

Épreuve d'admission 2SEP 2022

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Épreuve orale d'ANGLAIS

Sujet n° 1

Résumez et commentez le texte

Amir Khan's out-of-date remarks do nothing but perpetuate stereotypes

Makbool Javaid and Riz Rehman – Thu 19 May 2022 – Adapted from *The Guardian*

We were disappointed to read remarks made by Amir Khan this week. The boxing great chose the moment of his retirement to take a swipe at young British Asians in sport – and footballers in particular. He said they give up too easy and fall back on “excuses”. He said their diet is “appalling” and made up mainly of curries. Perhaps these were throwaway comments, but they perpetuate a myth and they need to be addressed.

We work together as part of the Asian Inclusion Mentoring Scheme (Aims) at the Professional Footballers' Association. One of us is a lawyer, the other a former player and coach, but we both love football and want to see more players of South Asian heritage in the game. We also see every week the commitment young players and their parents are putting into making that a reality. These are players who spend all their free time training and parents who will drive the length and breadth of the country to support that.

As for the diet, it's the same stuff we were hearing 30 years ago and a claim that has no empirical or scientific basis. A South Asian diet has not stopped Pakistani players from dominating the stamina-intensive sport of squash or Indian stars from reaching the top of international cricket. Kids in the UK, meanwhile, are eating a diet comparable to those of their black and white peers. Everyone loves pizza.

The statistics with regards to South Asian representation in professional football speak for themselves: 7% of the population has 0.45% of players within the game. The main problem has been one of structural discrimination. The architecture of football is set up in such a way that to get on, you have to be part of a network. Up until recently South Asian parents have not been familiar with the architecture and haven't known how the networks operate. We think that is changing. But there is a second hurdle once you are in the system too; the unconscious bias we all hold that shapes our perceptions of others.

We can see how stereotypes linger about people from the remarks made by the chairman of Middlesex County Cricket Club in the wake of the Azeem Rafiq scandal. Mike O'Farrell told a parliamentary committee that “football and rugby [are] much more attractive to the Afro-Caribbean community” while Asian players won't “commit the same time” to succeed in cricket because they “prefer to go into other educational fields”.

This is why Amir Khan's remarks are so dispiriting: because they perpetuate stereotypes. They are images that are out of date because the picture on the ground has changed. Football clubs want players who are talented and bright. We have players within the Aims programme who are academy scholars and sitting not only their BTecs but A-levels too.

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Épreuve orale d'ANGLAIS

Sujet n° 2

Résumez et commentez le texte

Figure Skating Federation Proposes Raising Age to Compete

Andrew Keh, Alan Binder - May 2, 2022 – Adapted from The New York Times

How young is too young in the crucible of elite, international sports? Officials in figure skating appear set to address the issue head-on with a new proposal to raise the minimum age from 15 to 17 in its major events, including the Winter Olympics. The International Skating Union, the global governing body for the sport, will vote on the measure when it meets next month in Thailand.

The question of instituting minimum age limits in global sports — long debated in many other sports, like gymnastics — re-emerged in unsettling fashion early this year at the Beijing Olympics, where the Russian skater Kamila Valieva, who was then 15, emerged at the center of a doping scandal that rocked the entire Games.

The proposal seems to have broad support around the sport, which, particularly on the women's side, has increasingly become dominated by teenage girls capable of performing dazzling, acrobatic jumps. The I.S.U., in its proposal, cited a survey of athletes, coaches and others in the sport conducted by the organization's athletes' commission this past winter in which 86.2 percent of the 966 respondents supported raising the minimum age.

"I absolutely believe there should be an age limit," American skater Mariah Bell, who turned 26 last month, said while competing at the Beijing Games. Bell suggested that shifting the focus of competition away from young competitors — who are still developing physically, psychologically and emotionally, and often wash out of the sport soon after they peak — could elevate athletes who are more mature and more capable of cultivating longer careers.

