The Olympics

It is a tradition as old as history: athletes from distant lands meet to test their courage and strength before lots of cheering fans. Indeed, the inaugural Olympic games -held in the summer of 776 B.C. at the sanctuary of Zeus in Olympia- are widely believed to be the first precisely dated events in the annals of ancient Greece.

Every four years for more than a millennium, rival and often warring city-states put aside their differences and invoked a sacred truce. They sent their fastest, their strongest, their most skillful men and boys to Olympia to compete for personal and homeland pride. The names of the greatest Olympic athletes were known throughout Greece, their bodies re-created in sculpture and on pottery for the ages.

Then the games disappeared for more than 1,500 years.

The Olympics were reborn in 1896 in Athens, Greece. Since then, they've travelled to cities around the world and drawn an increasingly global field of competitors -as well as an increasingly global audience. In 2004, they'll come once again to Greece, as the Summer Olympics return to Athens.

Truce: tregua  
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QUESTIONS

1. Are the following sentences TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)
   a) The ancient Greek city-states competed against each other for the honour of winning.
   b) The first Olympic games took place around 776 B.C.
2. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer these questions. Be careful with the grammar and write precise answers. (Puntuación máxima: 6 puntos)
a) What are the main differences between the ancient and the modern Olympics? b) Were the Olympic winners honoured as they are today?

3. Grammar. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos) Follow the instructions for each part of this question:
A. Fill in the blanks: According to the Athens Olympics organizers, approximately 11,000 athletes

.................. 197 countries will compete _ the Summer games.
B. Fill in in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets:
The ancient Olympic competition ___ (include) preliminary matches

.................. ___ (select) the best athletes for the final competition.