All-England Croquet and Tennis Club were founded at Wimbledon. Early tournaments were run by cricket clubs.
- 1884, public championships were held for women at Wimbledon.

### Evolution of tennis

In 1900, the game was played on grass, whites were always worn, racquets were made of laminated wood with catgut strings, and Wimbledon represented the **middle class amateur** nature of the game (figure 4.19).

In 2010, the game is played on a **variety of surfaces** (grass, clay, concrete, indoor carpet) and most tournaments allow players to wear coloured and fashionable kit (figure 4.20).

There are also:

- **Special shoes** (the Rafa style).
- **Carbon fibre racquets** with a larger sweet spot and variation in stringing to give greater spin control.

figure 4.19 – Wimbledon 1920

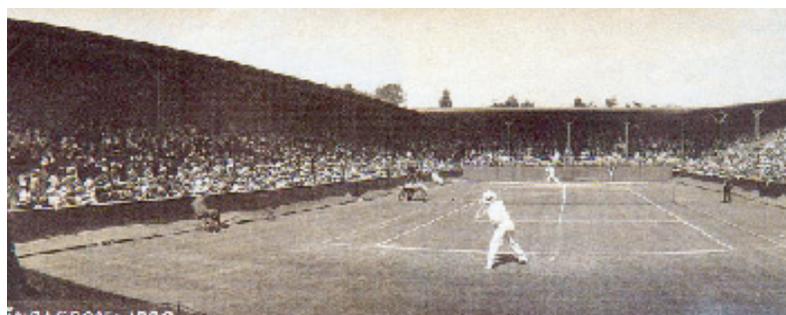


figure 4.20 – top female players 1953 and 2009



- The Grand Slam, Wimbledon, Roland Garros, Australia, US open.
- The ATP and WTA masters rankings.
- **Rule changes** including the tie-breaker, Hawkeye challenges and instant replay.
- Professional players, physio and conditioning coaches, technical coaches, psychologists and managers.
- **Sponsorship** and substantial **prize money**, via the commercialism of the media, particularly satellite TV.
- Indoor/outdoor stadia, the Wimbledon roof (figure 4.21).

figure 4.21 – the Wimbledon roof 2009



## Participation in tennis today

Around 3 million people throughout the UK are involved in tennis, but recent surveys have shown that there has been a substantial drop in the number of 11-19 year-olds who play tennis on a weekly basis.

**Factors** that have helped participation:

- Inspiration from **role models** such as Laura Robson and Andy Murray.
- Media hype around annual **global events** such as the Wimbledon Grand Slam tournament and excellent coverage of masters tournaments featured on Sky TV.
- **Free access** to local courts in parks.
- **Grass roots** initiatives such as 'Play tennis' and 'RAW tennis' funded by the revenue from the Wimbledon fortnight.
- **Academies** with the sole purpose of developing talent.

## Barriers to participation

- Is the LTA ignoring the grass roots?
- Tennis is still considered to be a predominantly **middle class** game, which does not attract the lower class pool of physical talent.
- The **expense** of hiring courts (for example, £16.00 for 1 court for 1 hour in 2010 in the Liverpool Tennis Centre + the cost of coaching, and similar prices in David Lloyd tennis centres).
- Local courts in parks become **vandalised** and often neglected.
- **Restricted free access** to these courts. For example, three years ago there were 33,000 courts but that figure has now dropped to an estimated 10,000.
- Unpredictable British weather.
- The pressure of the short summer term and conflict with annual examinations reduces the time available in schools to play tennis.
- **Public schools** are able to offer more tennis opportunities when compared with state schools.

## Practice questions

- 1) Describe the transition from mob football to the rational game of soccer and discuss the changes which have occurred in the modern game. 20 marks
- 2) Describe the emergence of cricket and the 19th century influence of the public school followed by a discussion on how the modern game matches contemporary society. 20 marks
- 3) Discuss factors that led to Lawn tennis increasing women's participation in physical activity in the nineteenth century. Explain which of these factors continue to affect participation in today's contemporary game. 6 marks
- 4) Describe the origins of the game of tennis and its early development with the modern game. 20 marks