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Reading Practice 3 (mid level)



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Part B1

Reading Text 1 and answer questions 1-28

Text 1

建議時間:

S5-S6: 45mins

S3-S4: 50mins

The Pinnacle of Athletic Virtue: Decoding the Ethos of Fair Play in the Quadrennial Spectacle of Human Excellence

[1] In the rarefied echelons of athletic pursuits, the Olympic Games stand as an unparalleled paragon of human achievement—a quadrennial spectacle that inexorably captivates the global zeitgeist with its manifestations of corporeal prowess, cognitive fortitude, and the indefatigable human spirit. Yet, beyond the scintillating baubles of precious metals and the record-shattering performances lies a more profound and enduring legacy: the ineffable concept of fair play at its zenith. This ethos, deeply ingrained in the interstices of the Games’ fabric, transcends mere adherence to codified regulations, embodying a complex interplay of ethical conduct, reciprocal deference, and the pursuit of excellence in its most unadulterated form.

[2] The ontogenesis of this paragon of athletic virtue can be traced to the ancient Hellenic ideal of “arete”, a multifaceted concept encompassing virtue, excellence, and the realization of one’s entelechy. This philosophical underpinning, when juxtaposed with the modern Olympic movement’s emphasis on fostering international amity and cross-cultural understanding, has engendered a sui generis paradigm of athletic conduct. Within this intricate framework, competitors are expected to not only strive for victory but to do so with an ineffable grace, unimpeachable dignity, and an unwavering commitment to the principles of ludic equity.

[3] The multifarious nature of this lofty ideal manifests in a plethora of ways throughout the Games. At its most fundamental level, it demands strict adherence to the byzantine rules and regulations governing each sport, thereby ensuring a level agonistic field for all participants. However, true adherence to the Olympic spirit extends far beyond mere compliance, encompassing a spectrum of behaviors and attitudes that elevate the experience to something truly extraordinary and sui generis.

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[4] One of the most salient aspects of this quintessential athletic morality is the demonstration of respect for one’s adversaries, adjudicators, and the sport itself. This respect is evidenced in numerous ways, from the customary tactile exchanges between competitors at the denouement of an event to the acknowledgment of superior performances, even in the face of defeat. Such gestures serve not only to humanize the often-intense agonistic environment but also to reinforce the shared axiological and experiential commonalities that unite athletes from diverse cultural and geographical provenances.

[5] The crucible of Olympic competition often gives rise to moments of exceptional grace that transcend national boundaries and capture the quintessence of the Games’ ideals. One such instance occurred during the 1936 Berlin Olympics, when American long jumper Jesse Owens found himself struggling in the qualifying rounds. His German rival, Luz Long, offered sagacious counsel that ultimately facilitated Owens’ acquisition of the gold medal. This act of altruism, particularly poignant given the fraught political climate of the time, exemplifies the capacity of this noble ethos to bridge ideological chasms and foster mutual understanding. Another noteworthy exemplar unfolded at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, when Canadian sailor Lawrence Lemieux abnegated his own race to rescue two Singaporean competitors whose vessel had capsized in treacherous conditions. Lemieux’s sacrifice of his own medal prospects in service of his fellow athletes’ safety epitomizes the prioritization of human welfare over personal glory, a cornerstone of the Olympic credo.

[6] This paragon of athletic morality extends beyond individual acts of benevolence or fair play, encompassing broader ethical considerations that shape the very fabric of the Games. The Olympic movement’s intransigent opposition to performance-enhancing pharmacological interventions, for instance, reflects a commitment to preserving the integrity of athletic competition and ensuring that success is achieved through natural talent and assiduous training rather than artificial means.

[7] Similarly, this lofty principle informs the ongoing dialectic surrounding issues of gender equity and inclusion in Olympic competition. The gradual expansion of women’s events and the increasing recognition of transgender and intersex athletes reflect an evolving understanding of fairness and equal opportunity, albeit one that continues to grapple with complex questions of biology, identity, and competitive advantage. The cultivation of this athletic virtue begins long before athletes set foot in the Olympic village. National Olympic committees and sports federations play a crucial role in inculcating these values in aspiring Olympians from an early age. Through educational programs, mentorship initiatives, and the promotion of ethical conduct at all levels of competition, these organizations seek to ensure that the spirit of fair play is deeply ingrained in the next generation of Olympic athletes.

