

91436R



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
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Level 3 History 2022

91436 Analyse evidence relating to an historical event of significance to New Zealanders

Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the questions for History 91436.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–10 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

INTRODUCTION: The 1972 Munich Olympic Games Terrorist Attack

The modern Olympic Movement was founded by Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin. One of the ideals he hoped the Olympics would promote was the use of athletic competition to foster understanding across cultures, thereby lessening the dangers of war. He also thought that the ancient practice of a sacred truce in association with the Games might have modern implications, giving the Olympics a role in promoting peace.

The modern Olympics has evolved an extensive charter that has developed many of de Coubertin's ideas around sport and how best to run a successful Olympic Games. Keeping the games politically neutral has been an important part of the Olympics' success. The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) mission statement says that the IOC will "... take action to strengthen the unity of the Olympic Movement, to protect its independence, to maintain and promote its political neutrality ..." and rule 50 of the Olympic Charter was updated in 1975 to say, "Every kind of demonstration or propaganda, whether political, religious, or racial, in the Olympic areas, is forbidden".

In 2020, IOC President Thomas Bach described the importance of this neutrality: "In the Olympic Games, we are all equal. Everyone respects the same rules, irrespective of social background, gender, race, sexual orientation, or political belief.

"The Olympic Games are not about politics. The IOC, as a civil non-governmental organisation, is strictly politically neutral at all times."

The political neutrality of the Games has been challenged many times. At the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich Germany, eight members of 'Black September', an off-shoot of the Palestine Liberation Organization, killed two members of the Israeli Olympic team in an initial attack and then took nine hostages. In a disastrous rescue attempt by German police, all of the hostages, five terrorists, and one policeman were killed.

While some people wanted to cancel the Games out of respect for the dead athletes, others wanted to keep the Olympics as a pure sporting event, ignoring political influences. After a brief period of suspension and a memorial service in the Olympic Stadium, the Games resumed.

SOURCE A: The debate whether to continue the Games

A massive argument erupted in Munich over a decision by the organisers to continue the Games. Many officials wanted them cancelled. Willi Daume, for example, the head of the National Olympic Committee of Germany ... was devastated by the Israeli deaths.

Intense pressure was applied to other German politicians to keep the Games going. According to Ulrich Wegener [a German police officer and founding member of the counter-terrorist force GSG 9], "The IOC, in their meeting after the incidents, forced the government to go on with the Games ... I think there was a feeling that dead Israeli athletes should not be the last picture people had to see from the Olympic Games".

Many athletes were sickened by the decision to go on. The entire Philippines' athletics team left Munich, as did six members of the Dutch team. Sprinter Wilma van Gool said they were leaving in protest at the "obscene" decision to continue. Dutch wrestler Barend Kops said he would not go on because he was a friend of one of the dead Israelis. Thirteen Norwegian athletes ... said they would not continue "when 11 of our sports colleagues have been murdered".

Those involved have differing opinions. "Personally I think the games should have continued, otherwise you give in to the terrorists," said Shmuel Lalkin [Israeli Olympic Team Head]. Roone Arledge, head reporter of ABC Sports, concurred: "I think most people agreed that the Games shouldn't be called off, but it did seem like it was brushed off very quickly and business as usual".

Even Abu Iyad, one of the terrorists who ordered the attack, was surprised by the world's indifference: "We were obliged to note, with considerable sadness, that a large segment of world opinion was far more concerned about the twenty-four-hour interruption in the grand spectacle of the Olympic Games, than it was about the dramatic plight endured by the Palestinian people for the past twenty-four years, or the atrocious end of the commandos and their hostages".

However, two American marathon runners, Kenny Moore and Frank Shorter, had no doubt they should continue with their gruelling event. ... "We have to not let this detract from our performance," Shorter said to Moore, "because that's what they want".

Source (adapted): Reeve, S. (2005). *One Day in September: The full story of the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and the Israeli revenge operation 'Wrath of God'*. Faber & Faber Ltd. Chapter 8, pp. 175–177

SOURCE B: A compromise—the memorial service, 1972

An indomitable¹ Avery Brundage [fifth President of the IOC, from 1952 to 1972] told a shocked and horrified world here Wednesday that the Olympic ideals must go on despite politics, commercialism, and terror.

The chief of Israel's Olympic team, Shmuel Lalkin, also spoke. Lalkin brought a huge ovation from the crowd when he stated that despite the tragedy, Israel hoped the Olympic Games would continue. He called for a continuation of competition "in the spirit of world sportsmanship". Lalkin said, "with deep shock, we sorrow over the barbarous attack by terrorists against our sportsmen who were murdered".

[Later] Brundage ... stood ... and spoke out almost in defiance at those who would destroy his cherished Olympic ideals.

"Every civilised person recoiled in horror at the barbarous criminal intrusion of terrorists into the peaceful Olympic precincts," Brundage said. "We mourn our Israeli friends, victims of this brutal assault.

