

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions following it.

Unit-2: Lesson-2(B)

With the curtains closing on the 2012 London Olympics, it's impossible not to look back and reflect on the greatest performances by Olympic athletes.

The Olympics have many memorable moments and athletes we'll remember by name alone. The list is quite big. Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt are the latest addition to this list of the bests. They make London Olympics stand apart. If there is any question like this: "What is the standout performance of London 2012?", perhaps the answer is "The London Games gave us Michael Phelps vs. Usain Bolt." The first one is an already decorated Olympian, who puts the finishing touches on his great athletic careers. And another comes up with a new definition of fast.

Two of the most popular Olympic sports, sprinting and swimming, saw their two biggest stars and captivated audiences. They'd also dominated the 2008 Beijing Games, but Phelps and Bolt cemented their legacies in London. Phelps, the American swimmer, passed gymnast Larissa Latynia for the most Olympic medals ever. Bolt was the third man to repeat as a 100-meter gold medalist and the first as a 200-meter gold medalist, and he broke his own Olympic record by running the 100 in 9.63 seconds. Once Phelps and Bolt were back in their pool and track, the story lines changed.

Phelps is the most-decorated Olympian ever, with 22 overall medals: 18 gold, two silver, two bronze. Bolt is the most accomplished Olympic sprinter, with the unprecedented double, making clear that he's the fastest man in the world.

But there's a debate: Who had the better Olympics? It'd be tough to top Phelps' eight gold medals in Beijing, but what if we're only talking London?

London was Phelps' grand finale. He won four golds and two silvers in seven events, and he says he'll never race again.

London was Bolt's chance to prove he's still the greatest. Bolt wins six gold medals in six Olympic finals. He is the first man ever in the history of the modern Games to sweep the 100 and 200 in back-to-back Olympics. Not to mention the addition of back-to-back relay golds.

And Bolt became a legend, in his own words. Phelps already was. Bolt is just 25 years old, so there is no telling how long he can be on top of the sprinting world. What if he decides to "retire" from sprinting to focus on the 400 meters, just to break another world record or two? It would be amazing—and entirely plausible for him to accomplish.

Who had the better 2012 Games? You tell us, let the debate begin.

VOCABULARY

Reflect (রিফ্লেক্ট) v.- throw back without absorbing; প্রতিফলিত করা। **Performance** (পারফরমেন্স) n.- an act of presenting a play, concert or other form of entertainment; কার্যসম্পাদন, নৈপুণ্য। **Memorable** (মেমোর্যবল) adj.- worth remembering or easily remembered; স্মরণীয়। **Moment** (মোমেন্ট) n.- a very brief period of time; মুহূর্ত। **Athlete** (অ্যাথলিট) n.- a person who is very good at sports or physical exercise; ক্রীড়াবিদ। **Apart** (অ্যাপার্ট) adv.- separated by a distance; দূর, আলাদা। **Definition** (ডেফিনিশন) n.- a statement that explains the meaning of a word or phrase; সংজ্ঞা। **Captivate** (ক্যাপটিভেইট) v.- attract and hold the interest and attention of; বিমুগ্ধ করা। **Unprecedented** (আনপ্রেসিডেন্টেড) adj.- never done or known before; নজিরবিহীন। **Tough** (ট্যাফ) adj.- not easily broken; শক্ত। **Finale** (ফিন্যালি) adj.- the last part of a public event;

পরিসমাপ্তি। **Legend** (লেজেন্ড) n.- an extremely famous or notorious person; কিংবদন্তী। **Plausible** (প্লোজিবল) adj.- seeming reasonable or probable; যুক্তিসঙ্গত, সম্ভাবনা আছে এমন (সম্ভাবনীয়), বিশ্বাসযোগ্য।

1. Choose the best answer from the alternatives.

1×7=7

(a) Michael Phelps won ____ in his Olympic career.

- (i) 22 gold medals (ii) 22 medals (iii) 7 bronzes (iv) 22 silvers

(b) The word “cement” means ____.

- (i) mixed (ii) separate (iii) lessen (iv) strengthen

(c) The phrase “back-to-back” refers to ____.

- (i) consecutive (ii) twice (iii) many times (iv) more than two

(d) Which sentence is not true about Bolt?

- (i) He is an American. (ii) He is a sprinter.
(iii) He broke his own record in the 100 meters. (iv) He is younger than Michael Phelps.

(e) The 2008 Olympics was held in ____.

- (i) Beijing (ii) New York (iii) London (iv) Brazil

(f) The word “standout” means ____.

- (i) ordinary (ii) extra-ordinary (iii) efficient (iv) frustrated

(g) The purpose of the author of the passage is ____.

- (i) to portray the prospect of Olympic Games
(ii) to uphold the history of Olympic
(iii) to highlight the performance of Bolt and Phelps in the London Olympics.
(iv) to show the importance of sports.

(h) The word “unprecedented” means ____.

- (i) common (ii) usual (iii) unparalleled (iv) ordinary

(i) “Let the debate begin” is a/an ____ sentence.

- (i) Assertive (ii) Imperative (iii) Interrogative (iv) Exclamatory

(j) Larissa Latynia is a ____.

- (i) British gymnast (ii) swimmer (iii) gymnast (iv) Sprinter

(k) Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt are the latest addition to this list of the bests. Here underlined word is

a/an_____.

(i) Adjective (ii) Noun (iii) Verb (iv) Adverb

(l) The phrase “look back” means _____.

