

ISE I

Sample Independent listening task 2 – Winter Olympics

Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a short talk about history. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me in a few words what the talk is about.

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about the Winter Olympics. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me six pieces of information about the Winter Olympics.

When the candidate has finished, select four follow-up questions from the list below. Choose four questions which correspond to facts not already reported by the candidate.

Audio script

The winter Olympics began in France in 1924. Sixteen countries competed and since then the competition has grown internationally. In 2014, 88 countries were in the Russian winter Olympics. Thailand Brazil and Kenya have sent teams to the winter Olympics. That's surprising because they're countries with warm climates. Sometimes the winter weather can cause problems for the Olympics. In the Austrian Olympics there wasn't enough snow and in the Japanese Olympics there was too much. When the winter Olympics began in Russia, the organisers were worried that it might be warm. They decided to use snow machines. The huge machines worked all day and night to make new snow. Norway is the country that has won the most gold medals. The oldest winner is the ski jumper Anders Haugen. He competed in the first winter Olympics in 1924. At the time, there was a mistake with his result. The mistake was discovered fifty years later. When he finally received his medal he was 83 years old.

Questions and answers

If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the questions once.

What the talk is about: Winter Olympics (any broadly similar formulation is acceptable).

	Fact from recording	Follow-up question
1	First Winter Olympics was in France in 1924	When/where was the first Winter Olympics?
2	16 countries	How many countries were in the first Winter Olympics?
3	88 countries in 2014 Russian games	How many countries were in the Russian Winter Olympics?
4	Thailand, Brazil, Kenya have warm climates but sent teams	Why is it surprising that Thailand, Brazil and Kenya sent teams?
5	Winter weather causes problems Austria – not enough snow. Japan – too much snow	What can cause problems? What happened in Austria and Japan?
6	Russian organisers were worried because can be warm	Why were the Russian organisers worried?
7	Snow machines worked all day and night Snow machines made new snow	How long did the snow machines work? What did the snow machines do?
8	Norway won most medals	Which country has won most gold medals?
9	Oldest winner/ski jumper	Who was Anders Haugen?
10	Mistake with his result	Why didn't Anders Haugen get a medal?
11	Found the error 50 years later	When did they find the error?
12	83 – got his medal	How old was he when he got his medal?