

Course Companion for BTEC Tech Award (L1/2): Sport

Component 3: Developing Fitness to
Improve Other Participants' Performance
in Sport and Physical Activity

Endorsed Edition v1.1, January 2024

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Course Companion for BTEC Tech Award (L1/2) Sport: Component 3

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Teacher's Introduction

This course companion is for **Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity**, part of the Pearson BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Sport (First Teaching September 2022). The aim of this resource is to guide students through the core content of the component, providing them with in-depth information that covers each of the specification points. This resource aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will help them succeed in the examination for this component.

For clarity and ease of use, the content of this course companion matches the order of the specification.

The content is structured as follows against the element's assessment criteria:

Chapter/Specification points	
Learning outcome A: Explore the importance of fitness for sports performance	A1 The importance of fitness for successful performance A2 Fitness training principles A3 Exercise intensity and how it can be determined
Learning outcome B: Understand fitness testing to determine fitness level	B1 Importance of fitness testing and requirements for each fitness test B2 Fitness test methods for components of physical fitness B3 Fitness test methods for components of skill-related fitness B4 Interpretation of fitness test results
Learning outcome C: Investigate different fitness training methods	C1 Requirements for each of the following fitness training methods: C2 Fitness training methods for physical components of fitness C3 Fitness training methods for skill-related components of fitness C4 Additional requirements for each of the following fitness training methods: C5 Provision for taking part in fitness training C6 The effects of long-term fitness training on the body
Learning outcome D: Investigate fitness programming to improve fitness and sports performance	D1 Personal information to aid training fitness programming D2 Fitness programme design D3 Motivational techniques for fitness programming

Throughout the resource, there are key features to keep an eye out for:

Keywords: used to draw students' attention to various keywords throughout the component.

Did you know?

Provides further information and additional content to inspire and engage students.

Applied activities encourage application of knowledge to the case studies or to real-world scenarios in the sport sector.

Research activities encourage students to research and stretch and challenge themselves.

Some of the activities can be completed using either computers, mobile phones or tablets. Some activities can be completed outside the classroom as homework.

There are also two sets of **questions** – *checking your understanding* and *taking it further* – (with answers included). These should help students recap their knowledge and then apply it, respectively, throughout the course companion.

Where normative data is used, we have created data sets that are reasonable estimations of existing realistic and normative data. These are used to gauge how fitness test results are rated in comparison for age- and gender-specific groups. **Where possible, students should compare to real normative data obtained from reliable sources.**

Endorsement edition, update v1.1, January 2024:

- Updated aerobic training zone to 60-80% and anaerobic training zone to 80-100% on p. 15 and corrected the link to the aerobic training zone on p. 19.
- Removed 'Isometric' as a keyword on p. 19.
- Fixed broken link on p. 21 and provided a more appropriate link on p. 47.
- Removed high level research activity on p. 50.

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Learning Outcome A: Explore the importance of fitness for sports performance

Overview

In this section you will learn about the types of sports – and the playing positions within these sports – that require the different components of physical and skill-related fitness.

You will develop an understanding around the principles of training and their application in training programmes to improve the different components of fitness.

By covering the principles of training, you will also learn about exercise intensity, the different techniques used to measure it, and the ways it can be used to elicit certain fitness improvements.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

A1: Understand sports requiring components of fitness used in different positions in team sports.

- ☐ Identify the types of sports requiring different components of fitness
- ☐ Explain how different positions in the same team require different components of fitness
- ☐ Assess the relative importance of components of fitness for different positions
- ☐ Understand the different principles of training and their application
- ☐ Identify the different FITT principles and apply them to a training programme
- ☐ Explain how the different principles can be applied to improve different components of fitness
- ☐ Analyse how the principles might be applied to improve performance in a specific sport

A3: Understand the principle of exercise intensity and its application.

- ☐ Identify the different methods and calculation of exercise intensity
- ☐ Explain how intensity is used to establish target heart rate zones
- ☐ Analyse the use of exercise intensity in training programmes

Key terms

Adaptation	the changes that occur to the body as a result of working out or training loads
Aerobic training zone	the 60–80% of maximum heart rate that a performer works in (based on their body's ability to use oxygen during activity)
Anaerobic training zone	the 80–90% of maximum heart rate that a performer works in (based on their body's ability to work at a high intensity and resist fatigue)
Fitness	the ability to meet the demands of the environment
Frequency	how often training is performed
Individual differences	the unique needs and circumstances of each performer with regard to their training and activities they perform
Intensity	how hard training is performed
Progressive overload	the gradual increase in the demands of training in order to improve and adapt over time
RPE (acronym)	rating of perceived exertion; a scale developed by Borg to measure intensity from 6 (no exertion) to 20 (maximal exertion)
Repetition maximum	the maximum load that can be lifted in a given number of repetitions
Rest and recovery	the time period between training sessions which is used to allow the body to rest and adapt
Reversibility	the loss of fitness gains if training stops for an extended period of time
Specificity	the relevance of training methods and activities to the fitness goals of the sport
Steady-state exercise	occurs when the oxygen demand of the muscles is met by the cardiorespiratory system
Time	the duration of a training session
Training thresholds	target heart rate zones that the performer stays within for a specific duration
Type	the training methods that a performer chooses to use in order to improve a component of fitness
Variation	altering the types of training performed, in order to prevent boredom and maintain motivation to train

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Chapter A1: The importance of fitness for successful participation in



There are many different interpretations of successful participation in sport. Some performers may deem success to be personal achievements, such as winning the majority of tackles in football or achieving a personal best time in swimming, whereas others may associate success with winning a medal. Regardless of the different interpretations, in order to experience a successful participation, the performer must have a high level of fitness.

Fitness demands

There are many different components of fitness that fall under two broad categories: physical and skill-related components. Let's start by reminding ourselves from Component 1 that a physical component means relating to the types of sports that require speed, strength, and endurance.

Physical components

Aerobic endurance is the ability of the heart and lungs to deliver oxygen to the body can continue to exercise for a prolonged period of time without tiring.

Muscular endurance is the ability of a muscle to repeatedly contract at a light to moderate intensity.

Muscular strength is the ability of the muscle to apply a maximum force to overcome resistance.

Speed is the ability to move the whole body or a specific body part as quickly as possible.

Flexibility is the range of movement available at a joint to allow a proper technique to be performed.

Body composition is the relative percentage of fat mass to fat-free (water, muscle, bone, etc.) mass.

Skill-related components

Power is the product of strength and speed.

Agility is the ability to change direction quickly without losing control.

Reaction time is the time taken to initiate a response to a stimulus.

Balance is the ability to maintain centre of mass over the body's base of support.

Coordination is the ability to use two or more body parts, both smoothly and with precision.

Types of sports requiring specific components of fitness

Most sports will require a combination of different physical and skill-related components. The combinations vary between sports.

Aerobic endurance

As implied in the name, aerobic endurance is needed in endurance events which rely on having a well-developed cardiovascular system to supply the working muscles with oxygen-rich blood during low-to-medium-intensity exercise. It is important in sports or activities lasting more than 30 minutes to ensure that performance is kept at a high level and the performer does not fatigue.

Applied:

Similar to the sports that require aerobic endurance, individual sports such as rowing require muscular endurance to continually contract the muscles at a light to moderate intensity over a long distance of the event without fatiguing or experiencing cramp. For example in cycling, the body needs to resist fatigue under constant pedalling tension.

Team sports such as cricket and rugby also require muscular endurance, where the muscles are used over and over, e.g. the muscle groups of the upper body when bowling or tackling. Muscular endurance can help maintain posture and stability, improving the capacity to perform techniques optimally throughout the whole event.

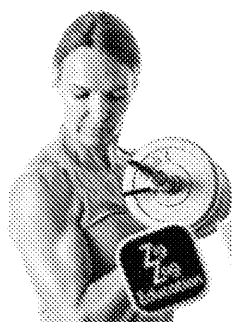
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Muscular endurance

As muscular endurance requires the muscle to contract for an extended period of time, it is important for events where a muscle group is repeatedly contracted at a light to moderate intensity for a duration greater than 30 minutes. As such, it is often required alongside aerobic endurance, as the cardiorespiratory system provides the oxygen and nutrients required for the musculoskeletal system to maintain movement. Without the ability of the muscles to contract repeatedly they would eventually tire and fatigue. Muscular endurance allows athletes to compete at a higher capacity and for longer.



Muscular strength

Strength is an important physical component of fitness. Force is applied to overcome resistance, which may be (weight), another person (opposition) or an object. Greater force is required to be exerted to overcome the resistance, leading to it being a better performance.

Muscular strength may also be linked to power (covered in the next section) as it allows an athlete to exert force with speed.

Applied:

Individual sports such as weightlifting require strength to overcome the weight. The greater the weight they can lift. Often weightlifting competitions require the athlete to lift a maximum weight.

Throwing events such as the javelin and shot-put require strength, along with speed and explosive movements. The greater the strength of the athlete, the more force they can exert, meaning they can throw it further.

Team sports such as rugby also require strength for key components of the game, such as when scrummaging, rucking or mauling.

Case study

World's Strongest Man is an international competition that is held annually to assess strength across various challenges to overcome resistances, such as the Atlas Stone. Competitors lift five heavy round stones that increase in weight up onto a platform.

Applied activity

Outline a training session that uses free weights and fixed resistance machines for muscular strength.

How would you adapt this to train muscular endurance?

Research activity

Research the current world records for the strongest man. Other than the one mentioned, what other sports would they be involved in?

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Speed

Speed is required to outrun an opponent over short distances that take a matter of seconds. It is also important at the end of middle- or long-distance events such as the 1500 m where many athletes give their all in a sprint finish.

Speed can also refer to the movement of different body parts, such as the arms when throwing punches in boxing or the legs of a swimmer doing front crawl. When this speed of movement is combined with strength, it results in powerful movements.

Applied:

Speed is the main indicator of success in performance in sprint events where participants quickly they are able to reach a set distance. This not only applies to sprint events but also key to success in cycling, 50 m swim events and 400 m rowing. Although time and technique are also important, they only set a good base, and athletes need speed throughout the remainder of the race to have any chance of achieving success.

Speed is also important in many situations that arise in team sports. A single match line in rugby could be the difference between winning and losing a game. A player needs to be able to outrun opponents and score a try, or catch up with an opponent and make a tackle.

As mentioned, speed is important when moving different body parts quickly. In the case of movement will allow an athlete to dodge their opponent's punches, as well as to strike before their opponent gets a chance to offer their own reply.



Flexibility

Having good flexibility is important for injury prevention, so is key to a range of movements.

For performance, flexibility allows participants to perform a range of movements with different motions. This is key to technique and improves the aesthetic of the movement.

A greater flexibility of joints means that participants have a greater range of motion that they are able to move through.

Flexibility also helps in reducing the risk of injury in sports as muscles are less likely to overstretch. Flexibility is also important when performing sports skills, further contributing to the reduced risk of injury.

Applied:

Individual sports such as gymnastics require a range of flexibility for a range of movements. In gymnastics, for example, the split jump requires good hip flexibility in order for the legs to be parallel to the ground.

Other individual sports such as martial arts also require good flexibility of joints to perform different actions, such as the crescent kick, which uses the ball-and-socket joint at the hip to produce a conical motion of the leg. This will allow the performer to kick to the opponent's head and score valuable points.

A good example of the importance of flexibility in team sports is cricket bowling, where players require overarm rotation for their deliveries. Good flexibility will produce a more efficient bowling action that has the desired impact, whether that be spin or speed.

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Body composition

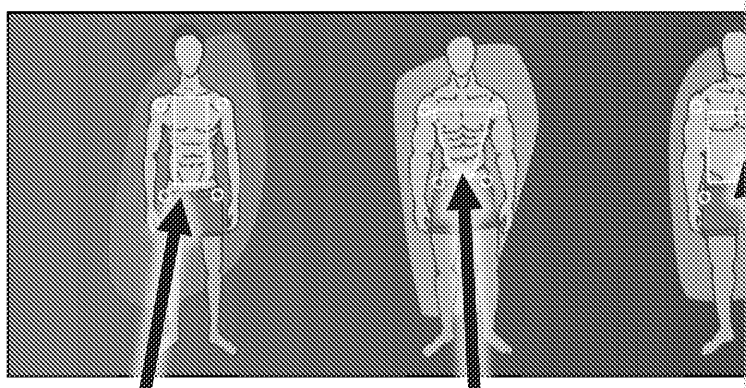
Different body compositions are relevant to different sporting activities and performers. For example, some sports require a performer to have a large muscle mass to maximise contractile mass for power during the event. Other sports may require a low body fat in order to maximise the performer's flexibility and reduce any 'dead weight' that would limit them in movements or require more effort to move. On the other hand, some sports may benefit from having a large fat and muscle mass to increase the weight the performer is able to impose on their opponent.

Did you know?

A person's body composition can have as much to do with genetics as it does with lifestyle factors such as diet and physical activity levels.

Applied:

- **Low fat mass:** jumpers and divers need low fat mass to enable them to move their body weight around with little effort.
- **High muscle mass:** sprinters and other power athletes need high muscle mass for power and speed, but they must remain lean, to avoid the extra weight.
- **High muscle mass:** weightlifters and sportspeople in contact sports (e.g. rugby players (forwards)) need greater mass (which can be from fat too) to provide greater resistance to being moved. This provides more power.



