

Olympics – heaven or hell?

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

Completing a table of Olympic statistics
 Scanning an article about the impending Olympics to check figures
 Reading the article and listing the problems facing the Olympics
 Matching words in the article to their definitions
 Discussing issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Introduce the theme of the Olympics and find out if any students are going to the Games, or have been to Olympics in the past. Hand out the worksheet and ask students to work in pairs to complete the table of statistics.
- 2 Ask students to scan the text to check their answers.

Answers

(a) <i>Cost of running the 2004 games</i>	€6 billion
(b) <i>Original budget for running the games</i>	€4.6 billion
(c) <i>Cost of the main stadium roof</i>	€189 million
(d) <i>Number of tickets available</i>	5.2 million
(e) <i>Number of tickets unsold</i>	3.4 million
(f) <i>Number of competing nations</i>	202

- 3 Ask the students to read the whole article and to list the main problems mentioned.
- 4 Ask students to match the words in *italics* in the text to the definitions.

Answers

(a) *siphoned off* (b) *spiral* (c) *exclusivity* (d) *embezzlement*

- 5 Ask students to work in groups to discuss their answers to the questions. Monitor the discussion. Ask some students to report their ideas to the class, then hold a feedback session.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://www.olympic.org/uk/index_uk.asp

<http://www.athens2004.com/athens2004/>