

CHAPTER 19 - 5.2.4 The modern Olympic and other games

Exam style questions - text book pages 202 - 203

- 1) **A Level.** In 1896 the modern Olympic Games were established around the principle of the 'amateur ideal'. Discuss whether this principle is still relevant to Olympic performers in the twenty first century. 15 marks

Answer:

- De Coubertin had strong views on *amateurism*.
- He modelled his views from the values of *English public school system*, such as *fair play* and *sportsmanship*.
- The principle of the amateur ideal primarily means the *love of sport* and so competitors took part because of their love and enjoyment of their sport.
- *Elite class* and social background of early Olympians meant that money was not an issue.
- Elite athletes were able to pay their own way. *No funding* available from media or commercial sponsorship.
- De Coubertin chose *well-established sports* to make up the Olympic programme, ignoring professional sports that were in the minority at the turn of the twentieth century.
- There was an *upper class bias* throughout the early modern Olympic Games.
- An *increase in nations* and athletes from different cultural backgrounds began to dilute this influence as the twentieth century developed.
- This transition reflected the change in society and the *growth of professional* sports outside the Olympics.
- 1980s saw the rise in the *commercial* nature of the Games. Elite performers became stars and sponsors increasingly became interested in sport. For example, Carl Lewis who won nine *Olympic gold medals* between 1984 and 1988.
- For example, state *sponsored amateurs* in USSR and East Germany and college amateurs with the American collegiate system.
- *Sponsors* and *television* rights became the biggest influence on the Games.
- In 1992, USA basketball dream team broke the *taboo* of professional athletes in the Games.
- Higher levels of performance have meant a need for *full-time athletes*.
- The Olympic Games of the twenty-first century now fully supports the idea of *professionalism*. The Games were now open but the majority of performers remain amateur or rely on state and or lottery funding.
- Boundaries are constantly being stretched through *sponsorship* and funding.
- But the concept of *sportsmanship* has been replaced by *gamesmanship*.
- And so some athletes will do anything to win (*win-at-all-costs*), including tampering with equipment and taking performance-enhancing *drugs*.
- However, most of today's athletes will still have that love and *desire* to compete and demonstrate the honour that comes with competing for one's country.
- Thus retaining some aspects of the *amateur* ideals.

- 2) a) Identify three goals of the Olympic movement that together define Olympism. 3 marks

Answer:

Based on the amateur philosophy of sport.

3 marks for 3 of:

- Olympism exalts and combines a balance of *amateur* philosophy than brings together the whole body, will and mind.
- To provide opportunities for *personal excellence* and enjoyment.
- To develop an Olympic *spirit* of *respect*, *fair play* and *sportsmanship*.
- To provide opportunity for all to take part *without discrimination* i.e. mass participation, accessible to all no matter race, colour or creed.
- To promote *International understanding* and *peace*.
- To enable *cultural* exchange/education.

2) b) Suggest two ways in which the Olympic ideal is no longer apparent today.

2 marks

Answer:

2 marks from 2 of:

- The **decline** in the **amateur** philosophy and the concept of fair play and participation over 'winning-at-all-costs'.
- Often fair play over-ridden by **gamesmanship** and **cheating**.
- With many of today's athletes having **professional** status.
- The **banning of nations/teams** from the Games due to events such as State sponsored cheating/drug programmes and political human rights interference.

3) a) In relation to global sporting events, what is meant by the phrase 'the shop window effect'?

2 marks

Answer:

- **National** and political groups use showcasing (shop window effect) to act as positive role models, **promoting the country's status** for nation and morale building purposes.
- **Showcasing** is way of promoting something, for example, the Olympic Games is used to promote the country that holds it.
- National groups have used showcasing to promote their nation and what it has to offer. Politicians use sport to promote their country.

b) Using examples from past major global games, discuss some of the positive and negative impacts that the shop window effect may have had on national and political groups.