Low fat mass for efficiency and ability to overcome body weight easily

High muscle mass for increased strength and power

High muscle mass with high fat mass for increased resistance

Power

Power is the combination of strength and speed, so is important in activities where both of these components are needed to perform explosive movements, such as jumping, kicking or throwing actions.

Powerful movements use a lot of energy, so performers often need a short period of time to recover before they can perform another movement with the same explosiveness. This is why in a lot of sporting events where power is the main component needed for success, a performer usually has multiple attempts which are each separated by a rest. In field athletics events such as high jump and javelin.



Applied:

Individual sports that require power include events such as the shot-put. The shot-put is 7.26 kg (16 lb) in the men's event and 4 kg (8.8 lb) in the women's event, which shows the level of distance. The combination of strength and speed in the throw allows for an explosive distance achieved in the throw.

Other sporting actions where power is key include kicking and jumping. These are team sports, such as reaching the posts in a rugby conversion or jumping for a slammer.

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Agility

A performer requires agility in order to change direction quickly, so it is important to be able to evade an opponent (e.g. in most team sports) or respond to the movements of an opponent.

Agility involves elements of speed, balance and coordination to change direction quickly and maintain control. To do this, the performer must rely on fast feet and keep their centre of gravity low while keeping their head up for spatial awareness of other participants.

Applied:

Individual sports such as tennis require agility for a player to move quickly from one side of the court to the other in order to return the shots played by their opponent. Agility helps a player to move quickly, allowing them to create a stronger base from which to hit the ball.

Agility is an essential component in team sports such as football, basketball and netball. It is required to evade their opponents and keep possession for their team. For example, a footballer may need to sidestep opponents and make a defensive line break to gain field position for their team.



Reaction time

Having a good reaction time is important in many sports, particularly those that are externally paced, meaning that the response is initiated by a stimulus external to the performer. The act of responding to a stimulus (known as a stimulus) initiates the response. The quicker they are able to respond, the greater the chance of success they will have.

This stimulus may be the actions of an opponent or a signal from an official (e.g. the starting gun in a race).

Applied:

Reaction time plays a major part in the success of short duration, timed events such as the 100m sprint. The performer must explode out of the blocks to the sound of the starting gun.

It is also important in team sports such as football where a goalkeeper may need to respond to a loose ball and an outfield player must respond to a loose ball and gain possession for their team.

Balance

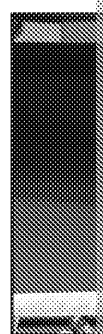
Balance is important in dynamic activities that require the control of the distribution of weight or in static activities where the performer must remain upright and steady.

This is achieved by keeping the centre of mass within the base of support (i.e. the contact points of the body to the ground). The performer will often put their hands out to the side to help adjust their balance so that they remain in control of their position.

Applied:

Balance is a key component in individual sports such as gymnastics, where performers are deducted points for stepping out of a stance when they dismount from a jump.

Balance is also a key component in team sports such as netball, as performers are required to reach and catch a ball and then remain in their landing position within their designated area.



Did you know?

The taller you are, the more difficult it is to maintain balance because your centre of mass is higher and your base of support is smaller.

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Coordination

Coordination requires the efficient use of two or more body parts at the same time, e.g. eye coordination with the use of equipment, e.g. a racquet in tennis or a baton in a parade.

Many sporting movements involve the actions of multiple limbs at the same time, which requires coordination. This allows movements to be smooth and aesthetically pleasing, which is important in many sports. An example of this is the movement of the arms and the legs during a dance routine.

Applied:

Individual sports such as tennis, where during the serve the performer must throw the ball with one hand while preparing for the shot by drawing back the racquet with the other hand. This requires hand-eye coordination. All of these subroutines require hand-eye coordination.

Team sports such as basketball, where performers are required to track and mark the ball at the same time as keeping their eye on the ball with the ball.

How components of fitness are used when playing in team sports

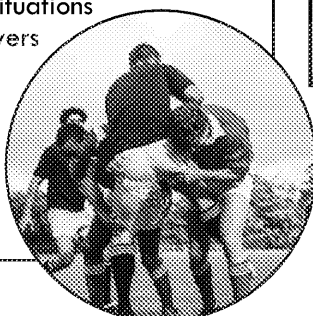
Different team sports often have different positions that will require different fitness components. For example, attackers and defenders will require different fitness components to complete their role. Defenders are more likely to make more tackles and may, therefore, require more strength. Attackers are needed to get up the field quickly, e.g. in a counterattack, so may have a greater need for speed.

Take a look at how backs and forwards differ in rugby...

Case study

Rugby is a sport where the different positional requirements of players across the pitch mean that the specific components of fitness needed to be successful vary from player to player. Both codes, league and union, are made up of forwards and backs. The forwards are typically the larger, more powerful players who are used predominantly in the contact area, such as the scrum, in rucks and mauls, for clearing out opponents, and to break through the defensive line of the opposition. The backs are typically the slimmer, more agile players who cover the most ground and use speed and agility to beat or chase opponents.

Because of these different roles, the components of fitness important for success are different between forwards and backs. Forwards rely more on strength and power, whereas backs rely more on speed and agility. Forwards also typically have a higher body mass composition consisting of a high percentage of muscle mass for a large body mass. Backs typically have a high muscle mass but lower levels of body fat so that they are able to move around the pitch more easily. Nevertheless, there are crossovers in the components of fitness required as there are situations that come about where some players must cover or fulfil the roles of others. Also, all rugby players require aerobic endurance to last for large stints of the match and coordination to take control of the ball.



Applied activity

1. Copy and complete the table below. Discuss with a partner which fitness component is most important for a player. 10 is needed to compare to your own.

Fitness component
Aerobic endurance
Muscular endurance
Muscular strength
Speed
Flexibility
Power
Agility
Reaction time
Balance
Coordination

2. Discuss another fitness component required for a player on the different performers in your team.

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Chapter A1: Revision Questions

Checking understanding questions

1. Name the component of fitness that is needed in activities where a quick decision response to a stimulus is needed.
2. State the **two** components of fitness that are needed in sports or events lasting less than 30 minutes.
3. Which two components of fitness combine to form power?
4. Explain the body composition needed by a sprinter for optimal performance.
5. Identify **one** sport that requires high levels of each of the fitness components:
 - a) Power
 - b) Muscular endurance
 - c) Flexibility
 - d) Coordination

Taking it further questions

1. Give **one** example of where agility is required in sport.
2. State **two** components of fitness that are important for success in gymnastics. Give examples of how they are important.
3. Assess the importance of high levels of aerobic endurance and speed in football.
4. Assess the importance of high levels of power and coordination when serving in tennis.

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Chapter A2: Fitness training principle

When designing a fitness training programme, it is important that each training session includes principles that help to improve the effectiveness of training, giving the performer the best chance of improving their fitness and achieving their goals. The principles of training are split into basic FITT principles, and additional principles which can help with the effectiveness of training.

Basic principles of training (FITT)

The acronym FITT stands for frequency, intensity, time and type. It is important to understand what each principle means and how it can be applied to training programmes.

FITT principle	Meaning	Application
F requency 	'How often' The number of training sessions completed over a period of time, usually measured per week.	Scheduling two sessions in the first three weeks, then increasing it to three sessions in the remaining three weeks.
I ntensity	'How hard' The level of effort that a person puts into training.	Exercising at a goal heart rate to achieve 80–90% for anaerobic training.
T ime	'How long' The duration of a training session.	Performing four 15-minute sessions on each hour-long training session.
T ype	'Which method' The training method that a performer chooses to use in order to improve a specific component of fitness.	Programming continuous training sessions to improve endurance.

Applied activity
Describe another basic FITT principle.



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Additional principles of training

There are several additional principles of training which can help support the basic effectiveness of training. These principles should be applied throughout the design to ensure the performer is getting the most out of their training.

Progressive overload

'The gradual increase in the demands of training in order to stress the body, causing adaptation.'

Progressive overload can be applied by increasing the frequency, intensity or time. This is gradual in order to avoid any sharp increases in training demands which could lead to injury.

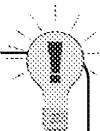
For example, a road cyclist who usually goes for one 90-minute bike ride per week at an average of 60% HR max, might:

- Increase the number of bike rides to twice a week, but programme a shorter ride alongside the 90-minute ride (frequency)
- Increase the intensity of the bike ride to an average of around 65% HR max (intensity)
- Increase the duration of the 90-minute ride by around 10 minutes (time)

These changes can then be gradually increased with each training week in order to ensure progressive overload.

Did you know?

It is suggested that you should keep progressive overload – increases in intensity, duration and/or frequency – to less than 10% each week.

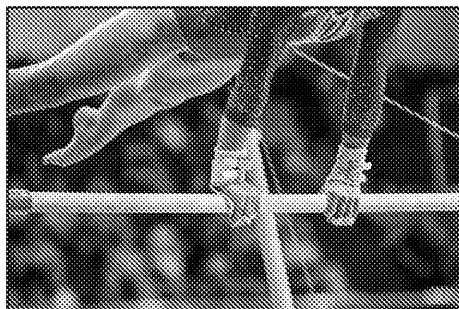


Applied activity

Note down how often, how long you train per week and then outline your progressive overload to you.

Specificity

'The relevance of training methods and activities to the fitness and/or skill needs of the performer.'



It is important that the training programme is specific to the fitness and/or skill that are required in the sport that the performer is training for. There are certain methods of training that develop specific components of fitness, so it is important that the training programme is designed around these methods.

For example, increasing balance, flexibility and core strength is important for gymnastics, and therefore a training programme designed to improve these components is essential.

When making training specific to the sport you should consider...

- the movement patterns and skills required for the sport
- the muscles used to perform the movement patterns and skills
- the energy system used – aerobic or anaerobic
- the duration of the activity (e.g. a 90-minute football match)

... and how training can be designed to replicate these conditions to ensure training is specific to the sport.

Case study

The specificity of training can be seen in rugby through behind-the-scenes footage of training camps for competitions like the Six Nations. Stations are set up to replicate the demands of rugby, such as the use of tackle bags, static scrums, one-on-one wrestling and shuttle runs. This ensures the components of fitness needed for rugby, such as strength and aerobic endurance, are developed.

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Individual differences

'The unique needs and circumstances of each performer which influence the types of training they perform.'

Each individual is different in their needs, likes and dislikes, and how they respond to training. Therefore, it is important that each training programme is individualised to meet the specific performer's needs. This may include:

- Fitness levels, e.g. someone who has limited previous experience of sports participation might need to start off at a lower level.
- Medical history, e.g. someone with joint issues may require low-impact activities in their training programme.
- Sporting goals, e.g. some performers may need to focus more on the weaker aspects of their performance.

Giving a generic programme to each individual looking to improve muscular strength is not effective for everyone. For example, someone may have had a previous injury while performing a specific exercise. Therefore, an alternative exercise will need to be used.

Case study

A strength and conditioning (S&C) coach is responsible for maximising the performance of sports performers. In rugby, one role of the S&C coach will be to design gym sessions for players to perform as part of their training. In preparation for each Six Nations, players will spend several weeks' worth of training with the national squad before the first round of fixtures. S&C coaches will spend the time leading the players through their training, monitoring players for their clubs and designing a training programme for them to follow during the training camp. There will be an open dialogue between the clubs and the national team regarding the training status of each player and any individual needs that need adding to the programme will be different, focusing on the needs of the player as well as the needs of the team within the team.

Adaptation

'The changes that occur to the body as a result of working under increased training loads.'

Applying the principle of progressive overload places a greater stress on the body. The subsequent rest period is where the body recovers and, in turn, adapts. These adaptations translate to improvements in fitness. Adaptations will vary depending on the type of training.

For example, the adaptations to the muscular system from muscular endurance training are different from the adaptations from muscular strength training. Muscular strength training will result in hypertrophy and greater strength of connective tissues, whereas muscular endurance training will result in greater capillary density (capillarisation) around the muscle tissues and increased mitochondrial density.

Applied activity

Discuss the possible long-term adaptations of the body that might be seen from the following training methods:

1. High intensity interval training for speed
2. Static stretching for flexibility

The effects of long-term training are discussed in more detail in Chapter 10.

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Reversibility

'The loss of fitness gains if training stops for an extended period or the intensity of training is reduced.'

Training may stop or decline in intensity for many reasons:

- The performer might be injured.
- The performer might not be able to train as much as usual due to other life commitments.
- The season may have finished.

The decreasing demand on the body means that instead of adapting, it regresses. Any fitness gains made from training are lost.

Research activity

To gain further insight into the physiology behind reversibility of fitness, conduct some independent research to see what factors you can answer the following questions:

1. How long do you need to be inactive before you start to lose aerobic fitness or strength?
2. Will any methods help to regain lost fitness faster when you return?

Variation

'Altering the types of training performed, in order to prevent boredom and maintain motivation.'

There are often several different methods of training that can be used to improve a single fitness component. Moreover, there are numerous other ways that training can be varied to keep it entertaining and maintain motivation.