(i) see behind (ii) pursue (iii) hold (iv) think about

m. Who is the fastest man in the planet?

(i) Thatcher (ii) John (iii) Phelps (iv) Bolt

n. The term 'Olympics' is — from the town of Olympia.

(i) derive (ii) meaning (iii) derived (iv) originating

o. These two athletes' reputations are — recognized.

(i) globally (ii) nationally (iii) provincially (iv) locally

p. The success of these two legends will —.

(i) go in vain (ii) remain unforgettable (iii) spear (iv) unforgettable

q. Phelps excels others in —.

(i) sprinting (ii) shooting (iii) swimming (iv) boxing

r. Michael Phelps has the — nationality.

(i) Indo (ii) American (iii) native American (iv) British

2. Answer the following questions.

2×5 = 10

- Why does the speaker consider the London Olympics as Michael Phelps vs Usain Bolt?
- Why is Bolt considered the most accomplished Olympic sprinter?
- What made the London Olympics exceptionally sensational?
- How many medals did Phelps and Bolt win individually and altogether?
- Who do you think the better athlete of the 2012 Olympics? Why?
- How are Phelps and Bolt brilliantly similar and different?
- Between these two Olympians who have bagged the highest honour within the same time frame?
- What is special in Bolt so far?
- How does Bolt evaluate himself?

(j) What could Bolt possibly do to break one or more other world records according to the passage?

3. Fill in each gap with a suitable word of your own based on the information in the text.

1×5=5

- i. These are the stories of two most successful Olympians of the history. While one is famous as the fastest (a) ____, the other as the fastest (b) ____ of the world. However, both are unparalleled for their (c) ____ in their own field. They made history in the Beijing (d) _____. They have made newer (e) ____ in the London Olympics too.

Extra Practices

- ii. The text (a) ____ on the histories of the two greatest (b) ____ of this planet. They have (c) ____ others in their respective fields. Michael Phelps is an (d) ____ recognized best swimmer and he bears (e) ____ to this in the Olympics.

(iii) The passage above (a) ____ the exceptional accomplishments of two highly (b) ____ athletes who participated in the 2012 Olympics. (c) ____ belonging to different backgrounds, both athletes have gained (d) ____ recognition and admiration due to their (e) ____ and remarkable performances.

(iv) Phelps has established an unparalleled legacy as the most (a) ____ Olympian in history, an extraordinary feat within the realm of athletics. His remarkable achievement of acquiring a staggering 22 medals (b) ____ him apart from all others. On the contrary, Bolt has solidified his (c) ____ as the most accomplished Olympic sprinter, earning the esteemed title of the (d) ____ man on Earth. During the London Games, Phelps showcased his incredible prowess by securing an impressive tally of six medals (e) ____ seven events.

Answer:

1. Choose the best answer from the alternatives. 1×17 = 17

- (a) (ii) 22 medals
- (b) (iv) strengthen
- (c) (i) consecutive
- (d) (i) He is an American.
- (e) (i) Beijing
- (f) (ii) extra-ordinary
- (g) (iii) to highlight the performance of Bolt and Phelps in the London Olympics
- (h) (iii) unparalleled
- (i) (ii) Imperative
- (j) (iii) gymnast
- (k) (ii) Noun
- (l) (iv) think about

- (m) (iv) Bolt
 - (n) (iii) derived
 - (o) (i) globally
 - (p) (ii) remain unforgettable
 - (q) (iii) swimming
 - (r) (ii) American
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2. Answer the following questions. $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) The speaker considers it “Michael Phelps vs Usain Bolt” because both athletes had outstanding performances that made the London Olympics exceptional and unforgettable.
 - (b) Bolt is considered the most accomplished Olympic sprinter because he repeated gold medals in both the 100 and 200 meters in back-to-back Olympics and broke his own Olympic record.
 - (c) The London Olympics were sensational because both Phelps and Bolt delivered historic performances, solidifying their legacies and captivating the global audience.
 - (d) Phelps won 6 medals in London (4 gold, 2 silver) and Bolt won 3 golds. Altogether, they won 9 medals in 2012. Phelps has 22 total Olympic medals.
 - (e) (Your opinion needed, but here’s a sample answer):
I think Usain Bolt was the better athlete in the 2012 Olympics because he made history by winning the 100m and 200m in back-to-back Olympics and proved he was still the fastest man on earth.
 - (f) Both are Olympic legends. Phelps excels in swimming, while Bolt is a sprinter. They both dominated two Olympic Games and set records in their respective sports.
 - (g) Usain Bolt bagged the highest honour in terms of winning all six of his Olympic finals, making his record flawless during the 2012 Olympics.
 - (h) Bolt's specialty is that he is the only man to win both the 100m and 200m in back-to-back Olympics, along with relay golds.
 - (i) Bolt evaluates himself as a “legend,” according to his own words in the passage.
 - (j) According to the passage, if Bolt decided to focus on the 400 meters, he could possibly break one or more other world records.
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3. Fill in each gap with a suitable word of your own based on the information in the text.

- i. (a) runner
- (b) swimmer

- (c) excellence
- (d) Olympics
- (e) records

- ii.** (a) focuses
(b) athletes
(c) excelled
(d) internationally
(e) proof

- iii.** (a) highlights
(b) talented
(c) Though
(d) global
(e) dedication

- iv.** (a) successful
(b) sets
(c) legacy
(d) fastest
(e) from

