**Ancient and Modern Olympics**

The original Olympics

1. Why was athletics important in Ancient Greece?

Athletics was important in ancient Greece because the men had to be fit to fight in the many wars that took place.

2. How many major competitions made up the Panhellenic Games?

Four major competitions made up the Panhellenic Games.

3. When were the Olympic Games first officially recorded?

The Olympic Games were first officially recorded in 776 BC.

4. What types of buildings were erected for the Games?

The types of building erected for the Games were temples, stadia and the hippodromes.

5. Which two events would need horses?

The two events which needed horses were chariot and horse racing.

6. How many events do you think made up the pentathlon?

Five events made up the pentathlon – running, wrestling, boxing, chariot and horse racing.

7. The prizes awarded to the winners do not seem very special to us today. Why do you think the athletes were eager to take part in the Games?

The athletes were eager to participate in the Games because if they won they would be honoured throughout the ancient Greek world.

8. How do you think we know so much about the Olympic Games which happened well over 2000 years ago?

We know so much about the original Games because records were kept, statues were built and pottery was decorated with some of the winners of the events.

The modern Olympics

1. How many years ago were the original Olympic Games held and in which year did the modern Games start?

The original Games were held about 3000 years ago and the modern Games started in 1986.

2. How many centuries were there between the last of the ancient Olympics and the first modern Olympics?

There were more than 15 centuries between the last to the ancient Olympics and the modern Olympics.

3. How many different types of events did the first modern Olympics have?

The first modern Olympics had nine different types of sport.

4. The Winter Games are held every how many years?

The Winter Games are held every four years.

5. Why were the original Games held?

The original Games were held as a religious festival to salute and honour the Greek gods, especially Zeus.

6. What are the main differences between the ancient Olympic Games and those held now?

The main differences between the original and modern Olympics are that there are different types of events, summer and winter Games, the winners and runners-up receive medals rather than ribbons and olive wreaths, the original Games were religious festivals and the modern Games are for personal and national glory and finally, that there is now a lot of money involved in the Games.

7. Why do you think that Pierre de Coubertin imagined that running the Games would help people to live together more peacefully? Do you think he was right?

He imagined that people would become involved in friendly competitions rather than deadly wars. Personally, whilst it was a very good idea, he didn’t succeed as there has been so many wars since the beginning of the modern Games.

8. If the ancient Greeks could see the modern Games, of what would they approve and of what would they disapprove?

The ancient Greeks would probably approve of the different events and the medals but disapprove of the amount of money being involved and the fact that the Games are no longer a religious festival.