"Sadly, the greater and more important the Olympic Games become, the more they are open to commercial, political, and now criminal pressure," Brundage continued. "I am sure the public will agree that we cannot allow a handful of terrorists to destroy this nucleus of international cooperation and goodwill we have in the Olympic movement."

Then came the announcement which at first brought murmurs and then thunderous applause from the assemblage.

"The Games must go on and we must continue our efforts to keep them clear, pure, and honest and try to extend sportsmanship off the athletic field to other areas.

"We declare today a day of mourning and will continue all the events one day later than scheduled."

¹. indomitable impossible to subdue or defeat



Munich's Olympic Stadium during the memorial. The stadium could hold over 80,000 people.

SOURCE C: New Zealand Olympian remembers

Going to the Olympics in 1972 was a dream come true for Robert Oliver, who has been cycling for over 50 years.

Mr Oliver was selected to go to the 1972 Olympics. “It’s every person’s dream,” he said. “I’d always dreamed of going.”

“I was just a young boy from Waipuk [Waipukurau], who spent a couple of years in Wellington and all of a sudden, I’m going to Munich.”

The [terrorist] attack “totally changed the atmosphere” of the Olympic village, Mr Oliver said. “There’s quite a carnival atmosphere in the village and there had been, right until the moment that happened.”

Mr Oliver’s race was one of the last, but when asked if he felt the attack affected his performance, he said he didn’t think so.

“A good athlete is narrow-minded,” he said. “You’re there for one purpose.”

While the village atmosphere had changed, Mr Oliver said the “competition atmosphere was still as hard as ever”.

He recalled watching the last day of competition for athletics, when he and 80,000 other spectators turned out.

“It had to go on,” he said. “You can’t bow to their pressure, you’ve got to carry on.”



Cycling has been a life-long passion for Robert Oliver, who represented New Zealand at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.

Source (adapted): White, V. (2016, July 31). Bay Olympian remembers Munich Massacre. *Hawkes Bay Today*. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/bay-olympian-remembers-munich-massacre/QHHU3UMZACAJGKLYFBQALPEG4/>
Image: Buckland, W. [Photograph]. *Hawkes Bay Today*. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/bay-olympian-remembers-munich-massacre/QHHU3UMZACAJGKLYFBQALPEG4/>

SOURCE D: New Zealand sports broadcaster remembers

Keith Quinn was a sports reporter and commentator for 45 years. He commentated for New Zealand television networks at ten Olympic Games, from Munich in 1972, to Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Like everyone else there, I was devastated. I had turned 26 in the first week of competition. I was blissfully happy. My wife, Anne, back in Auckland where we lived at the time, was pregnant with our first baby. I was at the Games of my dreams.

The killing of several Israeli athletes and the holding of the rest of them as hostages meant the excitement all came crashing down. My first reaction was that this would be the end of the modern Olympic movement as we had come to know it. I thought the rest of the competition would be suspended and we would all be sent home.

Yet in a bizarre way, and looking back all these years later, and very selfishly I admit, the terrorism thing in Munich was very good for my career.

It was like this. Back home at work in New Zealand, there was then a clear division between news reporters and sports reporters. ... It was considered that sports reporters commentated only on sports events. But out of the Munich horror, I phoned some news reports back home, which proved to the powers that be that in times of crisis, sports reporters could cross the line.

... I sat there in our studio, alone with the devastation of the day, and the fact that the cancellation of the Olympic Games would surely be confirmed tomorrow morning. Perhaps forever. One couldn't have reasonably expected the IOC to continue after several competitors had been murdered. My world had collapsed.

I gazed at the TV screens and came out of my vacant trance only when suddenly brand new stories flashed from Munich's Furstenfeldbruck Airport. We were next informed that in fact all of the remaining hostages had not been saved at all. ... This was a mournful addition to the horror of the previous 24 hours of world news. It needed to be told to the folks back home.

Somehow, someone in the newsroom decided to believe the trembling boy at the end of the line. My hurried reports were recorded and they made the various afternoon national radio news. Instantly, apparently I was transformed from a jock sports reporter into a person with some kind of ability as a hard news hound. That reputation I was not to really appreciate till I reached home.

... So the Games went on, after a suitably sombre memorial service. I fully supported the decision though many did not.

Source (adapted): Quinn, K. (2016). Olympic Memories: Munich 1972. *KeithQuinnRugby Thinking and talking about rugby every day for 50+ years*. <https://keithquinnrugby.com/olympic-memories/munich-1972/>

SOURCE E(i): Athletes hurdling coffins



Image: Fawkes, W. (Trog). (1972, September 10). Unknown title [cartoon]. Observer: British Cartoon Archive for the Fawkes. <https://archive.cartoons.ac.uk/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=WF0003&pos=65> and <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/kent/news/sports-illustrated-a62247/>

SOURCE E(ii): The spirit of Olympics



Image: Mitchell, N. (1972). *The spirit of Olympics* [cartoon]. Adelaide News. <https://www.original-political-cartoon.com/cartoon-gallery/buy/the-spirit-of-olympics/4719/>

SOURCE F: New Zealanders react to the Munich tragedy

Sir, – The decision to continue with the Olympic Games is the only thinkable one. Blackmail is one of the hardest tests of integrity, but sport is one of the few chances left to men to demonstrate integrity. ... But it is most praiseworthy and heartening that those so closely involved, so exposed to shock, but who had to make the decision held such a view – a view of world statesmanship.