For example, performing the same resistance training exercise with each training session will almost certainly result in the performer getting bored and losing motivation. Instead, the performer should create a plan where they look to vary the exercises they do, in order to avoid the repetitive nature of training.

Applied activity

Resistance training is one of the best training methods for adding variety, as there are many different exercises that can be used. For example, there is a diverse range of equipment that can be used for a range of exercises.

Identify **three other** ways to add variety to a resistance training session besides using different equipment and exercises.

Rest and recovery

'The time period between training sessions which is used for the body to recover and adapt to the training.'

The performer should always allow time for rest and recovery between training sessions. This is the time the body needs to adapt from training. As the performer improves, the performer will be able to recover more quickly from training. However, the performer should always listen to their own body, and if they feel fatigued, tender or have a slight niggle with a muscle, they should allow sufficient time off to ensure they are fully recovered.

Recovery is also an important principle during training sessions. Nearly all training methods will require recovery periods between bouts of activity to allow the body to prepare itself for the next. It is important that the duration of this bout is appropriate to maintain quality of training, at the same time as challenging the body to sustain the duration of a session. For example, rest periods between sets of resistance exercises should be long enough to allow the muscle to recover, but short enough that muscles stay warm.

Did you know?

Sleep is an important part of recovery. The quality of sleep, in particular, is important.

- **Light** sleep is not enough for recovery.
- **Deep** sleep is the best for recovery.
- **Rapid** eye movement sleep is the best for recovery.

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Chapter A3: Exercise intensity and how it can be

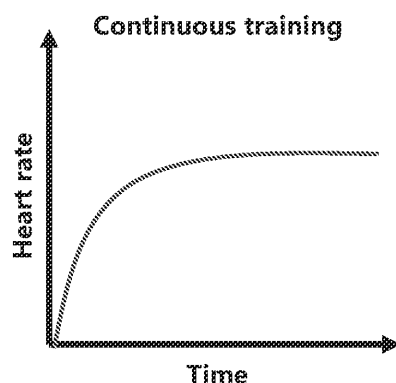
The basic FITT principle of intensity can be measured in numerous ways. How 'hard' a matter of the performer saying that their effort level for a particular session was 9. A performer could measure the intensity of a session by recording their heart rate. The higher the heart rate, the higher the intensity. Heart rate provides a more objective assessment of an individual's perceived exertion (i.e. the effort an individual thinks they are putting in) and interpretation. Let's take a look at both.

Heart rate

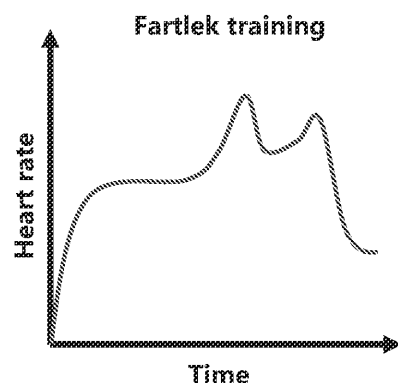
Heart rate (HR) is the number of times the heart beats per minute and it reflects how the individual's cardiorespiratory system is working to deliver oxygen to the working muscles.

Heart rate can simply be measured manually by counting the pulse of either the carotid artery in the neck or the radial artery in the wrist. It can also be measured automatically using technology such as a heart rate monitor, which we will touch on later.

Heart rate is commonly measured during training methods such as continuous training, interval training and fartlek training. The graphs below show example heart rate trends during each training method.



Heart rate increases as the performer reaches steady-state and plateaus for the remainder of the session.



Heart rate peaks and troughs throughout the session as the performer changes speed and/or terrain and thus intensity.

Heart rate is used in these training sessions to calculate training thresholds. These are heart rate training zones which the performer stays within to receive specific fitness benefits.

Did you know?

Heart rate can be used to monitor fitness improvements. A decreasing resting heart rate over time is often a marker of increased fitness, as is a lower exercising heart rate for a given exercise intensity (e.g. speed).

Steady-state is when the oxygen demand is met by oxygen supply from the cardiorespiratory system.

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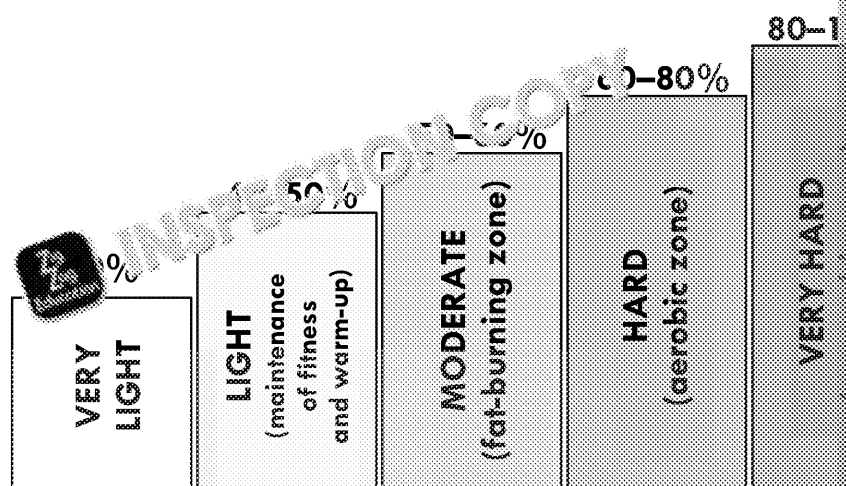
Target zones and training thresholds

Target heart rate training zones are calculated using an individual's estimated maximum heart rate (HR max). HR max can be calculated through the following equation:

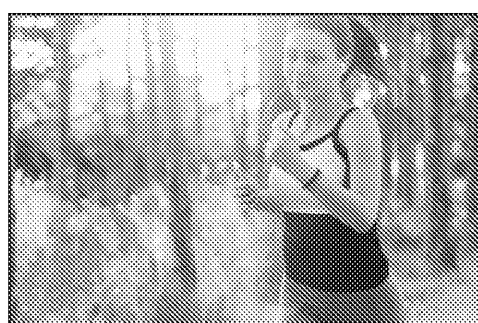
$$\text{HR max} = 220 - \text{age (in years)}$$

e.g. an individual aged 40 would have an HR max of $220 - 40 = 180$

The two main training zones used in fitness training are the aerobic training zone and the anaerobic training zone.



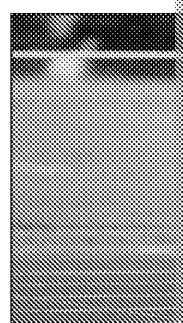
Aerobic training zone (60–80% HR max)



The performer should aim to stay within this training zone if they want to improve their aerobic performance. This is exercise where oxygen delivery to the working muscle is able to meet the muscle's demands for oxygen. Most continuous and fartlek training sessions will be completed in this target heart rate zone.

Using the example above, the individual aged 40 should aim for a target heart rate zone of 180×0.6 to $180 \times 0.80 = \mathbf{108-144 \text{ bpm}}$

Anaerobic training zone (80–100% HR max)



This zone is used for short bursts of high performance. It is where the muscle's demand for oxygen exceeds the body's ability to supply it. Most interval training sessions will be completed in this target heart rate zone.

Using the example above, the individual aged 40 should aim for a target heart rate zone of 180×0.80 to $180 \times 1.00 = \mathbf{144-180 \text{ bpm}}$

Applied activity

Calculate your own maximum heart rate and target heart rate zones using the equation above.

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Borg's rating of perceived exertion (RPE)

RPE is displayed on a scale of 6–20, ranging from exercise where there is no physical exertion (rated 6) to maximal exertion (rated 20). The scale is designed to correspond to heart rate where heart rate is RPE multiplied by 10.

$$HR = RPE \times 10$$

e.g. a performer who gives an **RPE of 15** should be roughly working at 150 bpm.

No exertion	Extremely light		Very light		Light		Somewhat hard		Hard		Very hard
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

There are some limitations of using RPE to measure exercise intensity. As performers are assessing themselves they could slack and be dishonest, suggesting they are working at a higher rating than they are. Performers also need to know what the ratings mean as this is subjective. One performer's 'somewhat hard' might be another performer's 'hard'.

Did you know?

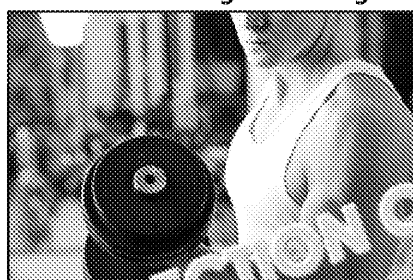
The Borg scale was developed by a sports psychologist. It was first used for monitoring exercise intensity in the 1970s.

Repetition maximum (RM)

RM is the term used to describe maximum load that can be lifted with a given number of repetitions. A 1RM (the maximum load that can be lifted in a single repetition) gives a measure of someone's maximum strength. A 15RM (the maximum load that can be lifted in 15 repetitions) gives a measure of someone's muscular endurance.

A person's 1RM is measured to prescribe training for both these components of fitness. To measure 1RM, the weight is increased with a given exercise until the maximum weight that can be lifted is reached, and then using this value to prescribe the load and number of reps according to the desired training goal.

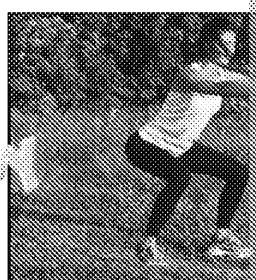
Muscular strength training



Aim to perform **4–8 reps** at a load **above 70% 1RM**.

e.g. an individual with a 1RM of 120 kg should aim to perform 4–8 reps at a load $120 \times 0.7 = \geq 84 \text{ kg}$

Muscular endurance



Aim to perform **12–15 reps** at a load **below 70% 1RM**.

e.g. an individual with a 1RM of 50 kg should aim to perform 12–15 reps at a load $50 \times 0.7 = 35 \text{ kg}$

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Research activity

Research the different ways that 1RM can be calculated besides the traditional method. Write up your findings with a specific exercise.

Technology to measure exercise intensity

As mentioned previously, heart rate can be calculated by palpating the pulse at the wrist (radial artery), but for continuous monitoring during exercise, technology is used to take a quick check of their heart rate without having to stop exercising. It often

There are a number of different devices that can be used to monitor heart rate and during exercise.

- A **heart rate monitor** is attached to a strap and worn around the chest. It uses the electrical activity of the heart, which feeds this information to a connected watch (see below). As they use electrical signals, heart rate monitors are deemed the most accurate.
- Some items of gym equipment, such as treadmills and exercise bikes, have built-in sensors that pick up heart rate information from the chest-based monitor and display this information. Some also pick up heart rate through the skin when the handles are held, using a similar technology to a heart rate monitor.
- **Smartwatches** often have built-in heart rate monitors that use LEDs to detect blood flow through the radial artery in the wrist. Many report other useful measures of exercise intensity, such as running pace, to further help regulate exercise. They can give very accurate readings but may also report inaccuracies due to sweat, or if they move around due to being too loose.
- **Apps** can be downloaded onto mobile phones and used alongside smartwatches and heart rate monitors to store fitness data for greater analysis. Many compatible apps exist for heart rate monitors and smartwatch manufacturers such as Polar and Garmin. These allow the performer to review training sessions and identify where exercise intensity might have increased or decreased without knowing!
- There are also apps that pick up pulse rate directly using the phone. These use a method similar to smartwatches where the finger is placed over the torch on the phone and the light is used to detect blood flow through the finger.

Applied activity:

Try out each of the devices listed above to measure your own heart rate. You should use each at the same time so that it is recording the same heart rate. Monitor your heart rate for a sample period (e.g. one minute) and then record the values in the table below. You could attempt it at rest and during exercise to see if any differences are exacerbated.

Device	Rest (bpm)	Exercise (bpm)
Heart rate monitor		
Smartwatch		
App on phone (e.g. Instant Heart Rate)		

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Chapters A2 and A3: Revision Questions

Checking understanding questions

1. Name the FITT principle of training described as 'the number of training sessions completed over a period of time, usually per week'.
2. Describe how someone's aerobic training zone is calculated.
3. Name **two** items of technology that can be used to measure exercise intensity.
4. State the heart rate value you expect someone to be exercising at if they give you their resting heart rate.
5. What percentage of one-rep max (1RM) would be used for training muscular endurance?

Taking it further questions

1. Give **two** examples of how the principle of progressive overload can be applied to improve the strength of a rugby player.
2. Explain **one** reason why it is important to apply the principle of rest in a training programme.
3. Calculate the anaerobic training zone for a 400 m sprinter who is 36 years old. Show your working.
4. For each of the following additional principles of training, give **one** example of how it can be applied to the training programme of a hockey player:
 - Specificity
 - Individual differences
 - Variation

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Learning Outcome B: Investigate fitness and determine fitness levels

Overview

In this section you will understand the reasons why performers, trainers and coaches in sport use fitness testing.

You will also gain knowledge of the different aspects required to set up and administer the protocols of a range of fitness tests for the different components of fitness, as well as how to interpret results and compare them to normative data.

You will learn what is meant by the reliability, validity and practicality of fitness tests and how each of these can be determined.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

B1: Understand the importance of fitness testing and requirements of each fitness test.

