

Name: ..... Date: ..... 4th Seniors

## Reading Comprehension

1<sup>st</sup> Partial exam 2020

- a Before you read, can you answer questions 1–3? Read the first paragraph to check.

- The Olympic Games are
  - 1,000 years old.
  - 2,000 years old.
  - 3,000 years old.
- The Olympic Games started in
  - Greece.
  - Italy.
  - Egypt.
- The Olympic Games are named after
  - a god.
  - a place.
  - a river.

- b Now read paragraphs A–C and match the **highlighted** words to their meaning.

- \_\_\_\_\_ races or competitions
- \_\_\_\_\_ little by little
- \_\_\_\_\_ money you have to pay when you do something illegal
- \_\_\_\_\_ models or figures, usually of a person
- \_\_\_\_\_ very important and / or large
- \_\_\_\_\_ to prohibit something
- \_\_\_\_\_ people who belong to other people and work for no money
- \_\_\_\_\_ a place or location
- \_\_\_\_\_ uncovered
- \_\_\_\_\_ a stadium where horse racing takes place

- c Tick (✓) the sentence that best summarizes each paragraph.

## Paragraph A

- Cheating athletes could not compete in the ancient Games. ☐
- Cheating was strictly punished in the ancient Games. ☐
- Only a few special people could compete in the ancient Games. ☐

## Paragraph B

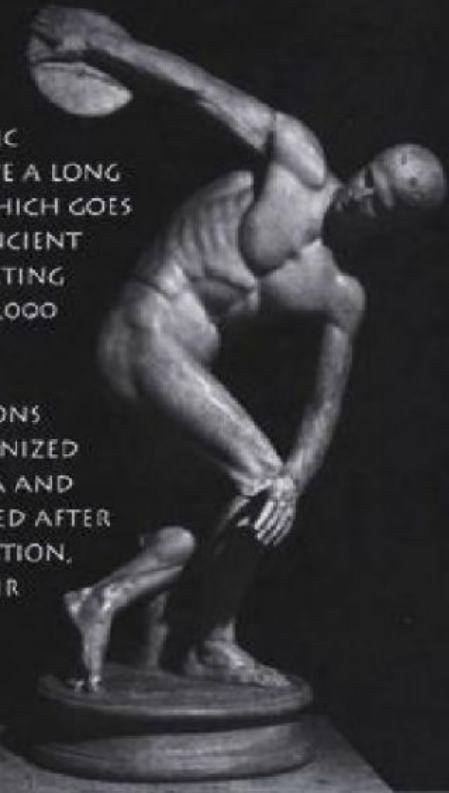
- The events were very limited in the ancient Games. ☐
- The ancient Games took place in two different places. ☐
- There were fewer events than today and no team sports. ☐

## Paragraph C

- The ancient Games were banned because they were of a bad quality. ☐
- It's difficult now to imagine the glory of the ancient Games. ☐
- The ancient Games disappeared but people can visit the ruins today. ☐

## OLYMPIC HISTORY

THE OLYMPIC GAMES HAVE A LONG HISTORY WHICH GOES BACK TO ANCIENT TIMES. STARTING IN GREECE 3,000 YEARS AGO, SPORTS COMPETITIONS WERE ORGANIZED AT OLYMPIA AND WERE NAMED AFTER THEIR LOCATION, HENCE THEIR NAME OF OLYMPIC GAMES.



**A** Olympic athletes had to be male, of Greek nationality, and not **slaves**. They promised to compete in an honourable way and to follow the rules but some athletes still cheated. If caught, they had to pay a large **fine** and this money was used to pay for **statues** of Zeus, which were located along the route to the stadium with the name of the cheat on each base. To get to the stadium, the athletes had to walk past all the statues.

**B** Unlike the modern Olympics, which currently includes 35 sports and nearly 400 **events**, many of which are team sports such as football and basketball, the ancient Games only included individual events.

Seven types of events took place in the stadium, including running, discus, javelin, long jump, wrestling, and boxing. There was also chariot racing and horse riding in the **hippodrome**.

**C** The Olympic Games became a **major** sports event but the Roman Emperor Theodosius I finally decided to **ban** the Olympic Games in 393 AD after more than 1,000 years of existence because he thought they were a pagan cult. **Gradually** the **site** disappeared and was forgotten. However, in the 19th century, archaeological work finally **revealed** the ruins of Olympia and, today, visitors can appreciate Olympia and imagine the past glory of the Games.

### 3 READING

- a Read the article. Find three advantages and three disadvantages of being an extra.

Advantages:

It's a job you can do as well as your full-time job

You meet the stars in the film

It isn't unique

Disadvantages:

It isn't well paid.

You get much recognition for your work

You have to work long hours

- b- Write true (T) or false (F)

- 1 Extras can meet the stars of the films that they're in. ☐
- 2 You can earn a lot of money being an extra. ☐
- 3 People who look 'normal' get more work than those who look different. ☐
- 4 Extras need to be patient. ☐
- 5 Extras need to be good-looking. ☐
- 6 Being an extra is a full-time job. ☐
- 7 Being an extra can be hard work. ☐
- 8 Extras don't get the recognition they deserve. ☐

- c Match the **highlighted** words and phrases to the correct meaning.

- 1 the studio or place where a film is made \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 attractive and exciting \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 standing or sitting doing nothing \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 normal or typical \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 pieces of useful advice \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 wanted, liked the idea \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 make angry \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 is good or convenient for \_\_\_\_\_



**This week we talk to Rob Martin, who has written a book called *You Can Be A Movie Extra*. He also has a company, The Casting Collective, which was formed in 1999. His company finds work for 'extras', people who want to appear in supporting roles in films or on television. He now employs 3,000 extras.**

Rob says that people who have a more **average** appearance and don't stand out tend to get more work. He told us: 'People who are covered in tattoos or are really fat or really tall are only cast in more specific roles.'

Working as an extra won't lead to an Oscar nomination but Rob insists that it is an art form. 'The extras work very long hours and there's a lot of **waiting around**. And then they'll suddenly be required to dance like crazy for a nightclub scene, and more often than not they'll have to dance without any music, which I'm sure is very difficult!'

### So, what does it take to be an extra?

Rob says 'You have to have a good sense of humour and you have to be able to get on with people. As an extra it's your job not to **annoy** the stars, who always have a lot of pressure on them.'

One of Rob's extras, Nobuko Slater, has appeared as an extra in a number of big films, but he hasn't given up his day job. He said 'I have a full-time job in

finance in London, but in recent years I've seen myself in the films *Tomb Raider*, *Spy Game*, and *Legally Blonde*! It all began when I **landed** doing something really different and I always liked the idea of meeting film stars. I applied for the role of 'Businessman wearing smart clothes' in *Tomb Raider* and they obviously liked my pictures because a month later I was on the **film set**. I only work as an extra for about ten days a year but that **suits** me very well. I'm already looking forward to seeing myself in the next Harry Potter film!'

Another extra, Lucy Wallis, warns people who want to be extras that the job is often not very **glamorous**. 'I was once paid £100 to pretend to be dead for the day, for an episode of the TV programme *London's Burning*.'

Rob's book, which is packed with **tips** about the film and TV industry, stresses that extras have to be prepared for anything. He adds: 'Working as an extra doesn't pay very well, but it's unique and it's fun. And although they don't get much thanks for it, the extras are a major factor in a film's success – don't forget that!'