

## **C2 PAPER 1 PART 2 ACTIVITY**

Read this article on the topic of the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Write ONE word to complete the gaps. (Remember in the official exam this part has 8 gaps, as the text is much shorter)

### *Tokyo 2020: The right decision, made just in time.*

There is a moment at an Olympic Games, some point after the opening ceremony and around the time where everything around you is drama and smashed records and new heroes, when you look around and think: there is \_\_1\_\_ other square mile of the planet that has as many people staring at it as this.

That's what the summer Games do. They make you feel like you're at the centre of the world. And it's why it took the International Olympic Committee so \_\_2\_\_ to realise that Tokyo 2020 had to be postponed, and why there could be no other decision.

Only when it became clear that there could be no gathering of the brightest and the best \_\_3\_\_ the Olympic machine creak to a halt. When half the globe is under curfew in their \_\_4\_\_ homes the idea of a vast assembly of athletes and spectators no longer makes any \_\_5\_\_ The world has changed and so must the Olympics too.

You can't wait another four weeks to see where the coronavirus pandemic is, because every day \_\_6\_\_ to the athletes at this stage. A pole-vaulter cannot prepare for an Olympics with star-jumps in the back garden. A rowing eight cannot train independently in their garages. Boxers need sparring partners, tennis players need opponents.

It is not a cheap decision to push the biggest gathering in sport \_\_7\_\_ a year. Olympic and Paralympic Games bring something special to every host city but they \_\_8\_\_ at an eye-watering price.

Japan has the finances to keep this vast operation going for \_\_9\_\_ 12 months in a way that would have been beyond the Brazilian government four years ago and certainly the Greek government in 2004 and its aftermath.

It may even, perversely, be the making of the Tokyo Games.

Tokyo, when it happens, will be the first global celebration \_\_10\_\_ the aftermath of the pandemic. After months when we have lived apart, when we have done \_\_11\_\_ as part of a larger group, there will be an event, and a narrative, that pulls each nation with it.

You sit in the main Olympic stadium and \_\_12\_\_ around at the flags of almost 200 competing nations hanging from the roof and only \_\_13\_\_ do you truly appreciate the truly collective nature of what is happening on the track and field below.

You see thousands of athletes pouring in to the closing ceremony, some winners, most losers, and you see the smiles and the dancing and feel the culmination of \_\_14\_\_ many discrete journeys.

Tokyo will be all that and \_\_15\_\_. The world emerging from its darkest period in 70 years. A celebration of all we still \_\_16\_\_ in common, a carnival unleashed that no-one will take for \_\_17\_\_ ever again.

Adapted from BBC Sport, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Read the whole article: <https://www.bbc.com/sport/olympics/52026512>

*Tokyo 2020: 'The right decision, made just in time'*



By Tom Fordyce  
Chief sports writer

## ANSWERS TO TOKYO 2020 PART 2 ACTIVITY

1. no
2. long
3. did
4. own
5. sense
6. matters
7. back
8. come
9. another
10. in
11. nothing
12. look
13. then
14. so
15. more
16. have
17. granted