- ☐ Identify the reasons for fitness testing and evaluate what is a valid and practical fitness test
- ☐ Describe the pre-test procedures that must take place
- ☐ Describe standard test methods and how to accurately record and process the results to interpret them against normative data
- ☐ Evaluate the appropriateness of certain fitness tests for different components of fitness and/or participants

B2/B3: Understand the different fitness tests used for each component of fitness and the practicality and validity of each.

- ☐ Identify the different fitness test for each component of fitness
- ☐ Explain why some tests are more reliable, valid and/or practical than others

B4: Understand how normative data tables are used to interpret results and make recommendations to improve performance.

- ☐ Analyse the results of fitness tests using normative published data and make recommendations based on these results

Key terms

Calibration	the process by which measuring instruments are checked to ensure they produce accurate results
Informed consent	a written agreement between the test participant and the tester, which outlines what the participant can expect from the test and what the tester will do
Normative data	a data set which is categorised by age and gender and provides fitness test norms for that population
PAR-Q	a series of questions designed to identify any previous injuries that may impact an individual's participation in physical activity
Practicality	the measure of how feasible a fitness test is
Reliability	the measure of the consistency of test results due to the test being performed under the exact same conditions
Spotter	a person who is there for support if the performer is unable to complete the test, allowing the performer to work to maximum
Validity	the measure of whether the results of a test actually reflect the component of fitness being measured

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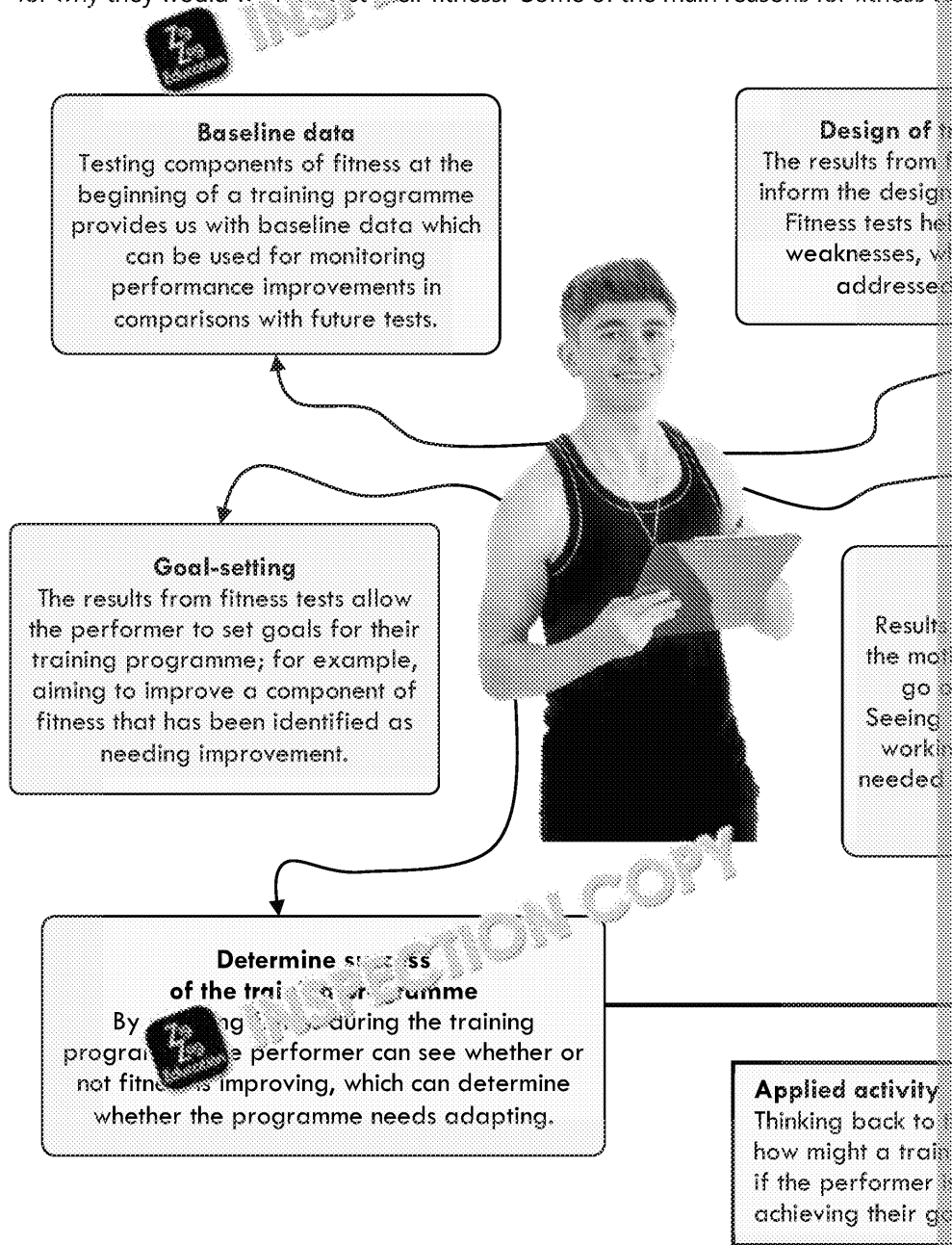


Chapter B1: Importance of fitness testing requirements for administration of each

In order to get an idea of an individual's fitness levels, fitness tests are used. There are many different tests for each component of fitness, and for each component there are often multiple tests for that component. These tests differ in their reliability, validity and practicality, as well as their purposes, situations and participants. Before we get into what each of these terms mean, we first need to understand the reasons why fitness testing is carried out in the first place, and then how to set up and administer the protocol of each test.

Reasons for fitness testing

Each individual will have different reasons for testing their fitness. Some individuals may want to know their fitness level for general health reasons, while others may want to know for specific performance reasons. Some of the main reasons for fitness testing are:



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Pre-test procedures

There are a number of different administration requirements of fitness testing that a participant must carry out before starting the fitness test protocol. Some key pre-test

Calibration of test equipment

Some equipment used in fitness tests may need calibrating before it is used to collect data. This involves checking the settings on equipment to ensure the results they are giving are accurate. For example, the dynamometer used in the grip dynamometer test for muscular strength should be calibrated by applying weights of known masses to the handgrip one at a time. Any differences between the reading on the screen and the mass of the weights should be adjusted in the settings.

Calibrate
which
check
they

Informed consent forms

It is extremely important for a test conductor to obtain signed informed consent for part in fitness tests. This is a written agreement between the test participant and the participant that their participation is entirely voluntary and that they are free to stop at any time. An informed consent form also provides the participant with detailed information about the test and what they are consenting to. Example informed consent form may contain is shown below.

Informed Consent Form	
Fitness test: 12-minute Cooper run	
Test explanation: Before agreeing to participate in this test, you should have read the explanation of the test, which covers the procedures and the benefits and risks you might experience.	
Confidentiality: The data obtained from this test and your personal information will remain confidential.	
Questions: Any questions you may have before agreeing to take part, please forward them to the test conductor before giving your signed informed consent.	
Agreement: If you have fully understood the explanation of the test and are happy to take part, please sign the agreement below.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I fully understand what to expect from the test and have had the opportunity to ask questions. 2. I understand that I am free to withdraw from the test at any given time. 3. I agree to take part in the test. 	
Name (printed): _____	Signature: _____

Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire (PAR-Q)

A PAR-Q consists of a series of questions designed to identify any previous or existing health conditions or injuries that may impact an individual's participation in physical activity. Any information that may affect the individual's participation in the fitness test should be raised before continuing. In some instances, the participant may need approval from a doctor before they can take part in the test. The PAR-Q can also determine whether a participant is at a requisite level for **participation** is at a requisite level for them to safely carry out the fitness test.

Complete the PAR-Q here: [zzed.uk/12122-PARQ](https://www.zzed.uk/12122-PARQ)

Research activity

Research information that may be contained in a PAR-Q and create your own!



Did you know?

Any personal data collected from fitness tests must be stored securely in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

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Pre-fitness test check

Immediately before starting a fitness test, the performer will undergo a pre-fitness check to ensure it is safe to go ahead with the fitness test. This will often be a series of questions that the test conductor or issued as a questionnaire that may address information such as whether the performer is taking any medication, has suffered from any illnesses in the past week, has picked up any injuries, and reasons why they should not take part in the fitness test. It is then at the discretion of the test conductor whether it is safe for the test to go ahead.

Further requirements for administering fitness tests

All of the above indicate checks and consent that must be obtained from the participant before starting the tests. However, it is important that the test conductor is knowledgeable about the correct procedures, how to accurately measure and record results and how to correctly interpret these against published data tables to assess the participant's fitness levels.

Additional information involved in the administration of fitness tests includes:

- ✓ Knowledge of the published standard test methods and use of equipment
- ✓ Knowledge of suitable and appropriate tests for participants and their situations
- ✓ Accurate measurement and recording of results
- ✓ Basic processing of test results and interpretation using published data tables

Reliability of tests

A reliable test is one that can be repeated in the exact same conditions and bring about the same results.

There are a number of different factors that can affect the reliability of a test:

Reliability is the measure of test results due to repeated under the same conditions.

- **Calibration of equipment** – if equipment is not calibrated before use then it will not give accurate results. It is important that equipment is checked and in proper working order before carrying out a fitness test.
- **Motivation of the participant** – if a fitness test requires large motivation levels from the participant, the results are more likely to be inconsistent. This is because performers are not always going to have the same motivation levels when performing a test. For example, the participant may be more motivated if performing the test at a different time in the day or if they have a previous result they need to beat.
- **Conditions of the testing environment** – the conditions for fitness testing should be controlled to ensure reliable results. A fitness test conducted outdoors is more likely to be affected by weather than a fitness test conducted indoors. For example:
 - Wind speed can impact tests for speed.
 - Wet conditions can impact tests for agility.
 - Temperature can increase the intensity of fitness tests for aerobic endurance.
- Furthermore, the temperature and conditions within the environment can also affect results. For example, completing a multi-stage fitness test may be a lot more challenging in the sports hall than outdoors.
- **Experience of the test conductor** – an experienced test conductor will have conducted the test several times before and, therefore, will have a good working knowledge of the standard test methods. This helps to make results more reliable and ensure that the correct procedures are used.
- **Compliance with standardised test procedures** – the test conductor will also have to make sure that the performer follows the correct instructions/procedures at all times during the test, and to void any test results that were recorded with a breach of the procedures. This will ensure that all comparisons made with results are reliable.

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Validity of results

A valid test is one that measures what it sets out to measure. It is where the test results are a true reflection of the fitness component being measured. For example, the 12-minute Cooper run is a maximal fitness test used to measure aerobic endurance. Aerobic endurance, remember, is the ability of the heart and working muscles with oxygen for an extended duration. Therefore, it is more valid than the Harvard step test, which does not directly measure aerobic endurance but uses an indirect measure.

Validity is the measure of a test actually measuring what is being measured.

Practicality of tests

A practical test is one that is efficient and can be carried out with relative ease. The following factors can make a test practical. These include:

- **Low cost** – some equipment can be quite costly, making the test less practical.
- **Little time** – the time it takes to
 - a) set up the test
 - b) perform the test
 - c) analyse the results
 ... will influence the practicality of the test. The less time it takes to complete a test, the more practical it is.
- **Can collect data from numerous participants at once** – being able to run a test and collect the data from multiple participants at the same time will make a test highly practical. This is because it saves time on repeating the test for each participant, especially if the test takes a long time.

Case study

BMI is a highly **practical** measure of body composition due to the ease of collecting and analysing data. All that is required is height and body mass. However, BMI does not differentiate between a highly muscular individual and a fat individual. BMI as an individual measure means it has poor **validity** due to weight.

Read more about why BMI is not a good measure of body composition at [bbc.com/health/fitness/fitness-basics/why-bmi-is-not-a-good-measure-of-body-composition](https://www.bbc.com/health/fitness/fitness-basics/why-bmi-is-not-a-good-measure-of-body-composition)

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Chapter B2: Fitness test methods for components of physical fitness

Knowledge of the published standard test methods and use of equipment for each number of reasons. Firstly, it allows the right tests to be selected which will produce a specific sport or activity. It also allows the test conductor to improve the reliability of the standardised test procedures. Finally, it helps the person conducting the test to select practical tests for certain categories of participants. Covered below are the different components of physical fitness.

A warm-up is recommended prior to all fitness tests. This will help to reduce the risk of injury, and also increase the validity of the tests by providing a more accurate measurement of performance.

Aerobic endurance

There are various fitness tests for aerobic endurance, improving their suitability to allow them to be completed by a range of participants.

Multistage fitness test

Also known as the **bleep test**, this is a maximal test that increases in speed and requires the performer to change direction every 20 metres. This test can be adapted for people with disabilities, especially wheelchair users, as it removes the need to step – a requirement of the Harvard step test (see next page).

The main procedures for this test are:

1. A 20 m track is marked out with a cone placed at either end.
2. The participant starts behind the cone at one end of the track.
3. The assistant starts the test recording track through an audio player, which signals the 20 m track that the participant must run.
4. As the test progresses, the time between each beep decreases and, in turn, the running speed.
5. The participant should continue for as long as they can keep up with the timing.
6. Once the participant fails to meet three consecutive beeps, the assistant should stop the test.
7. The stage and shuttle number that the participant was last able to complete is recorded.

