Term List for *The Olympic Games: The First Thousand Years*

The following is a study/term guide for M.I. Finley & H.W. Pleket’s *The Olympic Games: The First Thousand Years*. There may also be questions on the test which are not covered by the terms listed below. These are only guidelines.

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Explain the overall role of religion in the Games and in Greek life.
Name two different ancient athletic professional associations.
What was the Pindaric ideology of the Games?
Were the athletes at the ancient Olympics truly amateurs?
Did the ancient Games actually produce or promote international cooperation?

**Modern Games**
1. What was the difference in the French school system and the English one in the late 19th century?
2. How, when and by whom was the site of the ancient Olympic Games uncovered?
3. What did Coubertin see as the purpose of a renewed Olympic competition?
4. Describe the site, events and date of the first modern Olympics.
5. Where did the idea of the Olympic torch originate? How does the modern one differ from the ancient one?
6. How did the French react to the new Olympics initially?
7. List five distinctions between the ancient and the modern games.

**Ancient Games**
8. When did the ancient games begin? When & where and how often were they held? How long were they held consistently?
9. How did the conquests of Alexander affect the ancient games?
10. How did the Romans view the games?
11. Who made the first lists of the victors of the Games? Do we still have those lists?
12. What was the year of the first Ancient Olympics?
13. What types of sources do we have for the ancient Games? (Name at least 3)
14. When did the Ancient Games end? Why?

**Games & Festivals?**
15. When did Olympia become sacred to Zeus?
16. Describe Olympia. Why were the Games founded here?
17. How many days did the Games last? What happened on each day?
18. What were “heroes” in the Greek religion?
19. Which gods & heroes had temples at Olympia?
20. Describe the practice of Greek religion. How did this look at Olympia?
21. How were the Olympian games different from other religious festivals in honor of the gods?
22. Describe the Greek attitudes toward competitiveness, winning, and losing.
23. What was the “first only” rule and the exceptions?
24. Describe the prizes for the various games.
25. List the games of the “Circuit”, the god they honored, frequency & prizes.
The Olympic Programme
26. List the events of the Olympics in the order they occurred.
27. How did the start of the chariot race work?
28. What events were there for “boys” or “juniors”? What qualified one as a junior?
29. What were the events for the pentathlon? How did one win this event?
30. Describe the differences between wrestling, boxing and pankration.
31. What events were only briefly part of the Olympics?
32. What sport was considered the bloodiest?

Spectators and Facilities
33. What sorts of facilities were at Olympia? For the gods? For the athletes?
34. How many came to the Olympics? Where and how did they stay?
35. What was the job of the temporary market-commissioner?
36. Who was Zeus Apomyios?

Rules and Officials
37. Who ran the actual Games at Olympia?
38. What was the closest polis?
39. Define and explain nomographoi.
40. What types of decisions did the judges of Olympia have to make (Name at least three).
41. What types of punishments could/ did the judges at Olympia dispense and why?
42. When were the athletes supposed to arrive and why?

Athletes
43. How did the numbers of games grow over the centuries?
44. Were the athletes professionals or not? How would the Greeks have defined “professional”?
45. Define idiotes in the context of the Games.
46. How did the polis of Sparta fare in the Games?
47. Did different polii sponsor teams?
48. What was the socio-economic background of the athletes? Be specific in answering this with examples.
49. What types of boasts did athletes make and why?
50. How were athletes rewarded (long & short term) for their victories? By their home polis?
51. What were the differences in sacred and prize games?
52. What types of prizes were awarded at Olympia? Did these change? Why or why not?
53. What type of entry was a Circuit winner entitled to? What problems arose?
54. Describe the association of athletes. When was such a group formed? What was its organization?

Trainer & Training
55. Explain the purpose, structure and activities in the ancient gymnasium.
56. How was the ancient gymnasium different from the modern concept?
57. Why did Sparta and Olympia not have gymnasia?
58. Who trained in the gymnasium and why?
59. Define ephes.
60. What did the gymnasiasarch do? Why was this significant?
61. What were the role and expectations of the trainer?
62. Who usually became trainers? Why?
63. How long did the Olympic Games persist before trainers & gymnasia were in existence?
64. Who wrote training manuals? What different types of subjects did they cover? What recommendations did they have?
65. What was the attitude between doctors and trainers?

Games, Politics & Patronage
66. How long did the Olympic truce last originally? Did it ever stop a war?
67. Which conflict most threatened the Games?
68. What position was given to Herod, king of Judea in 12 BC? What did he do?
69. How did the popularity of the Games and its religious connotations help protect the Games?
70. List and explain three examples of the political uses of the Games.
71. How did Alcibiades’ Olympic performance affect his political career?
72. What were the highest appointments possible under Roman rule for athletes?
73. How did lower class athletes use the Games to advance their careers? Upper class?
74. What was the composition of the seven-Game Circuit after AD 86?
75. Name two compliments paid to the Olympic Games in later centuries?
76. What were the PanHellenic Games of Hadrian? How successful were they?

The Critics
77. What virtues did Dio see in athletes in AD 74?
78. Were the Games a subject of continual debate?
79. What were the two major themes of criticism?
80. What were the criticisms of Aristotle? Of Galen?
81. What was the major complaint of the Romans against the Greek games and why?
82. What was the primary complaint of the upper classes against the Games?
83. What must an athlete not do if he was to retain honor?