[8] Coaches, too, bear significant responsibility in fostering an environment conducive to this noble ethos. By emphasizing the importance of respect, fair play, and ethical conduct alongside technical skills and physical preparation, coaches help shape athletes who embody the Olympic ideals both on and off the field of play. The media's role in shaping public perceptions of this athletic morality cannot be overstated. While instances of exceptional conduct often capture headlines and inspire audiences worldwide, the intense scrutiny and pressure of Olympic competition can also give rise to lapses in ethical behavior. The manner in which these incidents are reported and discussed can significantly influence public attitudes toward the values embodied in the Olympic spirit.

[9] In recent years, the advent of social media has added a new dimension to the discourse surrounding this lofty ideal. Athletes now have unprecedented platforms to share their experiences, opinions, and interactions with competitors and fans alike. While this increased visibility can amplify positive examples of fair play, it also presents challenges in terms of managing public expectations and navigating the complex dynamics of online communication.

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[10] The concept of athletic virtue at the Olympic level continues to evolve in response to changing societal norms and technological advancements. The increasing sophistication of performance-enhancing techniques, for instance, has necessitated more nuanced approaches to defining and enforcing ethical standards in competition. Similarly, the growing awareness of mental health issues among athletes has prompted a reevaluation of what constitutes appropriate support and accommodations within the framework of fair competition.

[11] As the Olympic movement looks to the future, the preservation and promotion of this noble ethos remain paramount concerns. Initiatives such as the Olympic Values Education Programme seek to disseminate the principles of excellence, friendship, and respect to young people around the world, ensuring that the spirit of fair play continues to inspire future generations.

[12] In conclusion, this pinnacle of athletic virtue represents a complex and multifaceted ideal that extends far beyond the confines of athletic competition. It embodies a set of values and behaviors that speak to the highest aspirations of the human spirit, promoting mutual respect, fair play, and the pursuit of excellence in its truest form. As the world continues to grapple with challenges of division and conflict, the example set by athletes who embody these principles serves as a powerful reminder of our shared humanity and the potential for sport to bridge cultural and political divides.

[13] The legacy of this Olympic ethos, therefore, lies not merely in the moments of grace and generosity witnessed during the Games themselves, but in the lasting impact these examples have on societies around the world. By celebrating and promoting these ideals, the Olympic movement continues to fulfill its mission of building a better world through sport, inspiring individuals and nations alike to strive for greatness in both athletic endeavors and the broader arena of human interaction.

END OF READING PASSAGE

Questions

Read Text 1 and answer questions 1-28. (42 marks)

Text 1

1. What does the word 'pinnacle' (paragraph 1) refer to?

2. What does 'corporeal prowess' (paragraph 1) mean?

3. Who or what does 'this noble ethos' refer to?

4. Find a phrase similar in meaning to 'ethical conduct' in paragraph 1.

5. Who does 'this ethos' refer to?

6. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 3?

- A. The historical origins of fair play.
B. The importance of winning at any cost.
C. The role of mutual respect in competition.
D. The expectations of athlete behavior.

A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7. According to paragraph 4, give ONE example of how respect is demonstrated in the Olympic Games.

8. Find ONE word in paragraph 4 which has a similar meaning to 'acknowledgment'.

9. Complete the following sequence of events from paragraph 5 with ONE word taken from the paragraph. (6 marks)

- (i) Jesse Owens was struggling in the _____ rounds.
(ii) Luz Long offered him _____.
(iii) Owens used the advice and _____.
(iv) Long's help was significant because of the _____ climate.
(v) Lawrence Lemieux was in a race but saw two competitors in _____.
(vi) Lemieux decided to _____ them.

10. Identify a metaphor used in paragraph 5.

11. Provide an example of an act of altruism mentioned in paragraph 5.

12. Where did Lawrence Lemieux perform his act of heroism?

13. Based on paragraph 6, provide ONE example of the Olympic movement's opposition to unethical practices.

14. Which of the following best summarizes the idea in the sentence, 'The Olympic movement's intransigent opposition to performance-enhancing pharmacological interventions reflects a commitment to preserving the integrity of athletic competition'?

A. The Olympic movement strictly opposes drug use in sports.

B. The Olympic movement allows some performance-enhancing drugs.

C. The Olympic movement does not care about drug use in sports.

D. The Olympic movement encourages the use of natural talents.

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

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15. Complete the note about paragraph 7 by writing ONE word taken from the paragraph in each blank below. (4 marks)

The expansion of (i) _____ events and the inclusion of (ii) _____ and

(iii) _____ athletes reflect evolving understanding of (iv) _____.

