

Fang Ru

2009 JC2 JCT GP Paper 2 Markers' Report

Passage A

1. What does the phrase ' "theatre replete with "sacred" rituals' (line 4) suggest about the Olympic Games? [2m]

<b>theatre</b>	It suggests that the Olympics is a show / spectacle / that is full of drama/ entertainment (1) to capture attention of / mesmerize worldwide audience ( <i>"showcase/ display of sporting talents or performances" not accepted as it doesn't capture the concept of "theatre".</i> )
<b>replete with sacred rituals</b>	filled with time honoured practices/ ceremonies ; practices steeped in traditions; practices/ ceremonies that are highly valued / religiously passed down / cannot be done away with (1).

Comments

- Students went for word substitution ("the Olympics is like a play", "the Olympics is a holy/ religious/ spiritual ceremony") instead of analysing the nuance of the key terms in context.

2. According to paragraph 1, what opportunities do the Games offer participating nations? Use your own words as far as possible. [4m]

Large <b>states</b> have the <b>opportunity to demonstrate their power</b> (l.8-9)	Big nations have the chance to show their greatness/ superiority/ supremacy/leadership/ might/ prowess/ strength/ dominance (1)
small <b>states</b> can win <b>recognition for special achievements</b> (l.9-10)	Despite their lack of size/ less known/ developing/ less developed/ countries can gain prestige/ status/ be known worldwide when they win/ gained acknowledgement for their sporting accomplishments (1)
new <b>states</b> ... receive <b>worldwide validation</b> as members of the international community (l.10-11)	Young/ newly emergent/ independent nations feel affirmed/ accepted/ embraced/ included globally (1)
<b>Magic moment</b> (l.14)	The Games can give nations a sense of glory/ national pride/ great sense of extraordinary accomplishment/ fantastical moment. (1)
<b>Worldwide audience</b> (l.8)	and exposure/ much publicity to capture the attention of the global community. (1)

[any 4 out of 5]

Comments

- Should not lift keywords from previous points to paraphrase another keyword (e.g "recognition")
- As the key phrases capture different meanings/ nuances, it is not wise to merely repeat the same vocabulary for different answers. Precision is essential.

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3. Suggest one reason why sports fans consider politics "an unwelcome intruder" (line 15) in the Olympic Games? [1m]

<i>Inferred</i>	They do not want politics to interfere with / corrupt / erode/ dilute the ideals of sport or the essence/ spirit of sportsmanship.
	It can be abused by political groups.
	There is concern that athletes may use performance enhancing drugs to win for / bring glory to their country
	They are concerned that the focus of attention may be diverted from athletes or sports to causes unrelated to sports.
	Focus on politics will distract from the enjoyment of sports
	Focus on politics will distract from the sporting competitions ("destroy the spirit of competition" = 0 mark, though)

Award 1mark for any reasonable answer.

Comments

- As this is a 1 mark answer, do not ramble at length and do not be vague either (e.g. "this will cause unhappiness/ chaos"). The answer should be succinct but clear and precise.
- Get to the main idea and avoid using examples to support your point.

4. Using materials from paragraphs 3 to 7 of the passage (lines 22 – 63), summarise the role sports play in international politics. Write your summary in **no more than 130 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. Use your own words as far as possible. [8m]

Sports play a significant role in politics as .....

<b>embody conflict and tension</b> (l.24)	<b>A</b>	Sports often represent/ are a manifestation of <b>political/ power struggles</b>
<b>focus for national rivalries and ideological rivalries between states</b> (l.25-26)	<b>B1</b>	as <b>nations</b> , use it as a platform to compete to show their superiority,
	<b>B2</b>	especially those with different political beliefs/ systems ( <i>"governing policies"</i> = 0 mark)
<b>symbolism of the victories over the captors and masters</b> (l. 29-30)	<b>C</b>	Sometimes, sports can also represent the <b>politically powerless/ oppressed/ the political underdogs</b> triumphing over their rulers/ oppressors/ those in power.
Governments ... use sport as a <b>weapon of their foreign policy</b> or as a means to <b>extend an olive branch</b> (l.32) ... "ping pong" diplomacy ... interest in <b>re-establishing</b> political <b>contacts</b> (l.33 -34) to <b>strike a blow against apartheid</b> in South Africa (l.35-36)	<b>D1</b>	Sports are also used as a diplomatic tool to manage international relations,
	<b>D2</b>	as a means of possible reconciliation/ to improve ties/ break the ice
	<b>D3</b>	or to state/ show/ register/declare disapproval of oppressive/ unfair/ unjust/ discriminatory/ cruel/ totalitarian/ dictatorial/ tyrannical regimes.