Source (adapted): Williams, N. M. (1972, September 8). The Munich Tragedy [Letter to the Editor]. *The Press*, p. 8.

Sir, –By its decision to continue the competition, the International Olympic Committee has affronted humanity and violated the true Olympic spirit. ... Its refusal to lead nations above their selfish desire for gold after the recent events is incontrovertible evidence that Olympic sport and humanism do not mix.

Source (adapted): Gross, S. and P. (1972, September 12). The Munich Tragedy [Letter to the Editor, September 8]. *The Press*, p. 12.

Norman Harris was a New Zealand sports journalist at the 1972 Olympic Games.

... Still people here are asking themselves and each other whether the games should have continued.

The question is debated at every gathering with journalistic friends. ...

One hopes it does not seem too selfish and mercenary a standpoint to argue for the continuation on behalf of the other athletes who had trained for years to compete here and of the spectators – many of whom had come from great distances at great expense.

Source (adapted): Harris, N. (1972, September 13). Amateur's role reaffirmed. *The Press*, p. 13.

SOURCE G: 2016 Olympics – a memorial stone

Ankie Spitzer (widow of the slain Israeli fencing coach Andre Spitzer) had been writing to the IOC since 1972 to try to get a memorial built for the Israeli athletes.

After years of struggle and letter-writing, Ankie Spitzer and the other victims' relatives have the consolation of a memorial ceremony in the athletes' village in Rio, where a memorial stone will be unveiled.

Ankie Spitzer says she has asked for a minute of silence ever since the 1976 Games.

The request was turned down, and she says she was told it was "because then there were 21 Arab delegations and if they [the IOC] would do a memorial all these delegations would boycott, and they would go home". There have been other "excuses" since.

The Olympic historian Jules Boykoff, author of the recently released *Power Games: A Political History of the Olympics*, says part of the explanation for the delay was "a guiding fiction that the IOC has long clung to – that politics and sports don't mix".

That paradigm¹ has changed under Thomas Bach [the IOC President since 2013].

Mr Boykoff says there is no question a ceremony would be controversial for some of Israel's political foes, but for the IOC there were also other reasons for keeping politics away from the Games.

"If they could keep politics, hot-button politics, off the agenda then they could focus on sport, and, let's be honest, on the money-making that is attendant to the Olympics," he says.

The Rio Games are the first to be held in South America, but the ceremony at the Olympic village means they will also be the first in a new chapter of Olympic history.

¹. paradigm model

SOURCE H: 2020 Olympics –the long-awaited tribute

An official memorial was held Sunday in Tokyo for the 11 Israeli athletes murdered at the 1972 Munich Olympics, days after the opening Tokyo Olympics ceremony included, for the first time, an official commemoration of those who died in the terror attack nearly 50 years ago.

Ankie Spitzer, widow of the slain Israeli fencing coach Andre Spitzer, profusely thanked International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach for the gesture at the opening ceremony, calling it a “glorious moment” to “finally realise that our 11 loved ones were recognised as members of the Olympic family, that they were no longer ignored because they were Jews and Israelis”.

Bach told the ceremony: “We know that no ceremony and no memory can ever fill the void left by those whose lives were taken so violently. With these acts of remembrance, we wanted to honour their memory, while also attempting to close the wounds of the past.”

A moment of silence was offered inside the stadium, and then a dance performance honouring the dead.

Families of the Munich victims have campaigned for years for greater public recognition for the dead from the IOC. The IOC faced criticism for refusing to hold a moment of silence for the Israeli victims during the opening of the 2012 London Games, 40 years after the attack.

Spitzer and another widow, Ilana Romano whose husband, Yossef, a wrestler, also died in the rescue attempt, were at the opening ceremony.

“Finally there is justice for the husbands, sons, and fathers murdered at Munich,” the two said in a joint statement. “We went through 49 years of struggle and never gave up. [We] cannot hold back our tears. This is the moment we’ve waited for.”



Ilana Romano and Ankie Spitzer, widows of Yossef Romano and Andre Spitzer, who were murdered in the 1972 Munich massacre, take part in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics opening ceremony, July 23, 2021.

Source (adapted): Times of Israel staff and agencies. (2021, August 1). At Munich massacre memorial in Tokyo, widow lauds Olympics' long-awaited tribute. *Times of Israel*. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-munich-massacre-memorial-widow-lauds-olympics-long-awaited-tribute/>

Image: Times of Israel. (2021, July 23). [Courtesy Photograph]. Times of Israel. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/after-49-years-israeli-victims-of-1972-olympic-massacre-honored-at-tokyo-opener/>