The I.S.U.'s proposal included a submission from the Norwegian skating federation that touched directly on this point: Between 1994 and 2018, five Olympic gold medalists in women's skating were between the ages of 15 and 17; all of them retired either just before or right after the world championships the following season. "To debut at the senior level at 15 years old does not seem to motivate the skaters to have a long career in the sport," the statement from Norway read. "Our sport should facilitate rules and a competition environment that supports the possibility of a long-lasting career."

The I.S.U.'s medical report included warnings about the physical effects of intense competition on bodies that were still developing, including hormonal problems and skeletal injuries. It noted, too, that raising the age could address psychological risks stemming from participation in elite sports at a young age, including "burnout, disordered eating, and long-term consequences of injury." Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee, suggested that the so-called entourages of teenage athletes — the coaches and other people charged with looking after their well-being — were falling short of their duties in many cases. He called for individual sports federations to examine the issue in more depth.

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Sujet n° 3

Résumez et commentez le texte

Athletics must learn lessons from Formula One and get on track with new audience

Sean Ingle – Mon 16 May 2022 – Adapted from The Guardian

At the start of another sporting weekend dominated by football Maro Itoje gave an interview which sounded like a *cri de coeur*. Rugby, the England flanker warned, needed to do more to grow its game, to market itself better against more media savvy sports and to engage with those outside its “stereotypical” world. “Rugby is very good at speaking to its own market, at preaching to the choir,” he told the Mirror. “There’s an awful lot of room for improvement. There’s no way you can tell me Formula One is more exciting than rugby. Yet it’s definitely packaged better.”

But rugby is far from the only sport caught between a hardcore fanbase and potential new audiences, the comfortable and the uncertain, unsure whether to stick or twist. Athletics and racing are, too. Meanwhile they and others cast envious eyes at F1, which has catapulted itself into the lucrative US market and elsewhere in the blink of an eye.

I thought of Itoje’s words on Saturday while part of a raucous crowd watching the Night of the 10,000m PBs on Hampstead Heath, a very unusual day of athletics culminating in women’s and men’s races which doubled as qualifiers for the World Athletics Championships in July. When the organiser, Ben Pochee, came up with the idea nine years ago, barely 100 people came to watch. But there were more like 5,000 there on Saturday night, nursing beers and eating burgers, and – unlike at other meetings – allowed in the infield and on lane eight of the track.

One British athlete, Melissa Courtney-Bryant, described the atmosphere as “insane”, adding: “I’ve never raced in anything like it.” Another, Team GB’s Tokyo Olympics marathon star, Chris Thompson, equated it to being at the darts and admitted it was cool he was able to exchange the odd word with spectators. Meanwhile the Olympic pole vault bronze medallist Holly Bradshaw reckoned that, if the UK hosted more such meetings, we would get to see top GB athletes competing more often.

Also watching on was track and field’s original hellraiser, Dave Bedford, still instantly recognisable by the Zapata moustache he sported when breaking the 10,000m world record nearly 50 years ago. “This could be the future of the sport,” he said. “What Ben Pochee has done is incredible, but you could do it with every event. Imagine watching some of the best 100m or 200m runners up close, or pole vaulters clearing the height of a double-decker bus from a few metres away?”

There was something else that Bedford wanted to stress. Athletes themselves also have to be willing to show more of their unvarnished personalities, for better and for worse, and to engage with the media. It also needs to adapt with times and trends. Yet too often its gatekeepers are resistant to change, suspicious of outsiders and anyone who isn’t a pure cheerleader.

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Épreuve orale d'ANGLAIS

Sujet n° 4

Résumez et commentez le texte

Don't mention the election: why are Australia's sports stars staying silent?

Kieran Pender – Thu 19 May 2022 – Adapted from *The Guardian*

Globally, athletes are increasingly using their profile and platform for the greater good (even if some remain happy to take money from brutal autocratic regimes). Yet as election day looms, Australian athletes are staying silent. Ironic, given that politicians are happy associating themselves with sport and pouring money into sporting infrastructure in the hope of winning votes. Even the campaign of Canberra's Senate hopeful, former Wallabies captain David Pocock, has been short on celebrity sporting endorsements (although some have praised him on social media).