6 marks

Answer:

- Political groups use showcasing to act as positive role models, promoting the country's status.
- For example, the **Peoples Republic of China (PRC)** wanted to display all their pageantry in the best light, with an amazing opening ceremony and their **superb facilities and organisation** of the Games. This they achieved.
- But, two million people were evicted/displaced as a result of houses being demolished to make way for transport infrastructure and facilities. 40,000 protesting Chinese were imprisoned, many of these prisoners were supporters of the Tibetan freedom movement who **demonstrated** during the journey of the Olympic Torch around the world.
- These **negative events** tarnished the PRC's **image** in advance of the 2008 Olympic Games.
- The IOC decided that in future the torch would only be carried within the realms of the host country.
- In the **Munich Olympic Games** in 1972 the Black September Organisation (BSO), Palestinian terrorists used the shop window effect for their own political purpose when they kidnapped and murdered eleven Israeli athletes and officials.
- This was the most **publicised negative event** of the Games and over shadowed the positive impact that West Germany Government intended to display.

4) Describe the limitations which existed in the early Modern Olympic Games.

4 marks

Answer:

- Early Olympians were **white, middle or upper class and wealthy**.
- **Restricted to nine events** such as fencing and swimming.
- Restricted to a limited number of **participating Nations**. For example, 13 nations in all, and nine events, such as fencing, athletics and swimming in 1896 in Athens.
- **Women were not allowed** to compete in 1896.
- In the 1900 Paris games there were 997 athletes of which 22 were women who took part in a very restricted programme of five events including tennis, sailing, croquet, equestrianism and golf.
- **Limited funds and no sponsors**. Competitors **paid** for their **travel** and **accommodation**.

5) Discuss the characteristics of world games, and explain how participation will affect the competitor.

8 marks

Answer

2 marks for 2 of:

Characteristics of world games:

- Multi-sport.
- Single sport.
- Usually involves the best competitors, the **elite**.
- From around the **world**.

2 marks for:

Such games may be:

- **Multi-sport** potentially involving all countries, for example, the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, and the Paralympic Games.
- **Single-sport** potentially involving all countries, for example, the Football FIFA World Cup, the World Athletics Championships, the World Hockey Championships, and the World Badminton Championships.

4 marks for 4 of:

Competitors are:

- Motivated by high **competitive** drive (i.e. the will to be the best - intrinsic motivation).
- Able to meet **personal goals** - to be number one in the world!
- Able to develop a **career** and to gain recognition or sponsors - extrinsic motivation (rewards).
- Inspired by **role models**.
- Encouraged by **peer** or family.
- Opportunity, pride or satisfaction to represent his or her own **country**.
- Opportunity to perform at the **highest** level.

6) Team GB won 29 gold medals, 17 silver medals and 19 bronze medals during the London 1012 Olympic Games, finishing third in the medal table. Suggest the potential positive and negative impacts that participating in world games can have on the elite athlete and society.

12 marks

Answer:

3 marks from 3 of:

Positive Impact on the athlete:

- Athlete gains **recognition** from sponsors with associated extrinsic rewards such as a career in sport.
- Athlete given the **opportunity**, pride or **satisfaction** to represent his or her country.
- Athlete given the opportunity to **perform** at the highest level.
- Athlete motivated by **high competition drive** – intrinsic motivation.
- Improved **support structures** for the athlete, such as coaching, medical, psychological teams.

3 marks from 3 of:

Positive Impact on the society:

- Increased number of **spectators** at sporting events.
- Increased **recruitment** of coaches, officials and volunteers for the sport.
- Increased **commercial** interest for hotels, shops, bars near to sports venues.
- Increased **public awareness** of the athlete.
- Increased **participation** in the sport at grass roots level i.e. mass participation.
- Creation of positive **role models** as inspiration for young people to be inspired by.
- Increased **national pride** (shop window effect) and integration of communities.
- Increased regeneration of **infrastructures** such as transport links, housing, sports facilities.

