

## Use of English

### ► Paper 3, Part 5

#### 1

1 You are going to read two texts about the use of drugs to improve performance in sport. Before you read the texts, decide which of these statements you agree with. Give your reasons.

‘There have been such wonderful advances in technology, training techniques and diet that athletes should make use of as many as they can. It’s only common sense.’

‘Sportspeople should rely only on their own natural biology and physiology. If they use any other aids, they are cheating and not competing fairly.’

2 Now read through the two texts quickly. Are they giving similar or opposite points of view? Which writer has similar views to your own?

#### Text 1

“The debate falls into the same category as recreational drugs. From the Prime Minister down we are forbidden to discuss such things. Everybody just goes around in a state of ignorance without the requisite research or education. The great danger at the moment is not to professionals – who are, on the whole, well looked after – but kids going into cycle races who might feel it is OK to take a bit of EPO (Erythropoietin, which increases the oxygen absorbed in the blood) with no idea of what it is. That’s why I feel the high moral tone everyone takes is not actually helping anyone.

As for the argument that it ruins sport, that is totally unrealistic. Do we want to go back to the Olympic ideal as represented in the film *Chariots of Fire*? No. People don’t want sport to grind on at the same level. Technology in every sense, in training and nutrition, has come a long way since then and using it makes sense. Flo Jo [Seoul Olympics gold medallist Florence Griffiths-Joyner who died in

2 Read text 1 again carefully and answer the questions with a word or short phrase.

- 1 What does the writer feel is the key to progress in sport?
- 2 What phrase used later in the text has a similar meaning to ‘a sport of immense attrition’? (line 24)

3 Read through text 2 and answer these questions in the same way.

- 1 Explain the significance of ‘a level playing field’ (line 26) in this context.
- 2 What idea in the last paragraph illustrates the final point that using drugs is cheating?

4 Think back to your discussion of the statements in Exercise 1. Discuss these questions.

- 1 Have the arguments put forward in the texts caused you to change your mind?
- 2 Can you think of any further arguments for your point of view?
- 3 Can you think of any situations in which the opposite point of view might be justifiable?

1998] was a tremendous success. She was obviously worth a hundred other runners.

Look at cycling. For top class professionals it is a sport of immense attrition. What you’re doing in one long stage in the Pyrenees is like riding from Brussels to Paris and climbing the height equivalent of a small mountain in the Himalayas. It is devastating on the human body and the necessity of restoring and resuscitating the body is looked at very carefully. Participants would be the first not to want to take things which are going to cause their joints to seize up or their livers to fail. These people do not want to die young and can see the implications of what they are taking.”

James Waddington, writer and cycling expert



## 5

1 Read the following summary task. Underline the key words.

In a paragraph of between 50 and 70 words, summarise in your own words as far as possible the dangers described in the texts of removing all restrictions on the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport.

2 Read texts 1 and 2 again. Underline and number the main points related to the dangers of using drugs in sport. Although only one of the texts suggests that drug use should be banned, they both admit that the use of drugs can cause problems to some people.

3 Make notes, using your own words as far as possible.

4 Look at your notes carefully. Does each one make a new point? (One point is made by both texts. You will need to recognise this point.) What is the best order for the points?

5 Write out your notes as a connected paragraph.

6 Check that:

- you have made four clear points about the dangers of unrestricted drug use. (It is probably best to put each point in a separate sentence.)
- the number of words is between 50 and 70.
- you have organised and linked your ideas clearly.
- your grammar, spelling and punctuation are accurate.

6 Compare your paragraph with the one below.

This paragraph is well organised, the ideas are well linked together, and it is within the specified limit. However, only three of the four necessary points have been included, and one sentence is completely irrelevant. Decide which point has been omitted (it is a point from text 1) and which sentence is irrelevant. Then replace the irrelevant sentence with a new sentence giving the necessary information. Make sure that the paragraph remains within the 70-word limit.

*The use of performance-enhancing drugs can physically damage the body and may be responsible for a rise in sports-related illnesses. Competitors must therefore be tested, and banned from sport if found to be using drugs. Drug use removes the social value of sport, making players depend on artificial substances rather than their own skill. If success depends only on such chemicals, the whole purpose of sport will be destroyed. (69 words)*

## Text 2



“I was the first athlete to address the Olympic Committee in 1981 when I called for the life ban of competitors that used drugs. Then I joined the Sports Council and as vice-chairman set up the out-of-competition testing that is now common. Anyone eligible for either junior or senior competition in Britain can be tested at any time. My main argument for maintaining a ban on performance-enhancing drugs is that free, open and pure competition remains an essential social value. We either have sportspeople who are faster, fitter and stronger than the rest, by natural means and with recourse only to their natural biology and physiology, or we go down the road where success lies in the hands of the chemists. Fairness – a level playing field – is what most people expect who go into an athletics stadium or sporting arena. We also know – I know – having spoken to coaches from all over the globe, we are getting more than a casual correlation between some of the illnesses seen in sports and some of the methods being used to improve performances. Using drugs is like climbing the wall of the football ground without paying. You’ve got to pay your dues and that means hard work. Having entered the moral maze and said all that, you still can’t get away from one simple fact – using drugs is cheating.”

*Sebastian Coe, Olympic gold medallist*