The equipment needed for this test includes:

- ✓ Cones
- ✓ Measuring tape/wheel
- ✓ Audio player and test recording track
- ✓ Running track

Did you know?

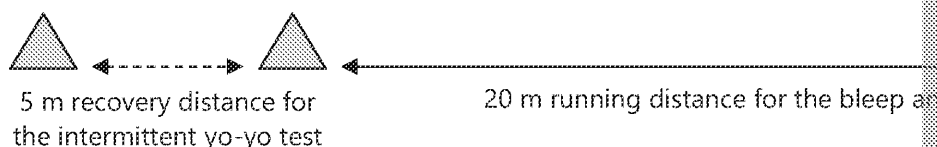
The yo-yo test is a prominent fitness test in the Bangabandhu Sports Complex.

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The **yo-yo test** is similar to the bleep test in that it requires the performer to run back and forth on a track to the other end with 'beeps' from an audio track. There are numerous variations of this test for different levels of fitness.

- **Level 1 Beginner** test consists of slower speeds than the bleep test.
- **Level 2 Advanced** test consists of greater increments of speed than the bleep test.
- **Intermittent** variants of the test, which are the most popular, include a 5 m recovery distance after every 40 m. An additional 5 m is marked out behind the start cone used during this 10 s.



Harvard step test

A submaximal test where the performer must repeatedly step up onto and down from a bench. This test would be best suited for individuals who have a limited cardiovascular endurance.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant begins the test by facing the stepping bench.
2. The test conductor should start a metronome via an audio player at 30 beats per minute.
3. On each beat, the participant should step up onto a bench and back down again, alternating the leading leg each time.
4. They should continue doing this for 5 minutes, at which point the assistant should notify them to stop.
5. The participant should measure their pulse rate at every minute mark after each consecutive minutes. This can be done by counting the last 15 seconds of every minute and multiplying it by four.
6. The test score can be calculated by the equation:



$$\frac{30,000}{(\text{pulse after 1 min} + \text{pulse after 2 mins} + \text{pulse after 3 mins})}$$

The equipment needed for this test includes:

- ✓ Audio player and recording track
- ✓ Bench or step
- ✓ Stopwatch

Did you know?

The Harvard step test was developed by Harvard University in 1926 as a fitness test for soldiers in the army.

Cooper 12-minute test

Another maximal test where the performer must run or swim as far as possible within 12 minutes.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant warms up in preparation for the 12-minute Cooper test they are about to perform (run or swim).
2. On the command 'go', the assistant starts the stopwatch and the participant begins the test.
3. The participant must run or swim (depending on the test) as far as possible within 12 minutes.
4. Once the 12-minute time period is up, the participant must stop where they are.
5. The distance they have travelled is recorded in metres and used as the test score.

The equipment needed for this test includes:

- ✓ Running track / swimming pool
- ✓ Stopwatch

Applied activity

Which of the four tests would be considered most valid for a 1500 m swim? Justify your choice of test.



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Cardiovascular endurance tests are suited to endurance performers. The beep and team sport athletes who require cardiovascular endurance but need to have good whereas the Cooper 12-minute test is wholly specific to long-distance runners and

Maximal tests require lots of motivation so the results from the beep, yo-yo and C more unreliable than the Harvard step test. Nevertheless, the results are more like test uses a calculation to predict cardiovascular endurance. All tests might be con numerous participants at once and require minimal equipment.

Normative data can be found for the different fitness tests for aerobic endurance against population norms, allowing participants to rate their fitness levels.

Normative data for the Cooper 12-minute run for males and females aged 14

Rating	Males	Females
Excellent	> 2700 m	> 2200 m
Good	2550–2700 m	2050–2200 m
Average	2350–2549 m	1900–2049 m
	2050–2349 m	1750–1899 m
	< 2050 m	< 1750 m

Source: Estimated and adapted from Cooper (1968)

Normative data for the Harvard step test for 14–16-year-olds, based on the score

Rating	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average
Male	> 99.0	76.0–99.0	61.5–75.9	49.0–61.4
Female	> 79.0	72.0–79.0	58.0–71.9	45.0–57.9

Source: Estimated and adapted from Beashel and Taylor (1997)

Normative data for the beep test for 15–17-year-olds. Performers are rated according to the number (S) they were able to reach:

Rating	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average
Male	L12 S9	L11 S4	L8 S11	L7 S3
Female	L10 S10	L9 S2	L6 S8	L5 S1

Source: Estimated and adapted from Bizley et al. (2010)

Applied activity

See if you can use the above normative data tables to assign a rating to each performer below:

Name	Age	Gender	Test	Score
Gina	14	Female	Harvard step test	61.5
John	16	Male	12-minute Cooper run	2200 m
Amad	15	Male	Harvard step test	83.2
Shelley	15	Female	Multistage fitness test	L11 S10
Poppy	14	Female	12-minute Cooper run	2000 m
Ian	17	Male	Multistage fitness test	L7 S3

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Muscular endurance

There are a number of different tests for muscular endurance which involve different endurance of specific muscles.

One-minute press-up or sit-up test

A test where the participant must perform as many press-ups or sit-ups as they can. These are generally easier to perform so may be used by a wider range of participants.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant lies on an exercise mat, with their legs bent (sit-up), or propped up on their elbows and feet (see images).
2. On the command 'go', the assistant starts the stopwatch and the participant performs sit-ups (lowering their elbows to their knees) or a press-up (lowering their chest to the floor).
3. They then return to their initial position, which counts as one full repetition (rep).
4. Their aim is to perform as many reps as possible within one minute.
5. The test score is the number of reps they are able to perform.

The equipment needed for these tests includes:

- ✓ Exercise mat
- ✓ Stopwatch

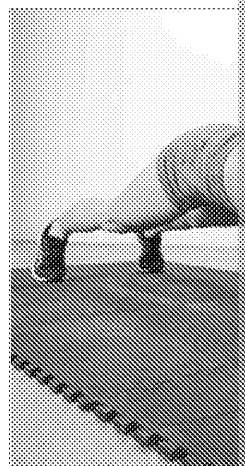
The press-up test targets the pectorals and triceps, whereas the sit-up test targets the abdominals.



The timed plank test is another test that can measure muscular endurance. This tests the isometric ability of several muscles, including the quadriceps, abdominals and deltoids.

Instead of using the number of reps performed in a minute as the measure, this test is measured as the amount of **time** the participant is able to hold the plank position for. The same equipment is required.

The proper plank position is shown in the image to the right, where the body is propped up parallel to the ground. This position should be maintained in order to obtain a valid measurement of muscular endurance.



Isometric muscle contraction
The muscle contracts but does not change length.

Tests for muscular endurance are related to events that involve repeated muscle action for 30 minutes, such as basketball where the upper body muscles are constantly active.

The one-minute tests are highly practical as they are quick and easy to perform. It is questioned as performing a maximum number of reps in one minute relies on strength. All muscular endurance tests can be considered reliable, though, as they do not require special equipment, motivation, no equipment needs to be calibrated, the environment is always the same and the conductor is not essential.

Applied activity

Have a go at performing the one-minute sit-up test and/or the plank test, and record your data on the next page to see how you rate! You should be rested between each test to allow the muscles (the abdominals) to recover.

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Normative data for the one-minute sit-up test for males and females aged 14–18:

Rating	Males	Females
Excellent	> 27	> 23
Above average	25–27	20–23
Average	19–24	14–19
Below average	15–18	8–13
Poor	< 15	< 8

Source: Estimated and adapted from Davis et al. (2000)

Normative data for the plank test for males and females aged 16–18:

Excellent	Very good	Above average	Average	Below average
> 5 mins	3–5 mins	2–3 mins	1.5–2 mins	45 secs – 1.5 mins

Source: Estimated and adapted from Strand et al. (2014)

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Flexibility

Just as the different muscular endurance tests measure the endurance of specific muscles, flexibility tests that measure the flexibility of specific muscles.

Sit and reach test

The most commonly used flexibility test. This measures the flexibility of the hamstring muscles by having the performer reach out over a box.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant performs a warm-up to increase flexibility and reduce the risk of injury.
2. They then sit with their feet pressed up against the sit and reach box with legs straight and flat on the floor (as shown in the image to the right).
3. The participant should then reach out in front of them as far as possible over the sit and reach box. They should make sure that the stretch is smooth and progressive.
4. The assessor records the distance in centimetres the participant is able to reach by reading the built-in ruler on top of the sit and reach box. This is used as the test score.



Normative data for the sit and reach test

Rating
Excellent
Good
Average
Fair
Poor

Source: Estimated

The equipment needed for this test includes:

- ✓ Sit and reach box (with built-in ruler)
- ✓ Exercise mat (optional)

The shoulder flexibility test may refer to one of many different tests that measure the flexibility of the muscles around the shoulder, such as the deltoids and the rotator cuffs. The most common test is the overhead reach, also known as the back scratch test. This involves the participant reaching over their head with one arm, at the same time as reaching around with the other arm and attempting to make contact between the fingers of both hands.

A rating is given based on how close the fingers are to each other:

- Greater than 5 cm apart – 'Poor'
- Less than 5 cm apart but not touching – 'Fair'
- Touching – 'Good'

The calf muscle flexibility test involves the participant facing a wall with one foot flat on the floor and the other foot on a box, then leaning forward over the box. This is repeated with their foot further back on the box. The test is repeated until they are unable to reach the wall with their knee. The distance from the wall (in centimetres) is recorded.

The flexibility of the gastrocnemius is important for many exercises requiring a plantar flexion at the ankle, such as taking a step or performing a squat.

Ratings for the shoulder flexibility test

Rating	Descriptor
Good	Fingers are able to touch each other
Fair	Fingers are less than 5 cm (2 in) apart
Poor	Fingers are greater than 5 cm (2 in) apart

Flexibility tests are suited to sports such as gymnastics which require a large range of motion at the joints. All of the flexibility tests covered above can be considered valid as they assess the flexibility of specific muscles. However, in order to bring about reliable results the performer must be motivated and the test must take a short amount of time and can be performed in a range of environments, the

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Speed

There are two tests commonly used to measure speed, with the only difference being the starting point.

30-metre sprint test

This test involves a standing start, so can give a measure of acceleration and speed.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant should warm up while the assistant marks out a 30-metre track.
2. The participant starts from a stationary position between the start cones.
3. On the command 'go', the assistant should start the stopwatch and the participant sprint the 30 metres right through to the end cone.
4. As the participant passes the end cone, the assistant stops the stopwatch and the time taken is used as the test score.

30-metre flying sprint test

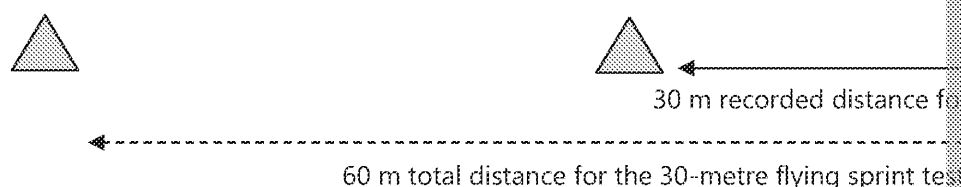
This test gives a pure measure of speed, as the performer should already be near their maximum speed when the time starts.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant warms up while the assistant marks out 60 metres with cones at the halfway point.
2. On the command 'go', the participant accelerates and builds up running speed over the first 30 metres.
3. As the participant passes the halfway point, the assistant starts the stopwatch.
4. The assistant stops the stopwatch as the participant passes the end cone and the time taken to cover the final 30 metres is used as the test score.

The equipment needed for these tests includes:

- ✓ Cones
- ✓ Stopwatch
- ✓ Measuring tape/wheel
- ✓ Running track



Applied activity

How would you expect your test score to differ for the two speed tests?

Research activity

Timing gates can improve the accuracy of measurements. Research how they are more accurate than a stopwatch.

The speed tests above are suitable for athletes who require speed for their sport, but not for all. For example, the 30-metre flying sprint test is regularly used by 100 m sprinters looking for speed. The 30-metre sprint test may be used by performers looking to test their acceleration as well as speed.

Both tests are suitable for the different types of speed that they measure (accelerative and maximum speed). Each test may vary depending on the test conditions. For example, wind speed can have a significant effect on each test is completed. Both tests are, however, highly practical as they are quick, easy to set up and perform.

Normative data for the 30-metre sprint test and flying sprint test for 14–16-year-olds

Rating	Males	Females
Excellent	< 4.2 seconds	< 4.5 seconds
Good	4.2–4.4 seconds	4.5–4.7 seconds
Average	4.5–4.6 seconds	4.8–5.0 seconds
Fair	4.7–4.8 seconds	5.1–5.3 seconds
Poor	> 4.8 seconds	> 5.4 seconds

Source: Estimated and adapted from Davis (2000)

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Muscular strength

There are two commonly used fitness tests for muscular strength, which allow the groups to be determined.