The absence of political campaigning by athletes is all the more conspicuous given the current trend towards issue-based activism. The Cool Down, a movement led by Pocock's partner has recruited hundreds of Australian athletes to call for climate action. More than 260 AFL players came together to form advocacy group AFL Players for Climate Action. In January, the Professional Footballers Association announced support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Yet this activism has not translated into party-political advocacy. Given the significant differences between political parties on climate action, on Indigenous constitutional recognition, and other major social issues, this is perplexing. It is a short leap from calling for climate action to campaigning for the election of a party that takes the climate crisis seriously. But it is a leap Australia's athletes have not taken (at least, not yet).

Why? There are a few issues at play. If we don't want sport to be political, we don't want our athletes to be political either. Collectively, we deny them political agency by compelling them to stay in their lane. The tabloid backlash is easily imaginable, the "stick to sport" headlines.

Another factor is money. Athlete activism comes with commercial risk – players fear alienating sponsors, fans and clubs. One need only look to Colin Kaepernick, whose NFL career was effectively ended by his political advocacy, for a vivid example of the potential consequences. Given many high performance sports, and athletes are effectively bankrolled by the federal government, political activism comes with heightened risk. The same is true for sporting administrators. Both the Coalition and Labor are enthusiastic patrons of sport – through high-performance funding, support for major tournaments and community infrastructure. The treatment of sport as exceptional, and above politics, has gifted sports a privileged legal position – to the detriment of players, who in many cases lack the same rights as other Australian workers, while enriching sporting codes and club owners.

In some cases it may be a strategic decision. I am aware of athletes who have declined requests to provide political endorsements, even in cases of ideological alignment, in a desire to preserve their neutrality. Perhaps athletes can be more politically effective if they remain impartial, able to engage with all sides of the debate. Athletes might be better placed to take their communities and fan-base on a journey of change by remaining non-partisan.

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Épreuve orale d'ANGLAIS

Sujet n° 5

Résumez et commentez le texte

Jake Daniels can inspire next generation of footballers to be whoever they are

Anita Asante – Fri 20 May 2022 – Adapted from The Guardian

I was emotional on Jake Daniels' behalf when on Monday he became the first male professional footballer to come out publicly for 30 years in the UK. I was amazed it was happening; we have waited three decades for a player to feel he can be himself and tell his story in the way Jake has.

There are many openly gay players in the women's game. We have worked hard to cultivate an environment where inclusion, acceptance and diversity is key to a thriving work and performance environment. If you want to get the best out of a person, regardless of their job, they need to be able to be their true selves.

It is not down to the person coming out, it is about everyone else lifting that emotional burden from that person, so they can walk into their changing room, the pitch, wherever it is and be truly themselves and know they will be truly supported. Jake said he felt comfortable telling his story thanks to the support shown by his family. Those in the dressing room need to be that family at work.

It was fantastic to see players such as Harry Kane, Eric Dier and Ben Mee show their support for Jake when the news was announced. Being an ally, openly speaking up and showing their support for the gay community is great because these guys are role models and what they say is heard. They can help influence this conversation. They are all active participants in being self-aware in their own environments – how they are communicating is influencing young academy boys in their own direct environments. We can change the landscape within our own sport by being very aware of what it means to be a leader through actions and words.

Toxic masculinity, rather than homophobia, in the men's game stops so many young people feeling free enough to come out. It is the whole idea, as Jake referenced, that if you are gay you are weak, you are not man enough, you are not tough enough. That concept restrains and restricts young men from being out. It is used to weaponise and create that "othering" of people who are part of the LGBT+ community, whereas in the women's game we are not dealing with that.

In the past athletes who have come out have waited until much later in life, many once they have retired, to do so. I think the younger generation are shifting the conversation and the environment and are more open to these conversations. These are the ones pushing our game forward in the best way. They have a powerful voice to share and they have the space and platform to do that. I think Jake is reflective of that and the younger generation and how much more vocal they are on so many issues.

Anita Asante is a former England football international, Guardian columnist and regular contributor to the Guardian's women's football newsletter.

