



# Global Issues

Short-answer questions: the Refugee Olympic Team | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

## 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Why might sport matter to people who have been displaced?
2. Should refugees be able to compete at the Olympic Games?
3. How can a team represent more than one country?
4. What challenges might refugee athletes face?

### Exercise 1 at a glance

Read one factual text. Answers are in the text. Copy exact words and check the question carefully before choosing your answer.

## 2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. Why is the Refugee Olympic Team important?

### The Refugee Olympic Team

The Refugee Olympic Team allows athletes who have been forced to flee their countries to compete at the Olympic Games. The team first appeared at the Rio 2016 Olympics and has continued at later Games. It gives elite refugee athletes a chance to compete even when they cannot represent their country of origin.

The team is supported by the International Olympic Committee, known as the IOC, and works with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Athletes may train while living in host countries, often far from the places where they were born. Their journeys can include interrupted education, loss of family support and difficulty finding safe training conditions.

At the Paris 2024 Olympics, the Refugee Olympic Team was the largest in its history. It included 37 athletes competing in 12 sports. These athletes were hosted by 15 National Olympic Committees, which helped them prepare and take part in the Games.

The team is important symbolically. It reminds audiences that refugees are not only people in need of help; they are also students, workers, parents, artists and athletes with ambitions. Competing at the Olympics can show talent and determination, but it can also draw attention to the experiences of millions of displaced people.

Selection for the team is demanding. Athletes must be refugees and must also perform at an elite sporting level. They often train while dealing with uncertainty about documents, travel, funding or family situations. This makes their preparation very different from that of many athletes supported by national systems from a young age.

The team also gives audiences a different way to think about global displacement. News reports about refugees often focus on camps, borders or emergencies. Sport does not remove those realities, but it can show individual stories of discipline, skill and hope. This can make a large global issue feel more human.

The team does not solve the global refugee crisis. Most refugees will never become Olympic athletes, and many still face problems with housing, education, healthcare and legal protection. However, sport can provide routine, friendship and hope for people who have experienced disruption.

In Paris, the team also achieved a historic first when boxer Cindy Ngamba won the first Olympic medal for the Refugee Olympic Team. Her success gave the team a sporting milestone as well as a symbolic one. The achievement showed that refugee athletes were not only present at the Games; they could also compete at the highest level.

### 3. Strategy focus

#### Check who is being described

This text mentions athletes, the IOC and UNHCR. Check who each question asks about before copying your answer.

### 4. Exam-style short-answer questions

Answer the questions using words from the text.

1. Where did the Refugee Olympic Team first appear? [1]

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2. Which UN agency works with the team? [1]

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3. How many sports did the Paris 2024 team compete in? [1]

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4. What can competing at the Olympics show besides talent? [1]

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5. Who won the first Olympic medal for the team? [1]

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6. According to the text, what are three challenges or difficulties refugee athletes may face? [3]

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### 5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

### 6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Can sport change how people think about refugees?

2. Summary: Summarise the Refugee Olympic Team in about 50 words.

3. Creative task: Write a short profile of a refugee athlete.

4. Research: Find one organisation that supports displaced young people.

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## 4. Exam-style short-answer questions

1. the Rio 2016 Olympics
2. UNHCR / the UN Refugee Agency
3. 12 sports
4. determination
5. Cindy Ngamba
6. Any three from: interrupted education; loss of family support; difficulty finding safe training conditions; uncertainty about documents; uncertainty about travel; uncertainty about funding; uncertainty about family situations.

## Notes for checking

1. Answers should be short and clearly based on the text.
2. Accept bracketed or optional wording if the meaning is clear.
3. For the final question, learners need three separate details.