<p>Victory in international sport competitions can <b>influence</b> the <b>development of national consciousness</b>. (l.38-39) to <b>enhance</b> their own <b>national image</b> (l. 40) trying to <b>forge a new identity</b> for his <b>country</b> (l.43)</p>	E1	Winning can help cultivate/ establish/ reinforce pride in one's country/ arouse patriotic/ nationalistic feelings and
	E2	improves its global/ worldwide standing/ status/ reputation
	E3	It can also help a country break away from its past/ re-invent/ redefine herself/ enable re-birth of a nation
<p>The <b>struggle for a place</b> and then for <b>honours and awards</b> (l.46) ...<b>pressure</b> to look for <b>competitive edge</b> (l.51) <b>use of drugs</b> may well have <b>broader political motives</b> (l.51-52)</p> <p>exposés of its <b>state-sanctioned use</b> of drugs in producing champions (l.53-54)</p>	F1	The desire to bring glory to their <b>country</b> causes some sportsmen to abuse drugs / substances ( "illegal acts" = ½ mark only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>ans must contain both the political intention and outcome – outcome alone = 0 mark</i></li> <li>• <i>for monetary rewards alone = 0 mark</i></li> </ul> with some governments even condoning/ supporting such abuses/ behaviour.
	F2	
<p>television also made the Olympic stage more inviting for protest demonstrations cameras serve as weapons (l. 60-62)</p>	G	As a result of media coverage, sports have become a platform for people who want to get airtime/ exposure for/ draw attention to their <b>political causes</b> / highlight their grievances/ fight for their various causes/ political agenda/ spread their propaganda

**Comments**

- While students may have said nothing wrong about the role of sports in international politics, many students 'composed' rather than summarise. This is because they are not sensitive to the words used by the author and therefore 'strayed away' from the text.
- Many missed the crux of the issue in their paraphrase or failed to engage question requirements.
- e.g. for point F, many wrote that the athletes took drugs for monetary reasons but failed to address the **political** motivation.
- e.g. for point G, many answers didn't bring out the idea of media coverage for **political causes/agenda** etc.
- Avoid lifting keywords (0 marks). This includes lifting keywords from other summary points (especially those in close proximity).to explain another keyword.
- Leave out examples for summary. Get to the main idea!
- Write down the number of words (NOW). Do not exceed word limit.

5. Give the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage. Write your answer in one word or a short phrase. [5m]

**Comments**

- Use the correct word form, tone and degree used in the context.
- Do not have a string of answers. If the first vocab is wrong, 0 mark for everything.

From Passage A			
Word	1m	1/2m	0m
intrigues (l.20) <i>n,plural</i>	secret plans secret activities secret schemes manoeuvres conspiracies double-dealings plots	scheming schemes	puzzles, interests, mysteries, conflicts, clashes, operations, negotiations, efforts, mind-boggling issues, involvements, red tape, political games, wonders, controversies, complications, fascinating actions, mysterious dealings, complexities
advocating (l.37) <i>v</i>	campaigning, championing favouring /being in favour of, promoting, supporting, endorsing making a stand for speaking for / speaking up for strongly pushing for	endorsing	proposing, presenting, encouraging, emphasizing, propagating, brandishing, representing, suggesting, implementing, asserting, bringing forth, recommending, promulgating, approving establishing, adopting
revoking (l.56) <i>v</i>	taking away / back stripping recalling <i>[take back/ strip off – still 1 mark but please indicate WF (Wrong Form)]</i>		returning, withdrawing making void/ denying / confiscating/ forfeiting/ disqualifying/ removing/ getting back/ invalidating/ deemed invalid/ claim back, reclaiming, recovering, nullifying, rejecting, cancelling, repossessing

From Passage B			
Word	1m	1/2m	0m
unprecedented (l.16) <i>adj</i>	never seen before never happened before never occurred before never before in history first of its kind happening for the first time	previously non-existent never before a whole new level of for the first time	unforeseen, unplanned, unpredicted, unprepared, unexpected, unanticipated, unavoidable, inevitable, unnecessary, unintended a high standard never before seen, without past occurrence, not established, unparalleled unmatched, unrivalled
inept (l.33) <i>adj</i>	ineffectual, ineffective weak, foolish, inefficient bumbling, incompetent bungling, incapable lacking ability to perform	inadequate	redundant, unwise, mistake, unskilled, wrong, at fault, unsuitable, inappropriate, unfitting, useless, fail/ failure, not proficient, impotent, making wrong decisions, losing control, corrupt, unproductive, lousy