16. What has contributed to the expanding recognition of transgender and intersex athletes?

17. Which of the following best summarizes the idea in the sentence, 'The increasing recognition of transgender and intersex athletes reflects an evolving understanding of fairness and equal opportunity' (paragraph 7)?

A. Transgender athletes are not recognized in the Olympics.

B. There is a growing acceptance of diverse athletes.

C. Fairness and equality are not important in sports.

D. The Olympics only include traditional gender categories.

A B C D
○ ○ ○ ○

18. In paragraph 7, what does the metaphor 'bridge ideological chasms' tell us about the Olympic spirit?

19. According to paragraphs 6 and 7, are the following statements True (T), False (F), or Not Given (NG)? (3 marks)

Statement

(i) The Olympic movement promotes gender equity.

(ii) All countries follow the same rules regarding performance-enhancing drugs.

(iii) Mental health issues among athletes are a recent concern.

T F NG
○ ○ ○
○ ○ ○
○ ○ ○

20. What does the phrase 'intense scrutiny and pressure of Olympic competition' (paragraph 8) suggest?

21. Why does the media play a significant role in shaping public perceptions of athletic morality?

22. From paragraph 9, what new dimension has social media added to the discourse of athletic virtue?

23. What does the phrase 'changing societal norms' tell us about the evolution of athletic virtue?

24. In paragraph 11, what does the metaphor 'lofty principle' suggest?

25. In paragraph 12, what does the phrase 'highest aspirations of the human spirit' suggest?

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26. Is the author optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the Olympic ethos regarding fair play? Use evidence from Text 1 to support your answer. (2 marks)

27. Below are comments made by the people in Text 1. Match each person with ONE comment that best represents each person mentioned in the text. Each letter can be used ONCE only. ONE comment is NOT used. One has been done for you as an example. (3 marks)

Person/organization	Answer	Comments
A. Olympic Committee	(i) _____	Fair play is the cornerstone of our values.
B. Coaches	(ii) _____	We support our athletes at all levels.
C. Media	(iii) _____	Our goal is to inspire future generations.
D. National Committees	(iv) _____	We emphasize ethical conduct in competition.
E. Athletes	(v) _____	We aim for excellence in every performance.

28. Do you think the Olympic movement should continue to emphasize the importance of fair play? With reference to Text 1, give ONE reason to support your view. (2 marks)

Answers with paragraph numbers:

1. The highest point or peak.
2. Physical strength and skill.
3. The principle of fair play and ethical conduct in the Olympic Games. [8]
4. Ethical conduct [1]
5. The principle of fair play and ethical conduct in the Olympic Games. [8]
6. B
7. Respect is demonstrated in the Olympic Games through the acknowledgment of superior performances, even in the face of defeat. [4]
8. Recognition [4]
9.
 - (i) qualifying
 - (ii) advice
 - (iii) succeeded
 - (iv) political
 - (v) danger
 - (vi) rescue
10. Bridge ideological chasms [5]
11. Luz Long helping Jesse Owens. [5]
12. During the 1988 Seoul Olympics. [5]
13. The Olympic movement's opposition to performance-enhancing drugs. [6]
14. A
15.
 - (i) women's
 - (ii) transgender
 - (iii) intersex
 - (iv) fairness
16. The expanding recognition of transgender and intersex athletes has been contributed to by an evolving understanding of fairness and equal opportunity. [7]
17. B
18. The metaphor 'bridge ideological chasms' tells us that the Olympic spirit helps overcome deep-seated differences and fosters mutual understanding. [5]

19. (i) T [7]
(ii) NG
(iii) T [10]
20. The high level of examination and stress experienced by athletes during the Olympics. [8]
21. The media plays a significant role in shaping public perceptions of athletic morality by reporting on and discussing instances of exceptional conduct and ethical lapses. [8]
22. Social media has added a new dimension by providing athletes with platforms to share their experiences and interactions with competitors and fans. [9]
23. The phrase 'changing societal norms' tells us that society's standards and values are evolving. [10]
24. The metaphor 'lofty principle' suggests a high and admirable standard or value. [11]
25. The phrase 'highest aspirations of the human spirit' suggests the noblest and most admirable qualities and goals that humans strive for. [12]
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26. The author is optimistic about the future of the Olympic ethos regarding fair play. Evidence: The text mentions initiatives like the Olympic Values Education Programme to ensure that the spirit of fair play continues to inspire future generations. [11]
27. (i) A
(ii) B
(iii) C
(iv) D
(v) E
28. Yes, the Olympic movement should continue to emphasize the importance of fair play because it promotes mutual respect, fair competition, and the pursuit of excellence, which are essential for maintaining the integrity and positive impact of the Games. [6 - 12]

