

**2) Skim the text below as quickly as possible. Then choose the most appropriate title from the four titles below. Give reasons for your choice.**

**a) Crazy about the Olympics**

**b) Short History of the Games**

**c )It's Olympic Time Again!**

**d ) How a Host City is Chosen**

**1** Every four summers, the world goes mad with Olympic fever. But another kind of contest starts long before the Games. There is strong competition among cities to host the Games. The lucky winner receives huge international attention. To be a host city is not only prestigious, but also excellent for tourism and business.

**2** Traditionally, the Games are selected by city rather than country. A few cities have hosted the Summer Olympics twice. Paris was the host in 1904 and 1924; Los Angeles in 1932 and 1984, and Athens in 1896 and 2004. London has hosted the Games three times in 1908, 1948 and 2012. The Winter Olympics, which take place two years after each Summer Olympics, have been hosted twice by St Moritz, Lake Placid and Innsbruck.

**3** There are several stages in a city's selection. All cities wishing to host the Games have to apply to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) by a certain date. These are called 'Applicant Cities'. The IOC considers each of the Applicant Cities carefully, then selects a smaller number of Candidate Cities. Each Candidate City submits details of their plans to host the Olympics. Members of the IOC visit that city, assess its suitability and prepare a report. Members of the IOC then vote for their final choice.

**4** A host city is elected several years before the Games are held there, as cities need a long time to prepare. The city of London was chosen in 2005 to host the Summer Olympics in 2012, and Rio de Janeiro has been chosen as host in 2016. The deadline for applications to host the 2020 Olympics was 1 September 2011, and the IOC received six applications.

These cities, in alphabetical order, were: Baku (Azerbaijan); Doha (Qatar); Istanbul (Turkey); Madrid (Spain); Rome (Italy) and Tokyo (Japan). The final election of the 2020 host city will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 2 September 2013.