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Sujet n° 6

Résumez et commentez le texte

Kylian Mbappé denies signing PSG deal to gain power over club decisions

Michael Butler – Mon 23 May 2022 – Adapted from The Guardian

Kylian Mbappé has denied that his new three-year PSG contract gives him the power to influence transfers, sack the club's manager and appoint his sporting director of choice, insisting he "will not go above the role of a footballer".

It had been suggested that the 23-year-old's dramatic last-minute decision to reject Real Madrid and stay at PSG had been swayed not only by the vast finances on offer in Paris – thought to include a salary of £20m after tax and a signing bonus in excess of £100m – but also the lure of more control within the club. This is particularly relevant with the imminent exit of manager, Mauricio Pochettino, and sporting director, Leonardo, with Luís Campos, who enjoyed a good relationship with Mbappé at Monaco until 2016, one of the frontrunners to replace the Brazilian.

"Honestly, I don't know [Campos], but yes, there could be new players arriving," confirmed PSG president, Nasser al-Khelaifi, on Monday, who also dismissed complaints made by La Liga president, Javier Tebas, that the money behind Mbappé's new contract was scandalous and an insult to football. "There are other clubs in your country that could pay more," remarked Khelaifi in a barbed comment to the Spanish press at the Parc des Princes press conference.

Mbappé, meanwhile, stressed that the decision to stay at PSG was, most importantly, a sporting one. "Everybody knows I wanted to leave last year," said the striker. "I was convinced that was the best decision at the time. The context is different now, in sporting terms and personal terms. France is the country where I grew up, I've always lived here and leaving wasn't right. The sporting project has changed as well, that made me want to stay, I don't think my story is over yet."

Before signing his new deal, Mbappé looked certain to leave PSG on a free transfer for Real Madrid – whose shirt he wore as a youngster. Mbappé said over the weekend he would be openly supporting Real in Saturday's Champions League final and did not rule out joining them in the future, with his new deal expiring in 2025.

Mbappé would be out of contract and in his prime at 26 years old, which means the same transfer saga could feasibly begin again in 18 months. To further worry those in Paris, Mbappé said on Monday he enjoyed "a close relationship" with Real president, Florentino Pérez, whom he personally called to inform him of the decision to stay at PSG last week.

"I'd also like to thank Real fans. I hope they'll understand the fact I've chosen to stay in my country. The reality is I'm French. As a Frenchman, I want to stay here and take France towards the top, take this club and league forwards. I don't want to be captain. I am looking to the near future. I don't know what'll happen in three years."

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Épreuve orale d'ANGLAIS

Sujet n° 7

Résumez et commentez le texte

United States to host Rugby World Cup and pledges not to 'do a Qatar'

Gerard Meagher – Thu 12 May 2022 – Adapted from *The Guardian*

World Rugby's council rubber-stamped the decision to award the next five men's and women's World Cups at a meeting in Dublin on Thursday with Australia awarded the 2027 tournament, 24 years after hosting the 2003 competition in which England were crowned champions.

The USA has been awarded the men's competition in 2031 and the women's tournament in 2033 with organisers optimistic of generating \$1bn in revenue from ticket sales alone. By comparison, the 2019 World Cup in Japan made around £350m from ticketing income.

With the NFL season traditionally beginning in early September, however, World Cup organisers are wary of failing to capture the imagination of the American public with any clash.

Citing the Fifa men's World Cup which takes place in November and December in Qatar, in the middle of the season for the major European leagues, World Rugby confirmed a move to the summer is likely. That in turn, however, could cause problems for the dates of the 2030-31 season for domestic leagues and could see players running out in sweltering temperatures depending on the host cities.

"If you think about the previous Rugby World Cup in Australia back in 2003, it was slightly later than what is now our World Cup window," said World Rugby's chief executive Alan Gilpin. "The US would probably ideally be slightly earlier. And again, what we now need to do with the certainty we've got from today, is spend the time thinking about what the benefits and challenges are in that. We're not going to do a Qatar and just plonk it in the middle of a lot of other competitions. There are those considerations to have."