One-rep max (1RM) test

This test measures the maximum weight that can be lifted in one repetition. It is important that participants performing this are well-trained as poor technique can increase the risk of injury.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant should warm up using the muscle group they are choosing to test. Commonly a back squat for lower body strength or a bench press for upper body strength.
2. For the back squat, the participant should stand with their feet shoulder width apart with an unweighted bar resting on their back.
3. To perform the squat, the participant should descend until their thighs are parallel to the floor, keeping their feet firmly planted and their back straight.
4. They should perform a single rep then gradually increase the weight loaded on the bar.
5. They should do this with the help of a spotter until they reach the maximal weight they can lift.
6. The total weight (plus bar) is recorded in kilograms and used as the test score.

The equipment needed for this test includes:

- ✓ Barbell
- ✓ Bench/squat rack
- ✓ Weighted plates

Spotter – a person who is there for support and to help complete a rep, allowing the performer to rest.

Research activity

Rating of strength using 1RM uses the load lifted as a percentage of body weight. Take a look at the ratings for adults on the [BBC website](https://www.bbc.com/health/fitness/fitness-basics/12122-bench) <https://www.bbc.com/health/fitness/fitness-basics/12122-bench>

Grip dynamometer test

This test measures grip strength using a bespoke measurement device called a dynamometer. It is suitable for a wider range of participants as it does not rely on technique.

Main procedures:

1. The participant adjusts the handgrip so that it sits comfortably between the first crease of the index finger and the palm of the hand.
2. They should then stand holding the dynamometer down beside them but with the arm slightly away from the body so that it is not touching.
3. When ready, they should squeeze the handgrip as hard as possible for up to five seconds.
4. The test score is displayed upon the screen in kilogram watts (KgW).

Equipment and facilities needed:

- ✓ Handgrip dynamometer

The 1RM test is suited for performers who rely on maximal strength, such as weightlifters. The grip dynamometer is more suited to a wider range of performers as it gives an indication of overall strength of specific muscle groups. For this reason, the 1RM test is considered less reliable. The dynamometer test is much more practical as it takes a short amount of time to complete the test, which reduces the risk of injury to the performer between sets. The grip dynamometer test is a more reliable tool. The 1RM test is likely to be more affected by motivation and the skill of the conductor as to what constitutes a valid rep.

Normative data for the grip dynamometer test for 14–16-year-olds:

Rating	Males	Females
Excellent	> 50	> 32
Good	48–50	29–32
Average	43–47	24–28
Fair	37–42	18–23
Poor	< 37	< 18

Source: Estimated and adapted from Davis (2000)

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Body composition

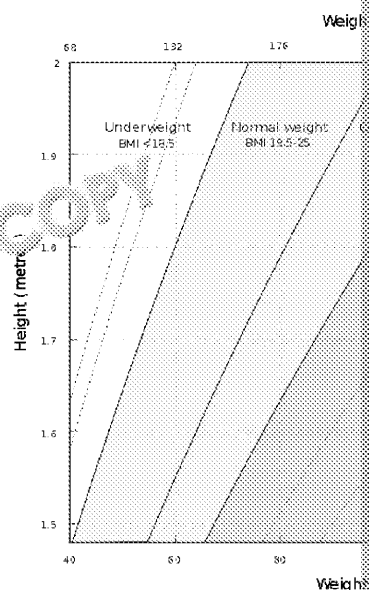
There are numerous tests for measuring body composition, with some giving more accurate results than others. The procedures for three of the most practical tests for estimating body composition are described below.

Body mass index (BMI)

This is a simple estimation of body composition which uses an individual's weight and height.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant's height is measured, preferably using a stadiometer.
2. The participant's weight is measured using accurate floor scales.
3. The participant's weight (in kg) is divided by their height (in metres) squared.
4. The value is used to determine the participant's weight category, as shown in the graph below.



Equipment needed to measure BMI includes:

- ✓ Scales (for weight)
- ✓ Stadiometer or tape measure (for height)
- ✓ Calculator
- ✓ The validity of BMI as an indicator of body composition is scrutinised as it does not distinguish between fat mass and fat-free mass. For example, two people who are 1.8 m tall could both be classified as obese, yet one might have a high lean muscle mass.
- ✓ However, it would be considered the most practical as it can be calculated using simple equipment. The reliability of this test could be affected by the test conductor's measurements including the participant's clothing and footwear, while some people may have a higher BMI due to a larger bone structure which will affect the results.

Applied activity

See if you can use the above graph and calculation for BMI to work out the classification of the following individuals:

Name	Age	Height	Weight	BMI classification
Carl	23	173 cm	66 kg	
Amelia	19	155 cm	52 kg	
Shweta	33	175 cm	78 kg	
Ki	42	184 cm	120 kg	

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Bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA)

This test uses a piece of specialised equipment which sends an electrical current through the body.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant stands on the BIA machine and places their hands onto contact points to allow an electrical current through the body.
2. Information relating to the individual's body composition is displayed on the machine's screen or on a paper. This includes an estimation of body fat percentage, fat mass and fat-free mass of the body, as well as the whole body.

A BIA machine is all that is needed to measure body composition through this method. BIA machines can be expensive and are often only available in clinical settings or for a cost in some health and fitness facilities, making it a less practical method of measuring body composition.

Some conductors get the participant to avoid consuming fluids in the few hours leading up to the test, as every 500 mL consumed results in a 2% increase in the estimated body fat percentage. This will provide more valid results of body composition, but if this approach is used by some and not others, results will be unreliable.

Waist-to-hip ratio (WHR)

This test uses a measurement of an individual's waist circumference relative to their hip circumference. It is a better indicator of central obesity around the abdominal area (i.e. above the waistline).

The main procedures are:

1. The participant stands upright.
2. The narrowest part of the waist is identified and its circumference is measured using a tape measure.
3. The widest part of the hips is identified and the same technique is used to measure its circumference.
4. Waist circumference is divided by hip circumference and the value is used to determine health risk, below:

Health risk	Women	Men
Low	0.80 or lower	0.95 or lower
Moderate	0.81–0.85	0.96–1.0
High	0.86 or higher	1.0 or higher

Equipment needed for the WHR measurement includes:

- ✓ Tape measure
- ✓ Calculator

The measurement for the WHR can take time so it might be considered less practical than BIA. However, with simple equipment, it is more practical than BIA.

An inexperienced test conductor is likely to take waist and hip measurements at the wrong points, which can affect the validity of the WHR measurement and the reliability of repeat results.

Did you know?

Central obesity in an individual with an 'apple-shaped' body is associated with a higher risk of cardiovascular disease. In contrast, 'pear-shaped' individuals have fat accumulated in the lower body.

Research on WHR
Research has shown that WHR is a better measurement of health risk than BMI, as DEXA and BIA.

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Chapter B3: Fitness test methods for components of skill-related

Agility

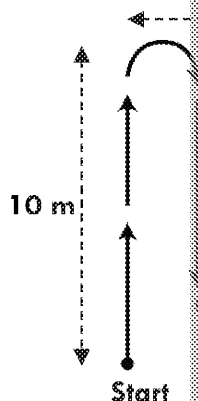
There are two key tests designed to measure agility, each using a different course and

Illinois agility run test

This test uses a course which involves running in a forwards direction throughout.

Main procedures:

1. The participant warms up while the assessor marks out a 10 m × 5 m course, shown in the diagram to the right.
2. On the command 'go', the participant should aim to complete the course in the direction shown, as quickly as possible.
3. The assistant uses a stopwatch to time how long they take in seconds and this is used as the test score.



Normative data for the Illinois agility run test for 14–16-year-olds:

Rating	Males	Females
Excellent	< 15.2 s	< 17.0 s
Above average	15.2–16.1 s	17.0–17.9 s
Average	16.2–18.1 s	18.0–21.7 s
Below average	18.2–19.3 s	21.8–23.0 s
Poor	> 19.3 s	> 23.0 s

Source: Estimated and adapted from Davis (2000)

T test

This test uses a course which involves moving in a forwards, sideways and backwards direction.

Main procedures:

1. The participant starts at the bottom cone. On the command 'go', they run as quickly as possible to the opposite cone and touch it with their right hand.
2. From here, they shuffle across to the cone on their left and touch it with their left hand.
3. They then shuffle across all the way to the right-hand cone and touch it with their right hand.
4. The participant then shuffles left to the centre cone, touching it with their left hand.
5. Finally, they return to their starting cone by running backwards.
6. The time taken to complete the test is used as their test score.



Equipment needed for these tests includes:

- ✓ Cones
- ✓ Non-slip running surface
- ✓ Stopwatch
- ✓ Assistant

Agility tests are suited to participants in sports that require changes of direction, such as tennis. Both tests provide valid results as they test the body's ability to change direction reliably as they require little motivation and neither test requires an experienced coach. They are also both very practical as they are easy to set up and analyse and can be completed in a short amount of time.

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Balance

There are two tests that can be used to measure balance – one that is designed to measure static balance and one that is designed to test dynamic balance.

Stork stand test

This test involves the participant adopting a stance and maintaining static balance for a set period of time.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant is given time to practise the stance for the test shown on the video.
2. The participant then starts the test by adopting the stance, while at the same time the stopwatch should start.
3. The participant should try to maintain their balance for as long as possible.
4. If the participant loses balance at any point, or their free leg foot leaves their stance, they stop the stopwatch and records the time in minutes and/or seconds. This is used to measure static balance.

Equipment needed:

- ✓ Stopwatch

Normative data for the stork stand test for males and females, aged 14–16:

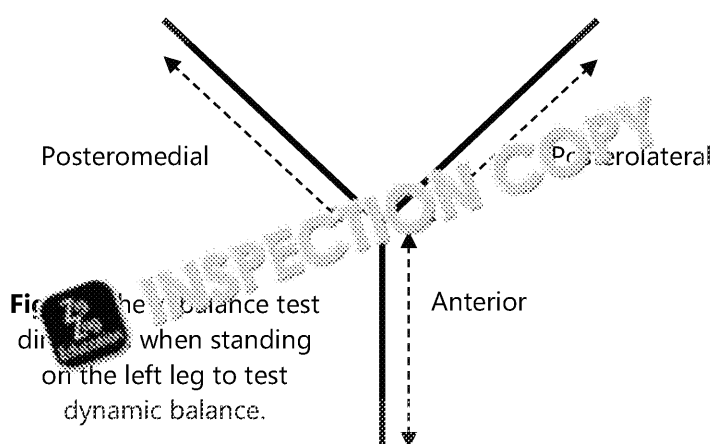
	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average	Poor
Males	> 55 s	41–55 s	17–40s	6–16 s	< 6 s
Females	> 30 s	24–30s	9–23s	3–8 s	< 3 s

Source: Estimated and adapted from Schell & Leelarthaepin (1994)

The **Y-balance test** can also give a measure of balance, but compared to the stork stand test, this test gives a measure of dynamic balance.

The participant starts by adopting a single-leg stance on a piece of apparatus designed for the test. They then reach out as far as possible with the other leg in three different directions: posteromedial, posterolateral and anterior. The posteromedial and posterolateral tests are achieved on each side separately and is guided by the apparatus, which uses a slider and an inbuilt scale to measure the distance achieved on each. Once the subject has performed the test in each direction, the results are recorded. There are six tests in total. Results take into account limb length to give a composite score.

Watch the video using the link below to see how this test is carried out and results are recorded: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFVuS-P2FrI>



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Different tests for balance are more suited to specific events due to their measurement of static or dynamic balance. For example, the stork stand test is most suitable for sporting actions that require static balance, such as gymnastics, while the Y-balance test is most suitable for sporting activities that require dynamic balance, such as badminton and squash. Each test is highly valid for the type of balance it measures and can produce reliable results as it is not affected by any of the factors that would limit the validity of other tests.

Coordination

Most fitness tests for coordination test hand-eye coordination. Two common tests

Alternate-hand wall-toss test

This tests hand-eye coordination by getting the participant to throw and catch a ball

The main procedures are:

1. The participant stands two metres away from a flat wall with a tennis ball in the
2. On the command 'go', the assistant starts the stopwatch and the participant throws the ball with one hand and catch it with the other.
3. They must repeat this as quickly but as accurately as possible for 30 seconds.
4. The number of successful catches is counted by the assistant.
5. When the time is up, the assistant tells the participant to stop.
6. The number of successful catches that are counted by the assistant is used as the

Equipment needed for this test includes:

- ✓ Ruler/tape measure
- ✓ Tennis ball
- ✓ Stopwatch

The **stick flip test** can also be used to test hand-eye coordination.

There are two parts to this test:

Part A (half-turn)

1. The subject holds two sticks, one in each hand, at waist height and parallel to the ground.
2. An assistant then places a third stick horizontally across the two held sticks.
3. The participant has five attempts at flipping the stick so that it completes a half-turn over the two held sticks.
4. One point is awarded for each successful half-turn flip of the stick.

Part B (full turn)

5. Steps 1–3 are repeated, but this time the participant must execute a complete full turn.
6. The tip of the stick being flipped can be painted or taped to determine when it has completed a full turn.
7. Two points are awarded for each successful full flip of the stick.

The total of the score of both parts is taken and used as the test score.

Research activity

Research the normative data for these fitness tests on the Topend Sports website:
[zzed.uk/12122-coordination](https://www.topendsports.com/fitness/coordination/)

These tests are suited to sports requiring hand-eye coordination, such as rugby. The alternate-hand wall-toss test would be more suitable for ball sports that require the use of the hands, such as fielding in cricket, whereas the stick flip coordination test is suited to movements that require the use of the arms at the same time, such as serving in tennis. Both tests are highly valid as a measure of hand-eye coordination as they focus on using two or more body parts at once. They are also highly practical as they are easy to set up and measure, and can produce results in a short space of time. Both tests are not affected by factors such as motivation or an experienced test conductor.