3 marks from 3 of:

Negative Impact on the athlete:

- High **expectation** of the athlete to do well in future events.
- Increased **media** attention and intrusion into athlete's private life.
- Increased **pressure** on athlete to perform, for example training whilst injured or overtraining.
- Athlete may become **over-confident** or complacent with success.

3 marks from 3 of:

Negative Impact on the society:

- Inability to meet the **increased demand** for athlete, for example, lack of coaches, funding and budgets to maintain facilities.
- Increased **expectation** from society for athlete to do well in future events.
- **Sponsors** taking control over events, such as scheduling.

- 7) The London 2012 Olympic Legacy is described as the longer-term benefits and effects of the planning, funding, building and staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in the summer of 2012. Evaluate the success of this legacy. 6 marks

Answer:

6 marks for 6 of:

- **Economic** – supporting new jobs and skills, encouraging trade, inward investment and tourism, for example, apprenticeships in broadcasting companies.
- Long-term benefits on London's and Britain's tourism industry.
- **Regeneration** – of a whole London district with new homes, improved transportation and reuse of Olympic venues.

- The re-opening of the Olympic Park as the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in July 2013.
- Sport **funding** and investment – funding for elite sport until has continued, supported by the National lottery.
- Continued high investment over the next five years in the Youth Sport Strategy, linking schools with sports clubs and encouraging sporting habits for life.
- Development of more sports **facilities** and encouraging participation in schools sports and wider.
- **Education** - Introduction of the School Games programme to boost schools sport and county sport festivals.
- Introduction of Sport England **initiatives**, such as Activate.

- Reports that school sports participation has not been boosted.
- **Social and volunteering** – has continued to be successful as highlighted by the over-subscribed number of volunteers for events such as for the Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014 and World Athletics Championships in 2017.
- **Learning** – shared knowledge and lessons learned from the construction of the Olympic Park and preparing and staging the Games are used by organisers of forthcoming Global sporting events.

8)

		gold	silver	bronze	total
Montreal 1976					
1	USSR	49	41	35	125
2	GDR	40	25	25	90
3	USA	34	35	25	94
13	Great Britain	3	5	5	13
Atlanta 1996					
1	USA	44	32	25	101
2	Russia	26	21	16	63
3	Germany	20	18	27	65
36	Great Britain	1	8	6	15
London 2012					
1	USA	46	29	29	104
2	China	38	27	23	88
3	Great Britain	29	17	19	65
4	Russia	24	26	32	82

The table above lists parts of the medal league tables for 1976, 1996 and 2012 Olympic Games. Using this information answer the following questions.

- a) Give reasons why the USSR and East Germany (GDR) dominated the medal league table in the 1976 Olympic Games. 3 marks

Answer:

3 marks for 3 of:

- During the 1970's **East Germany** conducted a decade of **drug programmes** to feed **performance-enhancing drugs** to their athletes, known officially as **State Plan 14.25**.
- The drug regimens, given either **with or without the knowledge** of the athletes, resulted in outstanding victories in international competitions, including the 1976 Olympic Games.
- During the 1970s the **Soviet State Sport Committee** ordered several **research institutions** to conduct studies on the effect of performance-enhancing supplements, including clandestine state-sponsored research to perfect blood doping and their possible use by Soviet athletes preparing for Olympic Games.
- Judging by historical evidence and testing records, problems with doping have been the norm in the former Soviet Union for decades as evidenced by medal table results of 1976.
- Also, these societies were **centralised**, and **controlled** by the state.
- This meant that athletes were controlled and regimented by **scientifically designed training programmes**.
- It is conceivable that the sport regimes would succeed without the drugs.
- But this was never given a chance to develop.

