Winter Olympics Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which French town hosted the events in 1924 that the International Olympic Committee later recognized as the first Winter Olympics?
   - A. Chamonix
   - B. Albertville
   - C. Grenoble
   - D. Nice

   Correct answer: A. Chamonix

   Chamonix hosted an international winter sports week in 1924. The IOC later recognized it as the first Olympic Winter Games.

2. Which two disciplines make up Nordic combined?
   - A. Moguls and aerials
   - B. Giant slalom and downhill skiing
   - C. Ski jumping and cross-country skiing
   - D. Speed skating and ski jumping

   Correct answer: C. Ski jumping and cross-country skiing

   Nordic combined brings together a ski jumping competition and a cross-country ski race.

3. In which Olympic sliding sport do singles competitors race on their backs, feet first?
   - A. Skeleton
   - B. Luge
   - C. Bobsleigh
   - D. Short-track speed skating

   Correct answer: B. Luge

   A luge athlete races feet first while lying on their back on the sled.

4. A freestyle skier turns down a slope covered with rounded snow bumps and performs a jump at two points on the course. Which event fits that description?
   - A. Aerials
   - B. Downhill
   - C. Ski cross
   - D. Moguls

   Correct answer: D. Moguls

   A moguls course combines turns through the bumps and two jumps. The event evaluates turns and jumps and also takes the skier’s time into account.

5. Which figure skater won her third consecutive Olympic singles gold medal at the 1936 Winter Games?

A. Katarina Witt
B. Sonja Henie
C. Peggy Fleming
D. Midori Ito

Correct answer: B. Sonja Henie
Norway’s Sonja Henie won Olympic singles gold in 1928, 1932, and 1936.

6. Which city hosted the first Olympic Winter Games held in Asia?

A. Sapporo
B. Nagano
C. PyeongChang
D. Beijing

Correct answer: A. Sapporo
Sapporo, Japan, became the first Asian host of the Olympic Winter Games in 1972.

7. Which host city saw Jamaica make its Olympic bobsleigh debut in 1988?

A. Albertville
B. Lake Placid
C. Sarajevo
D. Calgary

Correct answer: D. Calgary
Jamaica entered both the two-man and four-man bobsleigh competitions at the Calgary Games in 1988.

8. After Albertville 1992, which city hosted the next Winter Olympics just two years later, as the Summer and Winter Games moved to different years?

A. Salt Lake City
B. Nagano
C. Lillehammer
D. Turin

Correct answer: C. Lillehammer
Lillehammer hosted the Winter Games in 1994. The two-year gap moved the Winter Games to a different point in the four-year Olympic cycle from the Summer Games.

9. Who won all five men’s individual speed skating events at Lake Placid in 1980?

A. Eric Heiden
B. Dan Jansen
C. Johann Olav Koss
D. Sven Kramer

Correct answer: A. Eric Heiden
Heiden won the men’s 500, 1,000, 1,500, 5,000, and 10,000 meters at Lake Placid. Those five wins earned him five gold medals at one Games.

10. A Nagano 1998 results index lists giant slalom and halfpipe for men and for women. Which discipline made its Olympic debut with those events?

A. Nordic combined
B. Freestyle skiing
C. Speed skating
D. Snowboarding

Correct answer: D. Snowboarding
Snowboarding first appeared at the Olympics at Nagano in 1998. It started with halfpipe and giant slalom events for both men and women.

11. Under World Curling scoring rules, four eligible stones remain in a fictional end. The stones’ distances from the center are red 18 cm and 40 cm, blue 25 cm and 52 cm. What is the score for the end?

A. Blue scores 1 point.
B. Red scores 2 points.
C. Red scores 1 point.
D. Each team scores 1 point.

Correct answer: C. Red scores 1 point.
Red has the closest stone at 18 cm. Only that red stone is closer than blue’s nearest stone at 25 cm, so red scores one point.

12. In a fictional Olympic giant slalom, both skiers complete two valid runs. Skier A records 58.31 s and 56.82 s. Skier B records 57.63 s and 57.33 s. Who wins on combined time, and by how much?

A. Skier A by 0.17 seconds
B. Skier B by 0.17 seconds
C. Skier B by 0.68 seconds
D. Skier A by 0.68 seconds

Correct answer: B. Skier B by 0.17 seconds
A’s two times total 115.13 seconds and B’s total 114.96 seconds. The lower combined time wins, so B wins by 0.17 seconds.

13. A fictional ski jumping sheet gives five style marks of 17.0, 18.0, 18.5, 19.0, and 19.5. Under the FIS style-scoring rule, what is the jumper’s style subtotal before any distance points?

A. 92.0 points
B. 54.5 points
C. 58.0 points
D. 55.5 points

Correct answer: D. 55.5 points
The highest and lowest style marks are dropped. Adding 18.0, 18.5, and 19.0 gives 55.5 style points.

14. A fictional ice dance table uses the Beijing 2022 two-segment format. Pair A has 79.20 in rhythm dance and 198.90 total. Pair B has 78.10 in rhythm dance and 199.40 total. Who scored more in free dance, and by how much?

A. Pair B by 1.60 points
B. Pair A by 1.60 points
C. Pair B by 0.50 points
D. Pair A by 0.50 points

Correct answer: A. Pair B by 1.60 points
Subtract each rhythm dance score from its total. A scored 119.70 in free dance and B scored 121.30, so B led that segment by 1.60 points.

15. A fictional catalog groups London 1908 figure skating and Antwerp 1920 ice hockey under early Winter Games. Which correction fits the historical programs?

A. Both sports first appeared in the Olympic program at Chamonix in 1924.
B. London 1908 was a Winter Games edition, and ice hockey moved to the Summer Games in 1920.
C. Both sports made their Olympic debuts on Summer Games programs before the Winter Games began.
D. Antwerp 1920 hosted the Winter Games and London 1908 hosted the Summer Games.

Correct answer: C. Both sports made their Olympic debuts on Summer Games programs before the Winter Games began.
Figure skating debuted at London’s 1908 Summer Games, and ice hockey debuted at Antwerp’s 1920 Summer Games. Chamonix 1924 later became the first Olympic Winter Games.