

Comparative or Global Studies

Comparative studies – Hot Tips!!

- For OCR – the main questions will not actually be **COMPARATIVE** – in that you won't have to compare the three focus countries with each other or with the UK.
- The comparing will come in the synoptic question (if you choose the contemporary to comparative route)
- Be aware of the cultural factors which shape sport in each country – and of the **IDEOLOGIES** (or dominant beliefs) that exist in each country – because they all shape sport.

USA

The **frontier spirit** can be seen today in the violence of the 'big four sports' – notably gridiron (American football) and ice hockey.

The frontier spirit helped to shape American society and lead it towards capitalism.

The education system in the USA is **decentralised**.

Be aware of the strong links between high level sport, sponsorship and the media. Only British soccer can compare with the 'big 4' American sports in terms of commercialism.

Title IX was a policy that addressed **gender inequality** in sport / PE.

Up until the mid 1970s daily PE was compulsory. Be aware of the values placed on PE in the USA and the status of the subject.

Athletics scholarships are grants of free education given by colleges and universities to outstanding sports people. It may involve up to 50 hrs per week of sport related activities.

There could be a question on exploitation of students on scholarships.

In the USA it is expensive to watch live sport. – which is family entertainment – and NOT prone to crowd violence.

The concepts of Centrality and stacking must be understood. They are popular exam questions.

Make sure you know why success in sport is important to those from ethnic minorities.

There is very little tradition of private sports clubs in the USA.

'Midnight basketball leagues' are run on outdoor courts – they are dominated by those from ethnic minorities (hence 'white flight.')

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France

You could be asked to link the major **ideologies** of France (Militarism, nationalism, naturalism, intellectualism).with sport.

During the C20, PE developed from **military** style PT which lowered the status of the subject.

De Gaulle did a lot for sport!

Be aware that the **natural scenery** and demography in France have and do affect sport, PE and Outdoor activities.

The French education system is now **decentralised**.

Sport has **high status** in France, and therefore school sport also enjoys high status.

The [UNSS](#) and sporting sections have different aims and objectives – know the differences.

Ethnic games in France can be compared with those in the UK (AS contemporary studies work).

France is recognised as being one of the 'big 4' continental **golfing** nations.

Be aware of the network of sporting centres of excellence in France – [INSEP](#).

The scenic route of the **Tour de France** reinforces the beauty and variety of the country and is excellent tourist publicity.

Australia

Sporting relations between the UK and Australia are still strong (despite '**Pommie bashing**') – this is due to past colonial links.

Australia has a **decentralised** system in that each state runs its own system for sport education, PE and Outdoor Ed. in schools and sport in the community.

Great **distances** separate the 8 major cities – which caused problems for the early spread of sports.

British settlers **continued with British sports** when they arrived in Australia. (cf USA where they did not)

Australia is often referred to as the '**Land of the Fair Go**' – it is a land of opportunity in which everyone theoretically has the chance to succeed.

SEPEP is not a definitive model for Sport Education / Physical Education – it is a framework that can be adapted.

'**Aussie Rules**' (footie) is as commercial in Australia as soccer is in the UK.

The **failure** of the Australian team in the **Montreal Olympics** of 1976 emphasised the need for a national sports policy.

Be aware of the reasons why Australia and its people are so keen to win **gold medals** and excel in all sport.

The **AIS** and state institutes run in parallel. There is no hierarchy for institutes – athletes do not have to relocate.

A large majority of Australian live in **urban** areas – and they have a preference for urban sports as opposed to outdoor adventure experiences.