## Passage B

6. Explain the paradox of the modern Olympic movement (line 9). Use your own words as far as possible. [2m]

Robust yet fragile (l.10)	The contradiction is that the Olympic movement is both <b>powerful and weak</b> at the same time. (1m)
Accessible to as many people and countries as possible (l.11)... <b>astonishing strength</b> ... under <b>external pressure</b> (l.13) Vulnerable to forces from both <b>within and without</b> (l.13-14)	It is powerful/ a force to be reckoned with because many nations are involved / participate in the Olympics, it engages large communities & nations At the same time, it is weak because it is subjected to both internal conflicts and open to attacks from / by other groups / sectors of people (1m)

0 mark if no contrast is given in the explanation with adequate signpost markers such as "yet at the same time", "on the other hand", "instead", "on the contrary", "conversely".

Comments

- Do not just start paraphrasing the sentences. Identify the contradiction clearly in your answer.
- Structure is important. Take note of the need for signpost markers.

7. According to paragraph 3, what are the problems faced by the International Olympics Committee (IOC) when choosing the host city for the Olympic Games? Use your own words as far as possible. [2m]

Several political lifetimes (l.19)	One problem faced is the frequent change in leadership/ the changing political circumstances/ climate/ the volatile political situation/ unforeseeable political instability in the host country 7 years down the road (1m) ( <i>"unpredictable events/ changing circumstances/ unforeseen changes"</i> = ½ mark only – as the political change is not captured)
Vanilla-flavoured reports (l.23)	Reports are glossed over, presenting only the plus points / positive aspects of the city / paint a bright picture. (1m) ( <i>"well-written/ untruthful reports which they have to decipher/read for meaning"</i> = 0 mark for not capturing the essence of "vanilla-flavoured")

Comments

- Again many long winded answers that failed to identify the crux of the problems.
- While answers such as "changing circumstances" and "untruthful reports" are not wrong, such paraphrases lack precision for they did not capture the nuances of "political lifetimes" and "vanilla-flavoured reports".

8. The writer describes the media of Western democracies as behaving "with all the self-restraint of a sailor on shore leave" (line 27).

(a) Explain the analogy used by the writer. [2m]

One would expect sailors to go to shore with wild abandon/ abandonment. In the same way, the media of Western democracies behaved recklessly/ rashly/ went overboard in their response to the Moscow boycott. [1]

- 0 mark if only 1 part is explained/ no parallel between the analogy & media of western democracies is shown.
- 1 mark only if both parts are explained but there are no signpost markers (just like/ similarly/ in the same way) are used to make the connection between analogy & the media of western democracies.

Comments

- Please note that it is imperative for analogy questions to be answered in 2 parts: 1) to literally explain the analogy and 2) explain how the analogy is used in the context.
- Note the need for structure and signpost markers.

(b) What does the analogy suggest about the writer's attitude towards the media of Western democracies? [1m]

The writer disapproves/ does not have a high regard for/ is disdainful/ critical of [1] the way the media went overboard sensationalizing the boycott of the Games.

- "The writer's attitude is negative/ the writer has a negative attitude" = 0 mark (meaning is changed)
- Disgusted/ looks down on/ scornful/ disrespectful/ unsupportive/ dislike/ skeptical/ sarcastic/ cynical/ is against = 0 mark (tone)
- Does not have a good impression/ does not think well of = 0 mark (not attitude)
- Sees/ believes/ perceives/ thinks the media as selfish/ inconsiderate/ reckless/ exploitative etc = 0 mark (not attitude)

Comments

- Do not throw a list of attitudes for the marker to choose. In future, you may get 0 mark even if one of your answers hit the mark but the others are wrong.

9. Senn says that "politics are in fact an integral part of the Games" (Passage A, line 16) while Pound argues that the Games "should be separate from political considerations" (Passage B, lines 1-2).

What do you think of the involvement of politics in sports? (R1)

Explain your choice by referring to some issues raised by both authors (R2a & R2b). You should also support your view with examples drawn from your own experiences and observations. [8m]