Practical Vocab and Usage List

1. **exhibits** [v] 展示、展現、表現 [1]
e.g. She often exhibits great patience when dealing with children.
她在處理孩子時經常展現出極大的耐心。
2. **quadrennial** /kwɒ'drɛn.i.əl/ [adj.] 四年一次的 [1]
e.g. The Olympics are a quadrennial event.
奧運會是四年一次的活動。
3. **zeitgeist** /'zait.gaɪst/ [n.] 時代精神 [1]
e.g. The novel captures the zeitgeist of the 1960s.
這部小說抓住了 1960 年代的時代精神。
4. **fortitude** /'fɔː.tɪ.tjuːd/ [n.] 堅忍，剛毅 [1]
e.g. She showed great fortitude during her illness.
她在生病期間表現出了極大的堅忍。
5. **indefatigable** /,ɪn.dɪ'fæt.ɪ.gə.bəl/ [adj.] 不屈不撓的，不知疲倦的 [1]
e.g. Her indefatigable efforts saved the company.
她不屈不撓的努力拯救了公司。
6. **ineffable** /ɪ'nef.ə.bəl/ [adj.] 無法言喻的，不可言喻的 [1]
e.g. The beauty of the scene was ineffable.
景色之美無法言喻。
7. **interstices** /ɪn'tɜː.stɪ.siːz/ [n.] 間隙 [1]
e.g. The seeds fell into the interstices of the pavement.
種子落在了人行道的縫隙中。
8. **paragon** /'pær.ə.gən/ [n.] 模範，典範 [1]
e.g. She is a paragon of virtue.
她是美德的典範。

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9. **ontogenesis** /,ɒn.təʊ'dʒen.i.sɪs/ [n.] 個體發生 [2]
e.g. The study of ontogenesis is crucial in developmental biology.
個體發生的研究對於發育生物學至關重要。
10. **entelechy** /ɛn'tɛl.ə.ki/ [n.] 實現自身潛能的過程 [2]
e.g. Every organism strives to achieve its entelechy.
每個有機體都努力實現其潛能。
11. **sui generis** /,suː.ərɪ'dʒen.i.rɪs/ [adj.] 獨特的 [2]
e.g. His style of writing is sui generis.
他的寫作風格是獨特的。
12. **ludic** /'luː.dɪk/ [adj.] 遊戲的，戲劇的 [2]
e.g. The festival had a ludic atmosphere.
節日氣氛充滿了遊戲性。
13. **byzantine** /'biz.ən.taɪn/ [adj.] 複雜的，錯綜複雜的 [3]
e.g. The regulations were so byzantine that no one understood them.
規定太過複雜，沒有人能理解。
14. **agonistic** /,æɡ.ə'nɪs.tɪk/ [adj.] 競技的，好鬥的 [3]
e.g. The agonistic spirit of the athletes was evident.
運動員的競技精神顯而易見。