The decision to take the World Cup to the USA is bold considering they may not even qualify for the 2023 competition but the commercial opportunities have proved irresistible with the World Rugby chairman Bill Beaumont citing the "golden nugget". Organisers predict they will sell more than three million tickets – 2.6m were made available for France 2023 – despite the comparatively low profile of the sport in the country. "We have 28 venues of over 60,000 and a couple of over 100,000," said USA Rugby's chief executive, Ross Young. "The tough part will be engagement. It's not going to be easy but taking 48 games around the country is eminently achievable."

Indeed, Gilpin revealed that not only would organisers seek to avoid a clash with the NFL but they could partner with franchises to increase engagement. He added: "What's been interesting in a lot of the discussions around it is the supportive nature of, for example, all the NFL franchises. So, can we be smart around that? If we can harness a little bit of a partnership with NFL franchises around hosting, the ability that gives us to really make this thing come alive quickly will be fantastic."

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Épreuve orale d'ANGLAIS

Sujet n°8

Résumez et commentez le texte

‘I finish cricket, have two days’ rest, then switch to rugby’: Precious Marange on her Zimbabwe caps

Nyasha Chingono – Wed 11 May 2022 – Adapted from *The Guardian Global Development*

Representing your country in one sport is quite an achievement. Doing so in two is exceptional. Precious Marange plays both cricket and rugby for Zimbabwe’s women’s teams – while holding down a full-time job, being a mother and supporting her wider family.

Marange, 39, is one of the older players in the Eagles women’s cricket team and a role model for a new generation of Zimbabwean sportswomen. Over the past decade, there has been a steady rise in the popularity of women’s cricket in Zimbabwe, and Marange – a single mother – has inspired many others to take up the sport.

She was working as a housemaid when she first saw a game of cricket on her employers’ television. “It was 2004, and the television set was still black and white, but it was all cricket,” she says. A few weeks later, she was walking past Takashinga cricket club in Harare, where women’s cricket had just been introduced. One of the first black cricket clubs, Takashinga is where most of Zimbabwe’s leading players have emerged from. Marange doesn’t know what gave her the courage to go in and tell the coaches she wanted to play, but she did. They soon discovered she had a talent.

It was a teammate, Yvonne Rainsford, who played for Zimbabwe, who suggested Marange might want to try rugby. She says: “Yvonne encouraged me to try the sport because of my physical fitness, and I made the national team for a regional tournament instantly. Ever since, I have been playing sevens and 15s rugby.”

Schedules can be demanding but Marange says: “Camps do not clash normally. When I finish cricket camp, I just need two days’ rest before joining the rugby camp. I feel proud to be able to represent my country at the highest level.”

However, despite being signed to the national teams, she doesn’t earn enough to support her son, mother and extended family and has a day job at a steel manufacturing company. “My boss is a former rugby player, so she understands when I have games. She encourages me to go and play. I can even go for a month away from work, but whenever I come back, I work hard.”

Zimbabwean women’s cricket is now producing several players for overseas teams, says the national team’s new coach, Gary Brent. “I’m impressed with the standard,” he adds. “There is nothing stopping us. What we need is to get the talent out of the players on the big stage.”

Marange wants to be known not just as a sportswoman but as a pioneer who helped nurture young talent. “I still have more playing days, but when I retire, I’d like to work as a fitness trainer. My desire is to inspire young players to become better. I want the youngsters to see a role model in me.”

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Épreuve orale d'ANGLAIS

Sujet n°9

Résumez et commentez le texte

‘Criminal in any other setting’: do fans pose a threat to NBA and MLB stars?

AR Shaw – Tue 24 May 2022 – Adapted from *The Guardian*

As April drew to a close, Cleveland Guardians outfielders had to deal with a few unusual problems during their team’s visit to Yankee Stadium. But it wasn’t flyballs caught in the swirling winds over the Bronx that were unsettling them. Instead, they found themselves pelted with garbage by fans. Cleveland right fielder Oscar Mercado’s most significant catch of the game was intercepting a beer can that had been thrown at his head. The situation became so bad that at one point Judge and Stanton had to jog over to placate their own fans.

“Brutal,” Guardians outfielder Myles Straw said after the game. “Worst fanbase on the planet.”

