

NAME and group number : -----

GEA1 gr. 1 & 4
English test MD 06/08

CAUTION : - write your name and group number at the top of every page,
- do all the exercises on this paper (pages 2, 3 & 4),
- do **NOT** use any type of dictionary or other document,
- give the **4** pages back at the end of your test.

Document for the comprehension exercises :

I. The Importance of the Olympic Games

A. The Importance of Ancient Greek Athletics

§1. The ancient Greeks were highly competitive and believed strongly in the concept of "agon", or "competition" or "contest". The ultimate Greek goal was to be the best. All aspects of life, especially athletics, were centered around this concept. It was therefore considered one of the greatest honors to win a victory at Olympia. The fact that the only prize given at Olympia was an olive wreath illustrates this point. The athletes competed for honor, not for material goods.

§2. Athletics were of prime importance to the Greeks. The education of boys concentrated on athletics and music as well as academic subjects such as philosophy. Education took place in the gymnasium and the palaestra as well as the academy.

B. The Olympic Games and the Greek Calendar

The Greek calendar was based on the conception of the four-year Olympiad. When Greek historians referred to dates, they most often referred to a year (i.e. first, second, third, fourth) within the Olympiad that the event occurred. The winner of the stadium race in a given year had the Olympiad named in honor of him. The first Olympiad is therefore known as that of Koroibos of Elis, the winner of the stadium race in 776 BC.

C. The Internationalization of the Olympic Games

§1. From the beginning, the games at Olympia served as a bond between Greeks and strengthened the Greek sense of national unity. During the Hellenistic period, the Greeks who came to live in foreign surroundings such as Syria, Asia and Egypt, strive to hold on to their culture. One of the ways to achieve this was to build athletic facilities and continue their athletic traditions. They organized competitions and sent competitors from their towns to compete in the Panhellenic games.

§2. In the 2nd century AD, Roman citizenship was extended to everyone within the Roman empire. From then on, the participation of many competitors from outside of Greece in the Olympic Games gave them, to a degree, international nature.

§3. When the Greek government reinstated the games in 1896, this international character of the competitions was preserved by Baron de Coubertin. Now, 16 centuries later, the Olympic Games attract competitors from countries all over the world.

II. Modern Olympic Games

§1. The best amateur athletes in the world match skill and endurance in a series of contests called the Olympic Games. Almost every nation sends teams of selected athletes to take part. The purposes of the Olympic Games are to foster the ideal of a "sound mind in a sound body" and to promote friendship among nations.

§2. The modern Olympic Games are named after the athletic contests held in ancient Greece for almost 12 centuries. They were banned in 394 AD but were revived and made international in 1896. The Winter Games were added in 1924. World War I and World War II forced cancellation of the Olympics in 1916, 1940 and 1944, but they resumed in 1948 and are held every four years. After 1992 the Winter and Summer Games were no longer held within the same calendar year. Winter Games were scheduled for 1994, after only a two-year interval, and every four years thereafter. The Summer Games were scheduled for 1996, and every four years thereafter.

Adapted from <http://www.nostos.com>

Vocabulary help :

I.A.§1.: therefore = par conséquent I.B.: an event = un événement I.C.§1.: the surroundings = les environs I.C.§1.:
to strive = s'efforcer de II.§1.: to match = associer II.§1.: to foster = encourager II.§2. : thereafter = par la suite

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I. COMPREHENSION (17.5 points)

Read the text on page 1, then do the exercises below.

A. Vocabulary search : in the text find the English equivalent for

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| - une couronne d'olivier (I.A.) = | - se produire (I.B.) = |
| - un lien (I.C.) = | - réussir (I.C.) = |
| - la citoyenneté (I.C.) = | - rétablir (I.C.) = |
| - un objectif (II.) = | - sain (II.) = |
| - une annulation (II.) = | - programmer (II.) = |

B. Answer the following questions, using your English and making short and complete sentences.

- 1) What was one of the ancient Greeks' main qualities?
- 2) What was their life based on?
- 3) Why was a success in the Olympic Games considered as an honour?
- 4) How were girls educated?
- 5) How did the ancient Greeks probably refer to the year 774 BC?
- 6) Why?
- 7) Name one of the things the Olympics were useful for from the start.
- 8) How did the ancient Greeks try to preserve their culture abroad?
- 9) When did the Olympics become international?
- 10) What happened a hundred and twelve years ago?

C. Translate the last paragraph (= II.§2.) into French.

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II. REMEMBER? (5 points)

Translate this telephone conversation into English :

PJ : Allo, Computers plc, Philip Jones à l'appareil.

NE : Bonjour, je voudrais parler à Richard Smith, s'il vous plaît.

PJ : Monsieur Smith, très bien, c'est de la part de qui ?

NE : Nigel Eastwood.

PJ : Ne quittez pas, je vous le passe...Monsieur Eastwood ? Désolé, Monsieur Smith est absent pour le moment. Est-ce que je peux prendre un message ?

NE : Non, merci, je le rappellerai demain.

PJ : Entendu, merci d'avoir appelé, au revoir.

NE : Merci pour votre aide, au revoir.

III. GRAMMAR (7.5 points)

Ask Liz questions (look at her answers before you write the questions).

1. (from?)
From London originally.
2. (live / now?)
In Manchester.
3. (married?)
Yes.
4. (how long / married?)
12 years.
5. (children?)
Yes, 3 boys.
6. (age?)
4, 7 and 9.
7. (husband / job?)
He's a policeman.
8. (enjoy / job?)
Yes, very much.
9. (do / yesterday?)
He stayed at the police station.
10. (where / holiday / next year?)
We don't know yet.

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IV. WRITING (10 points)

Answer the following question in 150 words (+ or – 10 %). Don't forget to give examples and write the exact number of words at the end of your writing.

**This year, the Summer Olympic Games are taking place in China.
In your opinion, what are the good points and the bad points of this event?**