- b) Account for the dramatic improvements in Team GB's medal haul from 1976 to 2012. 3 marks

Answer:

- One gold medal in 1976, the **lowest place in the medal table** since the early 1900s.
- This disappointment accelerated a wholesale reform of the way sports were funded, organised and supported in the UK.
- With the advent of **lottery funding** and Government support from 1996, financial investment was **targeted** at individual **athletes** and then at **governing bodies** and then the sports **facilities** needed to stage the 2012 London Olympic Games.
- The net result was GB climbed the medal table from 36 in the Atlanta 1996 Games to third position in London 2012.

c) Discuss the notion that ‘a homefield’ advantage plays a significant part in medal league tables. 3 marks

Answer:

3 marks for 3 of:

- ‘Homefield’ advantage describes the benefit that the home team is said to gain over the visiting team.
- There are many causes that attribute to home advantage, such as **crowd involvement**, travel considerations, and **environmental factors**.
- The home teams are **familiar** with the sporting venue.
- They can lodge in their homes rather than in a hotel, and have less far to travel before the game.
- They have the **psychological support** of the home fans - leading to greater arousal and commitment of the players.
- Disadvantaged away teams suffer from changing **time zones**, **climates**, **diet** or from the rigors of **travel**, not suffered by the home team.

d) Why has the USA been consistently at or near the top of the medal league table? 3 marks

Answer:

3 marks from 3 of:

- **Huge population** (320 million), hence a huge base to the sporting pyramid.
- **Ethnically diverse** population, hence huge diverse **talent pool** such as African Americans.
- Sports are particularly associated with **education** in the high schools (The Ivy Leagues) and universities both having highly organised sports which include excellent **facilities**, professional coaches, competition structures, and sports scholarships available for the most talented.
- Good **climatic conditions** for training and competitions as is the case in Florida and California.
- **Lombardian ethic** – ‘winning isn’t the most important thing – it’s the only thing’.
- **The American Dream** - the ideal by which equality of opportunity is available to any American, allowing the highest aspirations and goals to be achieved.

e) Following the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, account for China’s position on the 2012 London medal table league. 3 marks

Answer:

- China has a **massive advantage** with her **population** size of 1.35 billion, and so China should be winning more medals, as she has an even bigger base to the sporting pyramid.
- China decided to put more **effort** into developing her athletes starting 2001, creating **state-run sports system** under a highly **centralised** system, envied and feared abroad, which is finally bearing fruits.
- So Chinese athletes **live and train together**, coaches are **full time**, **facilities** have improved (particularly as a result of the 2008 Beijing Olympics) so athletes don’t need to worry about their lives, food, clothing.
- This lifestyle opportunity has increased participation levels.

f) Following the London 2012 Olympic Games, discuss the impact of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) retesting programme on global sport. 3 marks

Answer:

3 marks from 3 of:

- Blood and urine **samples are stored** in anti-doping laboratories so suspicious test results can be **retested** at a later date.
- For example eight Russian athletes at London 2012 tested positive following retests in 2016.
- Many of these athletes were medal winners and so **should be stripped** of their medals.
- These athletes can **appeal** against bans through Human Rights Courts or the **Court of Arbitration for Sport**, but these disputes take a long time to resolve.
- In the meantime **clean athletes** are waiting for medal upgrades and relevant prize money and have lost out on opportunities of gaining **commercial sponsors**, as well as not received the glory of a medal ceremony.
- They may even **struggle to motivate** themselves to continue to training and compete within a cheating global arena.

- 9) The global sports programme is increasing each year with new competitions, such as the multi-sports European Championships to be held in 2018. Discuss the impact of increased sporting opportunities for elite performers. 5 marks

Answer:

- *Exposure and opportunity* for developing elite athletes to perform at a high level.
- And so get *accustomed* to the global stage and media exposure.
- *Economic* – possible enhancement of *earning opportunities*.
- And gain *recognition* and attract sponsors.
- *Travel* – the opportunity to travel all around the world and share different cultural experiences.
- Could be *too many competitions* available and so potential for elite performers to over compete and *risk injury* and fatigue, when competitive programme is not carefully selected.
- Resulting in the *inability* to reach *peak optimal* performance when it matters.