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Power

Fitness tests for power mainly measure the power of the lower body muscles, requiring jumping and sprinting activities. Three common tests are described below.

Vertical jump test

The participant jumps as high as possible.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant warms up then chalks their fingers (or holds a piece of chalk).
2. The participant then stands side-on to the wall and reaches up as far as possible to mark the wall with the chalk.
3. The participant then jumps as high as they can and again marks the wall with their arm stretched as high as they possibly can above them.
4. The assistant records the distance between the first mark (while standing) and the second mark (while jumping), in centimetres, and this is used as the test score.

Equipment needed for this test includes:

- ✓ Chalk

Standing jump (broad jump)

The participant jumps as far as possible.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant warms up while the assistant sets out a tape measure from a starting line.
2. The participant places their feet behind the line and, from a static position, uses their arms and legs to propel themselves as far forward as possible.
3. They should remain fixed in their landing position as the assistant uses the tape measure to assess how far they were able to jump.
4. The distance is recorded and used as the test score.

Equipment needed for this test includes:

- ✓ Tape measure
- ✓ Chalk or a cone to indicate starting line

Did you know?

The vertical jump test is also known as the Sargent jump test, named after the person who first developed it over 100 years ago in 1921.



The **Margaria-Kalamen test** can also be used to assess power. It involves the participant sprinting up three steps at a time. As they make contact with the third step (i.e. on the first leap), an assistant starts the stopwatch and stops it as soon as the participant's foot has left the ninth step (i.e. after the third leap).

Power is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{power (watts)} = (\text{weight (kg)} \times \text{vertical distance between steps 3 and 9 (m)}) \times 9.8 / \text{time taken (s)}$$

These all assess the power of the lower body, so are suited to sports and events that involve jumping actions, such as the high jump and long jump. They are highly valid as they rely on speed and strength to generate power. They are also quite practical as they do not rely on expensive equipment, are easy to set up and can be conducted in a short space of time. However, the Margaria-Kalamen test might take slightly longer due to the need to perform a calculation. All tests for power are reliable as they are unlikely to be affected by factors such as the test conduction, the motivation of the performer or the experience of the test conductor.

Normative data for the vertical jump test for 14–16-year-olds:

Rating	Males	Females
Excellent	> 58 cm	> 52 cm
Good	47–58 cm	45–52 cm
Average	38–46 cm	34–44 cm
Fair	28–37 cm	25–33 cm
Poor	< 28 cm	< 25 cm

Source: Estimated and adapted from Davis (2000)

Applied activity

Attempt the vertical jump test and compare your results to the values in the normative data.

Would you expect to receive the same rating for the broad jump? Attempt this test and compare your results to the normative data at the Topex website: www.topex.co.uk/12122-power

Are your ratings the same? If not, why?

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Reaction time

The ruler drop test is the recognised fitness test for reaction time, but there are many other reaction time tests that can also be found online.

Ruler drop test

The participant catches a ruler by responding to it being dropped by an assistant.

The main procedures are:

1. The participant sits at a table with their forearm resting on the surface and an open hand hanging over the end.
2. The assistant holds a ruler with the 0 cm mark level with the top of the open hand.
3. In the assistant's own time, they should drop the ruler without giving any advance indication to the participant.
4. The participant must respond as quickly as possible by catching the ruler.
5. The centimetre mark of the ruler which is at the top of the hand is used as the test score.

Equipment and facilities needed:

- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Table
- ✓ Assistant

Normative data for the ruler drop test for males and females aged 14–16:

Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average	Poor
< 8.3 cm	8.3–16.7 cm	16.8–21.4 cm	21.5–30.8 cm	> 30.8 cm

Source: Estimated and adapted from Davis (2000)

There are many **online reaction time tests** that have been developed to test reaction time to something that appears on the screen, such as a shape or an object changing colour. The participant must click their mouse or press the space bar on the keyboard in response.

Research activity

Research three different online reaction time tests and test your average reaction time on each.

Applied activity

Would online reaction time tests give valid results than the ruler drop test? Suggest reasons why or why not.

Tests for reaction time are suited to a number of sports requiring good reactions, such as starting a gun in the 100 m sprint. They can be considered valid as they measure the time taken for a response. However, the reliability of online reaction time tests may be affected by the trustworthiness of the online test. The reliability of the ruler drop test is also influenced by the experience of the conducting assistant and the participant. The participant must follow the required procedures (for example, the participant must not move their hand until the ruler is dropped) to catch the ruler.

These tests are highly practical as they can be performed in any environment, require minimal time to set up, carry out and analyse.

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Chapter B4: Interpretation of fitness test results

As shown with the normative data tables for fitness tests throughout chapters B2 and B3, interpretations can be drawn about a person's fitness levels by comparing their test scores to these normative tables. Different scores are assigned a rating which describes how well that performer has tested relative to the population.

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Comparison to normative data

It is important to be able to analyse and evaluate test results using normative data. The 30-metre sprint test as an example. The data below shows the normative data for this test.

	Males	Females
Excellent	< 4.0 s	< 4.5 s
Good	4.0–4.4 s	4.5–4.8 s
Average	4.5–4.6 s	4.9–5.0 s
Fair	4.7–5.1 s	5.1–5.4 s
Poor	> 5.1 s	> 5.5 s

Estimated and adapted from Davis, B et al. (2006)

Test scores can then be used as a direct comparison to the normative data table to find the appropriate column, and then using their score to find the rating. This allows ratings to be assigned to specific fitness tests to analyse and evaluate results.

The table on the right shows hypothetical results for the 30-metre sprint test for a group of 14–16-year-olds. Here we can see the rating assigned to each performer.

Subject
1
2
3
4

Analysis and evaluation of test results

This table can then be analysed to draw conclusions on the test. For example:

Subject 4, a male, recorded the quickest time, but Subject 2, a female, received the lowest rating because males are typically faster than females due to greater muscle mass on average and more power with each stride. Therefore, they need to record a quicker time to achieve the same rating.

Recommendations for improvements

The results from fitness tests can be used to provide recommendations to a performer on how they can improve that component of fitness in future. This is one of the main reasons for fitness testing, in that the test result can help inform the training programme to focus on improving that fitness component through selecting the relevant training methods and appropriately applying the principles of training.

Application

The table below shows example normative data for a female student aged 15–16 years. Compare these data to the normative data tables in chapters B2 and B3 to record the rating for each fitness test.

Test	Score	
Grip dynamometer test	40 kgW	
Illinois agility test	17.1 s	
Vertical jump test	28 cm	
Cooper 12-minute run test	2300 m	

Provide recommendations for improving the student's fitness based on the results of the tests.

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Chapters B1, B2, B3 and B4: Revision

Checking understanding questions

1. Outline **three** reasons for fitness testing.
2. Give **two** reasons why it is important to use informed consent forms prior to administering a fitness test.
3. Explain **two** factors that affect the reliability of fitness tests.
4. Define validity.
5. Name **two** fitness tests used to measure aerobic endurance.
6. For the alternate-hand wall-toss test:
 - a) Identify the component of fitness measured.
 - b) Describe the protocol.
7. A personal trainer has measured the body composition of their different clients. Complete the table below to identify the BMI status of each client from their BMI.

Client	BMI	BMI Status
A	23.8	
B	17.6	
C	33.1	
D	26.4	

Taking it further questions

1. Compare the practicality of the IRM and grip dynamometer tests for muscular strength.
2. A tennis player has undergone fitness testing to measure their physical and skill-related fitness. Their results are shown below:
 - Yo-yo test – Excellent
 - Alternate-hand wall-toss test – Above average
 - Illinois agility run test – Below average
 - Vertical jump test – Average

Using the results, explain one component of fitness that the tennis player should focus on to improve their performance in tennis.

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Learning Outcome C: Investigate different training methods

Overview

In this section you will learn about what constitutes a safe and effective training session and the different aspects that allow this to fit into a safe and effective training programme.

You will gain an understanding of the various fitness training methods that can be used for the different physical and skill-related components of fitness, including advantages and disadvantages and the long-term effects on the body systems. You will also be able to suggest and justify different training methods for specific sports participants, of a range of ages and abilities.

Finally, you will learn about the different types of public, private and voluntary provision for fitness training and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

- C1:** Understand how fitness training can be carried out
 - ☐ Identify the different components of a warm-up
 - ☐ Explain the effects that a warm-up and cool-down have on the body
 - ☐ Assess how FITT principles and the additional components can be used to design a safe and effective training programme
- C2–C5:** Understand the physical and skill-related components of fitness
 - ☐ Describe the training methods that can be used to improve different components of physical and skill-related fitness
 - ☐ Suggest and justify appropriate training methods for different components of fitness and of different ages and abilities
 - ☐ Assess the advantages and disadvantages of different training methods
 - ☐ Assess the advantages and disadvantages of different training providers
- C6:** Understand the effects of different training methods
 - ☐ Identify the adaptations on the body systems that occur as a result of different training methods
 - ☐ Explain the impact of the different adaptations on the body systems

Key terms

Acceleration sprints	a speed training method whereby the performer starts from a standing or rolling start and then gradually increases their pace to reach a maximal sprint
Bradycardia	a resting heart rate below 60 bpm, usually as a result of regular training
Capillarisation	an increase in the number of capillaries around the alveoli and muscles as a result of aerobic endurance training
Cardiac hypertrophy	the increase in the size of the heart that occurs as a result of regular endurance training
Circuit training	a range of different exercises that are completed at different intensities
Continuous training	sustained exercise for 1 hour or more than 30 minutes, completed at a constant intensity
Fartlek training	varied speed or terrains to intermittently change the intensity of the exercise
Free weights	any piece of weighted gym apparatus not attached to a machine
Interval training	periods of work interspersed by periods of rest
Lactic acid	a by-product of anaerobic exercise, e.g. speed training and fatigue
Ligament	a connective tissue at the joint which joins bone to bone
Mobiliser	a key component of the warm-up which involves exercising through a full range of movement at a joint
Muscle tone	the physical appearance of muscles as a result of being exercised

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Key terms

PNF (acronym)	proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation; PNF is a stretch reflex of the muscle to gradually increase the
Plyometric training	a training method that uses explosive, bounding or
Private provision	sports providers run by individuals or groups looking
Public provision	sports providers run by a body belonging to local
Pulse raiser	a key component of the warm-up which involves to increase heart rate and the flow of oxygen to the
Resistance drills	speed training methods which utilise a range of different (e.g. sledging) and natural resources (e.g. hills) to apply strength and accelerating
Resistance machine	gym equipment that usually operates on a cable or weighted plates to be loaded on
Respiration	a process that occurs in all living cells in the body organs and tissues to function
SAQ (acronym)	speed, agility and quickness; a training method that multidirectional movements using equipment such
Static stretching	holding an isometric stretch for up to 30 seconds
Static active stretching	an internal force is applied by the performer actively the muscle themselves
Static passive stretching	the performer uses an external force to stretch the person or an object (e.g. a wall)
Stretch reflex	a protective mechanism of the muscle whereby it is detected, preventing the muscle from overstretching
Stroke volume	the amount of blood ejected from the left ventricle
Tendon	a connective tissue at the joint which joins muscles
Voluntary provision	sports provider run by not-for-profit individuals or having a positive impact on society
Weight-bearing exercise	any activity where bodyweight is not supported, such

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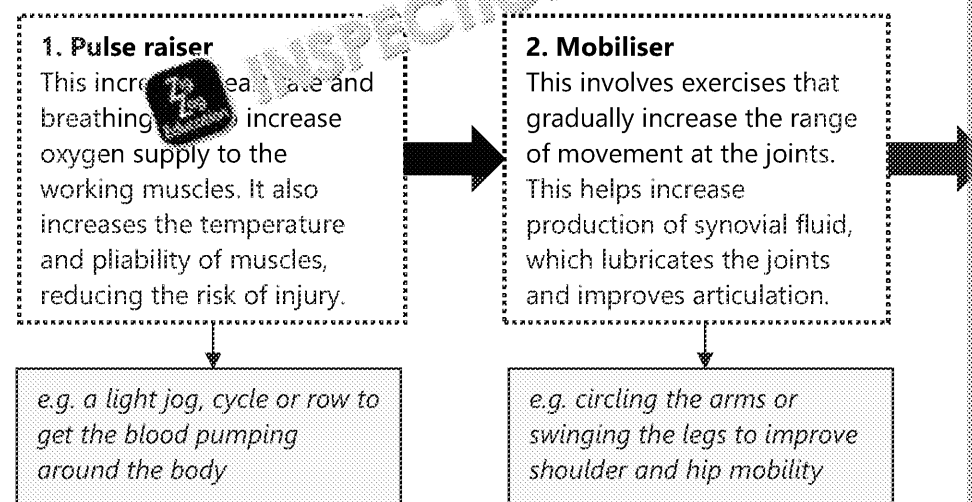


Chapter C1: Requirements for each of the four fitness training methods

Training programmes are designed to improve certain components of fitness by selecting and applying the necessary principles, ensuring training is carried out both safely and effectively. Each session should consist of a warm-up before taking part in the main fitness training and a cool-down afterwards. Let's start off this chapter by taking a look at these requirements for the warm-up.

