



## Olympic Mini-Lesson

### A: Understanding the Topic

Read these statements. They are all about the Olympics and sports. Put a tick next to a statement if you agree with it, a cross if you disagree and a question mark if you are not sure whether you agree or disagree.

1. The Olympics aren't about sport now. They're a competition to see which country has spent the most money on preparing their competitors.
2. The Olympics test the individual ability of different athletes. While we can count the number of medals a country wins, the total is not important. No country 'wins' the Olympics.
3. Athletes aren't thinking about competing for their countries at the Olympics. They're thinking about what sponsorship deals they may win if they are successful.
4. Cheating isn't bad. It's just bad if you get caught cheating in a sporting competition.
5. Sport can unite countries, even ones with very different political systems or religious traditions.
6. The Olympics have always been connected with politics. The Athens Olympics will be no different to any other Olympics. It's impossible to have an Olympics that is free of politics.

### B: Making Notes

Look at the statements from Activity A. Why do you agree or disagree? What reasons do you have? Make some brief notes, writing down the reasons why you agree or disagree or are not sure.

### C: Group Work

Work in groups of three and decide if you are Student A, Student B or Student C. Follow these rules for discussion:

**Student A** chooses one of the statements from Activity A and talks about it for 3 minutes. Students B and C cannot interrupt them while they are talking.

**Student B** then summarizes what Student A has said and then talks about the same statement for 2 minutes.

**Student C** keeps time and summarizes what Students A and B both said.

Then change roles with the next 'Student A' choosing a different statement.

Continue until you have all had a chance to be Student A OR you have finished talking about all the topics.

### D: Follow-up Work: Writing

Choose one of the statements that you discussed today in class and write a short essay giving your opinion.

# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## **A: Understanding the Topic - Notes**

You may need to make sure students understand what the statements mean before they begin. They work individually for Activities A and B.

## **C: Group Work - Notes**

The times given are only guides and you can change them for your class depending on their level. Once you have decided what the times will be, make sure that they are enforced by Student C. This means that students will not become bogged down or allow one student to dominate. Students B and C need to listen carefully in order to give effective summaries.

Students could refer to the notes they made in Activity B if you think it is necessary. Otherwise, tell them to put their notes away.

