

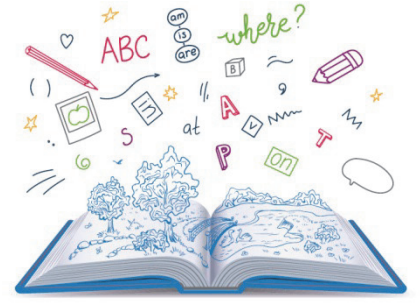
# English

Stage 4

Paper 1 Non-fiction

Cambridge Primary Progression Test

**Insert**



**2024**

## The Olympic Games

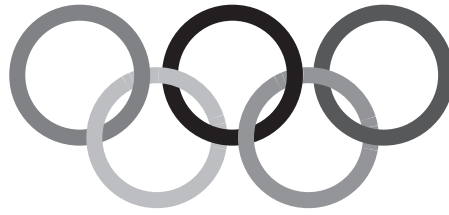
The first Olympic Games took place in the 8th century B.C.E. They began as part of an Ancient Greek festival, which celebrated Zeus, the Greek god of sky and weather. At that time, the whole competition lasted for up to six months, and included chariot<sup>1</sup> racing. However, the Greek Olympics were later stopped by the Roman Emperor Theodosius I because he considered them unsuitable. They didn't take place again for hundreds of years. In 1896, a man named Baron Pierre de Coubertin restarted the Olympics. He called this new event, which is still going strong today, the 'modern Olympics'.

In ancient times, a flame burned throughout the Games as a tribute to the goddess Hestia. In 1928 this practice was started again in the modern Games; the flame burns in a special torch. The torch flame is always lit by the sun in Olympia, Greece, as this is where the first Greek Games were held. Then, the flame is passed from torch to torch around the world, ending in the host city<sup>2</sup>. New torches are designed for each Olympics, and several thousand copies are made. It's a great honour to carry the torch, and lots of people take their turn at doing this during each Olympics, in every nation. Lit Olympic torches have flown on planes, stayed alight underwater and climbed Everest. Some unlit torches have even gone into space!



Today there are Summer and Winter Olympics. Just 14 countries took part in the first Summer Olympics, but nowadays more than 200 countries compete in each Games. At first, the Winter Olympics were held in the same year as the Summer ones, but organisers soon realised that it would be better to have them in different years. As a result, the Winter Olympics now take place two years after the Summer Olympics.

The Olympic logo was designed to include everyone. The Olympic rings were first produced in 1913, from a design produced by the modern Games' founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Their five colours, along with the white background, reflect colours found on the flags of the nations that took part at that time, showing that everyone was included. The circles link together to show international co-operation and the meeting of athletes from all over the world.



Until 1912, the first-place Olympic medals were solid gold. Sadly though, this is no longer true. At the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics, which actually took place in 2021, winners were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals made completely out of consumers' recycled electronics. Japanese citizens were asked to donate their old phones and cameras, from which experts removed the precious metals that were then used to produce the medals. The project was a success – millions of kilos of electronics were donated! 35

The modern Olympic Games aren't just about triumphing at sports and collecting medals – they're about making friends too. The Games are a great chance for people from countries around the world to meet up and get to know each other. For the 16 days of competition, athletes from all sports, religions, nationalities and cultures live and work together and they often leave as good friends promising they'll meet up in the future. 40

#### Glossary

<sup>1</sup>chariot: a two-wheeled vehicle pulled by horses

<sup>2</sup>host city: the city where the Olympic Games are taking place

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