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NOTE: Choose option A or B, and answer the questions from 1 to 4. For question 5, you can choose to write the composition that you like best, from either option A or option B.

OPTION A

RUSSIA BANNED FROM NEXT OLYMPIC GAMES


5 Russia has been banned from competing in international sport for the next 4 years by the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada). This includes the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the 2022 Fifa World Cup in Qatar. They have been banned for the second time since 2015, having been unable to compete in athletics since then. Russia was originally banned after being caught cheating at the 2014 Winter Olympics which was hosted in Sochi, Russia. Wada found that the Russian government had operated a state-sponsored doping programme for four years to help its athletes cheat by using banned drugs. The government then hid the evidence from Wada.

10 The ban was a result of a unanimous vote made by Wada’s executive committee in Lausanne, Switzerland. It came after Russia’s Anti-Doping Agency (Rusada) manipulated laboratory data which was then handed over to investigators in January 2019. However, the decision has been criticized by some campaigners for not being strong enough, since the Russian national anthem and the flag will be absent from both Tokyo and Qatar, but under the terms of the sanction Russian athletes who can prove that they have had no part in the scandal and have not used banned substances will be able to participate in the 2020 Olympics under a neutral flag.

15 Although Wada’s president believes this ban to be exactly what should be delivered, vice-president of Wada Linda Helleland has complained that the 4-year ban is not enough. She has been quoted saying, “I wanted sanctions that cannot be watered down,” continuing, “We owe it to the clean athletes to implement the sanctions as strongly as possible.” Those who agree with her are concerned that weak punishments may only encourage athletes to cheat in the future. The prime minister of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev has accused
20 this ban of being a result of “chronic anti-Russia hysteria.” Rusada has 21 days to appeal the ban and they have since stated that they do not agree with the punishment from Wada and that a letter will be prepared on behalf of President Vladimir Putin to fight it. (Fragment adapted from various sources.)

1) BRIEFLY ANSWER ONLY 4 OUT OF THE FOLLOWING 6 QUESTIONS WITH ONLY THE DATA REQUIRED (NOT A WHOLE SENTENCE) (2 POINTS; 0.5 POINTS EACH).

1. Which are the two main sports events from which Russia has been banned until 2022?
2. In the phrase *It came after Russia’s Anti-Doping Agency (Rusada) manipulated laboratory data* (line 9), the word ‘it’ refers to ...
3. Which are the two main elements representing Russia which will not be present in those sports events?
4. In the phrase *they have had no part in the scandal and have not used banned substances* (line 13), the word ‘they’ refers to ...
5. What may athletes be inclined to do in the future due to weak punishments?
6. In the phrase *a letter will be prepared on behalf of President Vladimir Putin to fight it* (line 22), the word ‘it’ refers to ...

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2) ARE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? INDICATE THE LINES THAT SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER (1 POINT).

1. Russia will be allowed to compete in Tokyo 2020 Olympics, but not in the 2022 Fifa World Cup in Qatar.

2. Russian athletes who can prove they did not take drugs will be able to participate in the 2020 Olympics with the Russian flag.

3) CHOOSE a OR b. ONLY ONE CHOICE IS CORRECT ACCORDING TO THE TEXT (1 POINT).

a) Russian government has always been honest with Wada.

b) Wada's vice president does not agree with the punishment given to Russia.

4) VOCABULARY (2 POINTS).

4.1 Find one word in the text for one of the two definitions (0.6 POINTS):

a) Agreed by everyone.

b) A patriotic song adopted by a country as an expression of national identity.

4.2 Find a synonym in the text for one of the two words below (0.6 POINTS):

a) missing

b) declared


4.3 For one of the following words from the text, give a synonym that fits the meaning of the text (0.8 POINTS):

a) evidence (line 7)

b) concerned (line 18)

5) WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 120-150 WORDS (4 POINTS).

What measures can be taken to fight the use of drugs in sports?

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NOTE: Choose option A or B, and answer the questions from 1 to 4. For question 5, you can choose to write the composition that you like best, from either option A or option B.

OPTION B

AUSTRALIA’S DEADLY WILDFIRES ARE SHOWING NO SIGNS OF STOPPING

Australia is being ravaged by the worst wildfires seen in decades, with large swaths of the country devastated since the fire season began in late July.

At least 28 people have died nationwide, and in the state of New South Wales (NSW) alone, more than 3,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged. State and federal authorities are struggling to contain the massive blazes, even with firefighting assistance from other countries, including the United States. All this has been exacerbated by persistent heat and drought, and many point to climate change as a factor making natural disasters go from bad to worse.

There have been fires in every Australian state, but New South Wales has been hardest hit. Blazes have torn through bushland, wooded areas, and national parks like the Blue Mountains. Some of Australia’s largest cities have also been affected, including Melbourne and Sydney -- where fires have damaged homes in the outer suburbs and thick plumes of smoke have blanketed the urban center. Earlier in December, the smoke was so bad in Sydney that air quality measured 11 times the hazardous level.

The fires range in area from small blazes -- isolated buildings or part of a neighborhood -- to massive infernos that occupy entire hectares of land. Some start and are contained in a matter of days, but the biggest blazes have been burning for months. In NSW alone, more than 100 fires are still burning.


WHAT IS CAUSING THE FIRES?

Each year there is a fire season during the Australian summer, with hot, dry weather making it easy for blazes to start and spread.

Natural causes are to blame most of the time, like lightning strikes in drought-affected forests. Dry lightning was responsible for starting a number of fires in Victoria’s East Gippsland region in late December, which then traveled more than 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) in just five hours. Humans can also be to blame. NSW police have charged at least 24 people with deliberately starting bushfires, and have taken legal action against 183 people for fire-related offenses since November, according to a police statement. (Fragment adapted from *CNN News*.)

1) BRIEFLY ANSWER ONLY 4 OUT OF THE FOLLOWING 6 QUESTIONS WITH ONLY THE DATA REQUIRED (NOT A WHOLE SENTENCE) (2 POINTS; 0.5 POINTS EACH).

1. What is the Australia natural area most affected by the flames?
2. In the phrase *where fires have damaged homes in the outer suburbs* (lines 10-11), the word ‘where’ refers to ...
3. Which Australian cities are affected by the smoke choking the air?
4. When does the fire season in Australia take place each year?
5. In the phrase *which then traveled more than 20 kilometers* (line 21), the word ‘which’ refers to ...
6. Have New South Wales police refrained from taking legal action against people for fire-related offenses?

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2) ARE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? INDICATE THE LINES THAT SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER (1 POINT).

1. NSW state is the hardest-hit state by fire in Australia.
2. Large columns of smoke covered the central parts of some of Australia's biggest cities.

3) CHOOSE a OR b. ONLY ONE CHOICE IS CORRECT ACCORDING TO THE TEXT (1 POINT).

- a) The heat and dry weather have nothing to do with Australia's wildfires.
- b) Blue Mountain is an Australia wilderness area located in NSW state.

4) VOCABULARY (2 POINTS).

4.1 Find one word in the text for one of the two definitions (0.6 POINTS):

- a) Periods of ten years.
- b) The action of helping someone by sharing work.

4.2 Find a synonym in the text for one of the two words below (0.6 POINTS):

- a) fighting
- b) infractions

4.3 For one of the following words from the text, give a synonym that fits the meaning of the text (0.8 POINTS):

- a) hazardous (line 12)
- b) forests (line 19)

5) WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 120-150 WORDS (4 POINTS).

How can climate change affect our daily life?