Straw’s anger is understandable, but the behavior of Yankees fans is far from an aberration. In the NBA, stars such as Luka Dončić, Draymond Green, Kyrie Irving, and Chris Paul have all been involved in verbal altercations with fans during this year’s playoffs. And several animal rights protestors stormed the court during multiple games as the Minnesota Timberwolves faced off against the Memphis Grizzlies in the first round of the postseason. In the NHL, threats made against Colorado Avalanche center Nazem Kadri this weekend were deemed severe enough for the police to investigate.

Of course, clashes between fans and players have always been a part of sports in the US, but they seem to have become more frequent recently. Mark Aoyagi, a sports psychologist and professor at the University of Denver, says the main reason they have not escalated into all-out brawls is the restraint of players.

“At a minimum, there is the [verbal] assault at any given game for any given player. Despite what would be illegal and draw a reaction in any other setting, players almost never react to this sort of assault. It is only when a fan crosses an unwritten line that players will react. This might involve including a player’s family in the verbal assault or saying words that are forbidden. Again, the point here is that these violations are over and above what is already a criminal level of assault,” Aoyagi says.

Fan disruptions could shed light on a larger issue that has impacted society since the start of the pandemic in 2020. For months, fans were shut out from attending sports events as Covid spread. Once the crowds returned, bad fan behavior became more prevalent.

Sports have always served as a way for fans to escape from the minutiae of everyday life and build a connection with a franchise, community, or city. However, professional leagues are at a critical moment where the fun and safety of sports are being tainted by disruptive fans.

“Certainly, there is a way to support your team and attempt to distract the other team or otherwise feel that you are helping your team in a way that doesn’t involve assault,” Aoyagi says.

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Épreuve orale d'ANGLAIS

Sujet n° 10^e

Résumez et commentez le texte

‘Very unfair’: Ajla Tomljanovic criticises stripping of Wimbledon rankings points

Australian Associated Press – Sun 22 May 2022 – Adapted from *The Guardian*

Australian No 1 Ajla Tomljanovic has hit out at the decision to strip Wimbledon of its ranking points, dismissing the move that’s rocked the sport as “very unfair”. The woman who took over at the top of the domestic rankings after Ash Barty’s sudden retirement said she will be hard hit by the explosive decision of the ATP and WTA to effectively turn the world’s top tournament into a glorified exhibition event.

The decision was made because Wimbledon had imposed its controversial suspension on Russian and Belarusian players, leaving the men’s and women’s tours to say the whole rankings system was being undermined by a selective ban.

Tomljanovic reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals last year, the finest performance of her career as she beat Britain’s US Open champion to be Emma Raducanu en route, earning far more WTA ranking points than she had ever done before. But because of the ban, those are expected to now be wiped this year, meaning and she will plummet down the rankings despite having worked hard to earn a career-high ranking of 38.

“I don’t think they’ll carry over the points earned from 2021, they’ll get wiped and then you don’t have a chance to defend your points. That’s very unfair, in my opinion,” the 29-year-old said on the eve of the tournament. “It’s going to be very strange to go to Wimbledon where no points will be on offer. Sometimes unfair things happen and you’ve just got to roll with the punches.”

The 430 points she picked up for her performance last year before losing to Barty make up more than a third of her total live points tally, which currently stands on 1,216. The live rankings have Tomljanovic ranked 44th but on the current projections, she will crash to 85th. It is possible the WTA could decide to freeze the 2021 Wimbledon ranking points, which would protect Tomljanovic, but she was not hopeful. “I would have loved to have had that opportunity because there’s pressure there that you want to embrace when you’ve done really well the year before.

But Tomljanovic said there was still no way she would boycott a points-free Wimbledon.

“Of course, I wouldn’t miss it for the world,” she said. “Wimbledon is Wimbledon – and if you win it and get no points, of course you’d still take it. But I’m definitely going into that small bracket of players who are going to be really affected. But it’s out of my control, so I’ve just got to try to do well regardless of that.”

The All-England Club, which runs Wimbledon, has expressed “deep disappointment” about the move, which would have major ramifications at the top of the rankings, with world No 1 Novak Djokovic’s standing in real peril of losing that if he automatically ships 2,000 points.