

Adapted with thanks to: Prof Claire Davis, School of Metallurgy and Materials University of Birmingham

Document 1:

Technology and sports performance

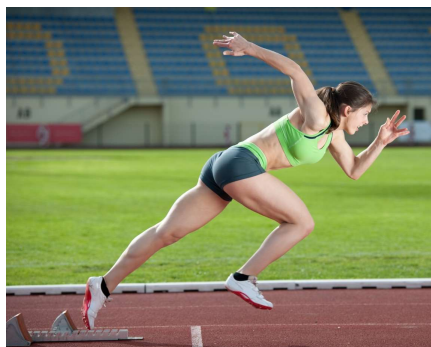
'Technology-driven' sports Track cycling + rowing + sailing		Non-technology sport Athletics	
Total medals (2008)		Total medals (2008)	
Great Britain	24	USA	23
Australia	7	Russia	18
New Zealand	6	Kenya	14
Netherlands	5	Jamaica	11
France	5	Ethiopia	7
Spain	5	Belarus	7
Germany	5	Jamaica	5
USA	5	Cuba	5
China	5	Ukraine	5
Canada	4	Australia	4
Italy	2	Great Britain	4

The UK is focussing on specific sports and research is on-going into new materials and designs.

Activities:

- 1) Warm Up:
- 2) To your mind: Read the document 1, react and give your first ideas about
 - How much effect does engineering technology have on sport?
 - Is technology only used to increase performance?
 - What are some 'new technologies' being introduced?
 - Are all sports equally affected by the introduction of engineering technology?
 - How much effect does engineering technology have on sport?
 - Is technology only used to increase performance?
 - Does technology affect country performance?

Choose: "easy-peasy" or "challenging"



3) Group work (by twos): Choose a topic

- **Pole vaulting:** easy because you will have 6 slides, so a lot of information.
- **Sprinting:** harder because you will have only two slides, so you will need more personal search or knowledge.
- **Your sport:** challenging because there is no slide.

Prepare a 3 minutes presentation for the chosen sport, you have to develop the links between technology and sport performance.

4) Presentation:

- 5) **Homework:** Prepare a one-minute speech about this key point.

Key point, Ordering countries with the number of medals in a competition, is it fair?