

 Exam task

Five sentences have been removed from the text below. For each question, choose the correct answer. There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

 Exam tip

First decide if each sentence (A–H) relates to the topic of the paragraph. Then look for clues such as pronouns in the sentences before and after the gap to help you.

THE HISTORY OF FOOTBALL AS AN OLYMPIC SPORT



Football was one of the first team games to become an Olympic sport. The first football games were at the Paris Olympics in 1900, but it wasn't a very big competition, with only three teams taking part: France, Great Britain and Belgium.

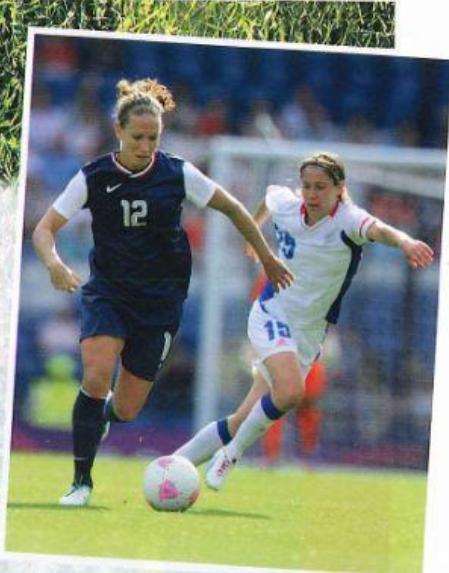
However, in the 1908 London Olympic Games, the Football Association of England organised a proper competition with new rules. Six national teams took part this time. **1**

The first South American team, Uruguay, took part in the Paris Games in 1924 and easily won the event. **2** The Uruguayan side, which included the first Olympic black footballer, José Leandro Andrade, defeated Switzerland 3–0 in the final. Four years later, Uruguay won their second gold by defeating Argentina in the final. It was becoming very clear that South American teams were among the best in the world.

For many years, only amateur athletes were allowed to participate at the Olympic Games. **3** But at the Berlin games in 1936, this changed and countries were able to include their top athletes in all their teams.

4 There was a new rule which said that the majority of players had to be under the age of 23. Only three players over this age could play in each team. The idea was that it would give African and Asian teams a chance against the big footballing nations in Europe and South America. This helped to make it possible for countries like Nigeria and Cameroon to win gold medals in 1996 and 2000.

Women's football, however, didn't become an Olympic sport until 1996. **5** In 1920, an all female match had attracted a huge crowd of 53,000 people in Liverpool. In the 21st century, women's football is becoming very popular again, and there are more opportunities for girls to learn to play.



- A** As a result, they decided not to include football at the 1932 Games.
- B** Another important change happened in 1992 in Barcelona.
- C** This was surprising, because it had been a very popular game in the UK in the early part of the 20th century.
- D** Because of this, they didn't win the match.
- E** It continued to grow after that and is now one of the most popular Olympic events.
- F** They impressed everyone with their amazing display of skills.
- G** The highest score in Olympic history was Denmark's defeat of France in 1908, 17–1.
- H** This meant that the best professional players in the world could not compete.