15. **denouement** /deɪˈnuː.mənt/ [n.] 結局 [4]
e.g. The film's denouement was unexpected.
這部電影的結局出人意料。
16. **axiological** /ˌæk.sɪ.əˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kəl/ [adj.] 價值論的 [4]
e.g. The axiological significance of the event was profound.
事件的價值論意義深遠。
17. **provenances** /ˈprɒv.ə.nəns/ [n.] 起源，來源 [4]
e.g. The artifacts' provenances were carefully documented.
文物的來源被仔細記錄。
18. **altruism** /ˈæl.truː.ɪ.zəm/ [n.] 利他主義 [5]
e.g. Her altruism was evident in her volunteer work.
她的利他主義在她的志願工作中表現得很明顯。
19. **sagacious** /səˈgeɪ.ʃəs/ [adj.] 睿智的 [5]
e.g. His sagacious advice saved the day.
他的睿智建議挽救了局面。
20. **intransigent** /ɪnˈtræ.n.sɪ.dʒənt/ [adj.] 不妥協的 [6]
e.g. They were intransigent in their demands.
他們在要求上不妥協。
21. **pharmacological** /ˌfɑː.mə.kəˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kəl/ [adj.] 藥理學的 [6]
e.g. The pharmacological effects of the drug were studied.
藥物的藥理學效應被研究。
22. **dialectic** /ˌdaɪ.əˈlek.tɪk/ [n.] 辯證法 [7]
e.g. The debate was a classic example of dialectic.
辯論是一個典型的辯證法例子。
23. **biological** /ˌbaɪ.əˈlɒdʒ.ɪ.kəl/ [adj.] 生物的 [7]
e.g. Biological factors influence behavior.
生物因素影響行為。
24. **mentorship** /ˈmen.tɔː.ʃɪp/ [n.] 指導 [7]
e.g. She benefited greatly from her mentorship.
她從指導中受益良多。
25. **adjudicators** /əˈdʒuː.dɪ.keɪ.tərz/ [n.] 裁判 [4]
e.g. The adjudicators' decision was final.
裁判的決定是最終的。
26. **albeit** /əˈlːbiːt/ [conj.] 雖然 [7]
e.g. The journey was difficult, albeit rewarding.
旅程艱難，但很有收穫。
27. **corporeal** /kɔːˈpɔːr.i.əl/ [adj.] 物質的，肉體的 [1]
e.g. The ghost seemed to have no corporeal form.
鬼似乎沒有實體。
28. **integrity** /ɪnˈteɡ.rɪ.ti/ [n.] 正直，誠實 [6]
e.g. Her integrity was never in question.
她的正直從未受到質疑。

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29. **conductive** /kən'dju:.sɪv/ [adj.] 有助於...的 [8]
e.g. The environment was conducive to learning.
環境有助於學習。
30. **rarefied** /'rɛər.i.faid/ [adj.] 稀薄的，高深的 [1]
e.g. The debate took place in a rarefied intellectual atmosphere.
辯論在高深的知識氛圍中進行。
31. **amity** /'æm.i.ti/ [n.] 友好，和睦 [2]
e.g. The two nations lived in amity.
兩國和睦相處。
32. **reciprocal** /rɪ'sɪp.rə.kəl/ [adj.] 相互的，互惠的 [1]
e.g. They shared a reciprocal respect for each other.
他們相互尊重。
33. **embodying** /ɪm'bɒd.i.ɪŋ/ [v.] 具體表現，體現 [1]
e.g. The statue embodies the spirit of freedom.
這座雕像體現了自由的精神。
34. **multifarious** /ˌmʌl.tɪ'fɛər.i.əs/ [adj.] 多種多樣的 [3]
e.g. The organization has multifarious activities.
該組織有多種多樣的活動。
35. **poignant** /'pɔɪ.njənt/ [adj.] 辛酸的，深刻的 [5]
e.g. The film's poignant ending left the audience in tears.
這部電影辛酸的結局讓觀眾淚流滿面。
36. **nuanced** /'nju:.ɑ:nst/ [adj.] 有細微差別的 [10]
e.g. His performance was nuanced and subtle.
他的表演有細微的差別且微妙。
37. **integrity** /ɪn'teg.rɪ.ti/ [n.] 正直，誠實 [6]
e.g. Her integrity was never in question.
她的正直從未受到質疑。
38. **ethos** /'i:θɒs/ [n.] 精神特質，價值觀 [1]
e.g. The company's ethos is centered on customer satisfaction.
公司的價值觀以顧客滿意為核心。
39. **unteleological** /ʌn.tel.i'ɒl.ə.dʒɪ.kəl/ [adj.] 無目的論的 [2]
e.g. His approach to art is unteleological, focusing more on process than outcome.
他的藝術方法是無目的論的，更關注過程而非結果。
40. **cognitive** /'kɒɡ.nɪ.tɪv/ [adj.] 認知的 [1]
e.g. Cognitive development in children is crucial.
兒童的認知發展至關重要。
41. **manifest** /'mæn.i.fɛst/ [v.] 表現，顯示 [3]
e.g. The symptoms of the disease manifest gradually.
該疾病的症狀逐漸表現出來。
42. **exemplifies** /ɪɡ'zɛmplɪ.faɪz/ [v.] 作為...的典範 [5]
e.g. His actions exemplify the values of the company.
他的行為體現了公司的價值觀。

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