Warm-up prior to taking part

All training sessions should involve a warm-up to ensure that the participant is prepared for the session and is at a reduced risk of injury. A warm-up should consist of the following components:



Did you know?

Sport-specific warm-ups involve movements directly related to the participant's sport, allowing them to practise certain movements to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the sport.

Cool-down after the session

Cooling down after the session may have many benefits for the performer in the long term, ensuring that they are as fresh as possible for the next training session. A cool-down should include the following key components:

- 1. Light exercise** to gradually lower heart rate and breathing rate to resting levels. The intensity of this exercise should be lower than that of the main session to reduce demands at the muscle. This allows the body to remove lactic acid that has been produced by the muscles during the main activity and to restore any deficits in muscle oxygen stores that have been incurred at the end of the session.
- 2. Stretches** to help muscles return to their pre-exercise length. This helps to reduce muscle soreness or stiffness in the hours and days following the activity.

Applied activity

Apply the warm-up in a sport of your choice! Design a warm-up to include the components and activities you would include in preparation for a training method to improve a specific fitness component.

Throughout the next chapter you will learn to link each training method to each component of fitness, apply the basic FITT principles and additional principles of training to each fitness component, and apply the correct training intensities. You may wish to revisit chapters A2 and A3.

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Chapter C2: Fitness training methods for physical components of fitness

There are certain training methods suited to improving specific components of fitness, so that the right training methods are selected for the performer and their sport. To select the right training method, it is also important that each session applies the basic (FITT) and overload principles, as well as selecting the appropriate intensity to achieve the athlete's goals. This chapter looks at fitness training methods that are used for physical components of fitness and later looks at the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Aerobic endurance

There are four recognised training methods for improving aerobic endurance. These are continuous training, fartlek training, interval training and circuit training.

Continuous training

Continuous training involves sustained exercise at a steady pace without rest. Training sessions should last for longer than 30 minutes and be performed at a constant intensity. This intensity should be moderate, between 60% and 85% HR max, so that the performer is working in the aerobic training zone.

As continuous training sessions are performed at a moderate intensity over a long duration, continuous training is best suited to long-distance activities where there are few changes in intensity, such as marathon running.

For example, a long-distance runner may choose to exercise at a 6 min/km pace for 60 minutes, running a distance of 10 km.

Fartlek training



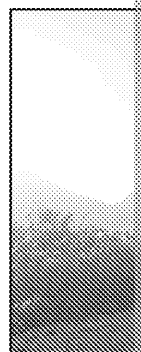
For example, a rugby player may alternate between a jog for 2 minutes in the aerobic training zone and a run for 1 minute in the anaerobic training zone.

Fartlek training uses varied speeds to change the intensity of exercise. Different uses for fartlek training include road running where the intensity of exercise varies, the performer is working in the aerobic and anaerobic training zones.

Fartlek training is suited to performing an activity that varies, such as long-distance running over a variety of inclines, or for team sports involving walking, jogging, running.

Did you know?

Fartlek is the Swedish term for 'game play', and is essentially a mix between continuous training and interval training.



Applied
For this exercise, the performer is working in the aerobic training zone, as the intensity is moderate and the duration is long. This is basic FITT and overload.

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Interval training

Interval training involves periods of work interspersed by periods of rest. The time of work and rest periods are expressed as a work-to-rest ratio. Interval training for aerobic endurance involves long work periods and short rest or recovery periods. As such, there are fewer intervals required for aerobic endurance training. The intensity of training should be greater than that of continuous training as rest periods allow the performer to recover. Therefore, the performer should look towards the top end of the aerobic training zone (around 80%).

Interval training is suited to sports of an intermittent nature which involve breaks in activity.

The design of an interval training session should consist of multiple repetitions (rest period and a work period). The performer may perform a single set of intervals or multiple sets. Each set may be different in design and usually has its own extended period of rest.

For example, a hockey player may use the following interval training session plan:

- Set 1:** 3 reps of 4 minutes' work at 80% HRM, with 1-minute rest and recovery periods.
- Set 2:** 3 reps of 3 minutes' work at 80% HRM, with 30-second rest periods (a 6:1 work-to-rest ratio).

Interval training can also be used for speed (covered later in this chapter), but there are some key differences:

- **Work periods** – work periods are performed at a lower intensity for a longer duration for aerobic endurance.
- **Rest periods** – rest periods will be shorter as recovery is quicker. This is because products like lactic acid to be cleared between bouts.
- **Number of reps** – the number of work and rest periods will be fewer for aerobic endurance due to work periods being longer in duration, so lots of reps would result in a high intensity at which interval training is performed.

Case study

Fitness training for team sports such as football has changed dramatically over the years. Traditional methods to build aerobic endurance used to be around continuous training, where players would be sent to run a given distance at a constant intensity, particularly when rebuilding fitness in preseason. In the turn of the twenty-first century when research around football was gaining momentum, the field of sport science was becoming a popular discipline, the emphasis on training became more focused on short, sharp periods of exercise, interspersed with periods of rest; characteristic of interval training. This reflects the state of the game, where the intensity of play is greater and players are performing more and more repeated sprints.

Applied activity

Evaluate the benefits of interval training and continuous training for football. What are the benefits or drawbacks of performing each?



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Circuit training

Circuit training involves a range of different 'stations'. For aerobic endurance, stations are completed for a given amount of time so that rest periods between each are short. A complete cycle of stations is classed as a circuit and is repeated depending on the duration of the session.

Circuit training may be used by a range of athletes. Rest periods between stations can help maintain heart rate.

For example, an endurance performer such as a triathlete may have a 60-minute session where they spend 15 minutes on each of the exercise bike, treadmill, rowing machine and strength training.

Circuit training can be manipulated to target other components of fitness. For example:

- Different exercises can be performed at each station, such as bodyweight squats or dumb-bell rows for muscular strength.
- The duration of work and rest/recovery periods could change to manipulate the work-to-rest ratio.
- The number of exercise stations or the amount of complete circuits could be changed.

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Flexibility

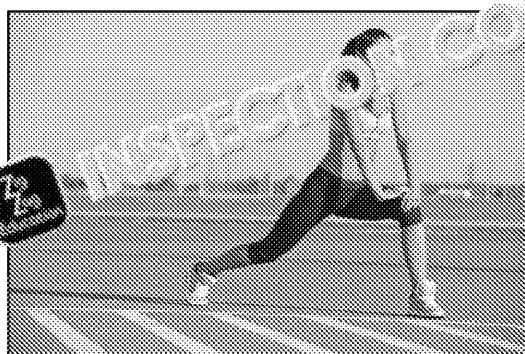
Training for flexibility involves various stretching exercises that can be performed as part of a warm-up or as a separate session. Flexibility training is effective at both improving performance and reducing the risk of injury. It is important to stretch the muscles used in the sporting activity requiring flexibility in order to ensure that training is specific. The types of stretches focused on here include static active and passive neuromuscular facilitation (PNF).

Static stretching

Static stretching is split into active and passive forms. Both types involve holding a stretch for 30 seconds before moving on to the next body part used in the sporting activity. This is repeated for several rounds to safely increase the length of the muscle each time.

Static active stretching

An internal force is applied by the performer actively stretching and lengthening the muscle themselves.



Static passive stretching

The performer uses an external force to stretch the muscle, such as a partner or an object.



Applied activity

List three different types of stretches for both methods of static stretching and then try them out yourself!

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Proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation (PNF)

PNF is a technique that inhibits the stretch reflex of the muscle to gradually increase range. It requires the help of a partner or an external resistance, and consists of the following stages:

Stage 1

The muscle is passively stretched using the assistance of a partner or an object (e.g. an elastic resistance band) and is held for a few seconds.

Stretch reflex – a protective mechanism of the muscle whereby it contracts when a stretch is detected, preventing the muscle from overstretching.

Stage 2

The performer isometrically contracts the muscle being stretched by pushing against the partner or object without movement occurring.

Stage 3

The performer relaxes the muscle and then stretches it again with the help of the partner or object. This stretch overrides the stretch reflex and the muscle is able to extend beyond its initial stretch.



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Muscular endurance and muscular strength training

Free weights and fixed resistance machines are both methods of training for improved muscular strength. The main difference between the two is the principles behind

Free weights

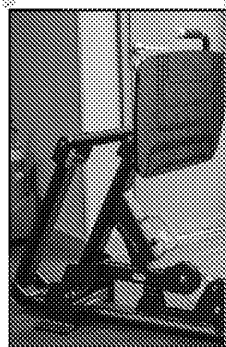
Any piece of weighted gym apparatus not attached to other equipment. These are useful as they are easily portable and can be used for a wide range of exercises. They also take up less space so are more widespread in a gym, meaning the performer is less likely to be waiting around for equipment to be free.



Examples include dumb-bells, barbells, kettle bells, medicine balls and resistance bands.

Fixed resistance

These usually operate on a fixed system or allow weight to be changed on. A lot of fixed resistance machines are specific to a particular muscle group. Cable systems allow a wide range of exercises and have multiple attachments.



Examples include leg press, chest press, lat pull down and hamstring curl. Dual cable systems allow a wide range of exercises.

TRAINING FOR MUSCULAR STRENGTH

- High loads (> 70% 1RM)
- Low number of reps (around 4–8)
- Longer rest periods (around 3 mins)

VS

TRAINING FOR MUSCULAR ENDURANCE

- Low loads (< 70% 1RM)
- High number of reps (> 12)
- Short rest periods (< 1 min)

Circuit training (for muscular endurance)

Like circuit training for aerobic endurance, circuit training for muscular endurance involves performing a series of exercises at each station.



There are a few key differences:

- **Types of exercise** – circuit training can use a variety of body resistance or free weight exercises.

Time at each station – the time at each station is determined by the number of reps being performed and the duration of the activity. This ensures the right number of reps needed to improve muscular endurance.

The rest periods between stations will still be short in order to improve the muscle's ability to tolerate the build-up of waste products.

For example, a rugby player might complete a circuit of weighted press-ups, TRX rows, lunges, kettle bell swings and band-assisted pull-ups, performing 12 reps for each exercise and having 1 minute rest between each circuit, completing three circuits.

As the number of reps increases, the rest periods should be adjusted accordingly.

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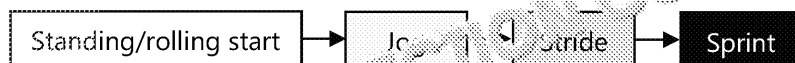
Speed training

There are a number of different training methods that can be used to develop speed sprints, interval training and different resistance drills.

Acceleration sprints

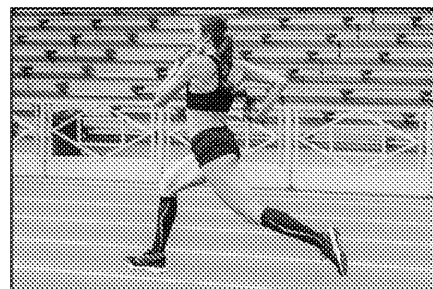
The performer starts from a standing or rolling start and then gradually increases their pace from a jog, to a stride, into a maximal sprint.

This helps the performer to focus on sprinting technique by starting slowly and then maintaining form into the sprint. It also reduces fatigue during the session as the performer is not performing maximal acceleration, which can be more energetically demanding.



Interval training

Interval training for speed involves the same elements as interval training for aerobic work periods interspersed with periods of rest.



For example, a 200 m runner may perform six 10-second sprints followed by a 2-minute rest – a work-to-rest ratio of 1:16.

However, there are a few key differences:

- **Work periods** – work periods are performed for a shorter duration when interval training for speed. The length of work periods will be purely anaerobic.
- **Rest periods** – rest periods will be longer to allow the performer to recover between each bout. This is due to the build-up of waste products that need time to clear during the rest period.
- **Number of reps** – the number of work periods will be greater for speed interval training. The rest periods will be shorter; therefore more reps can be completed.

Applied activity

Have a go at designing your own interval training for speed and outline the differences you would make to make it for aerobic endurance.

Research activity

There are different types of interval training (HIIT) and sprint interval training (SIT). Research them here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12122-interval>

Case study

Interval training for speed was common for the sprinter Christine Ohuruogu. This is because she was able to tolerate a large build-up in waste products but yet still maintain a high intensity right through the session.

Resistance drills

These utilise a range of different equipment or natural resources to apply an added resistance to sprinting and accelerating, helping to develop sprint speed.

Example:
bungee cords

Hill runs are also an effective way of applying a resistance, and may be more accessible for those who do not have access to equipment and/or help from a partner.

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Chapter C3: Fitness training methods for skill-related components of fitness

Training methods and exercises also exist for the various skill-related components and require creativity in designing for specific sports participants that are of different abilities.

Agility

Speed, agility and quickness (SAQ) training is commonly used to improve agility. This involves short, sharp, multidirectional movements using equipment such as cones, ladders and hurdles. It works to develop motor skills by training the neuromuscular system – the connection between the brain and muscle.

Applied activity

Time to get creative – design your own SAQ training drill!

Did you know?

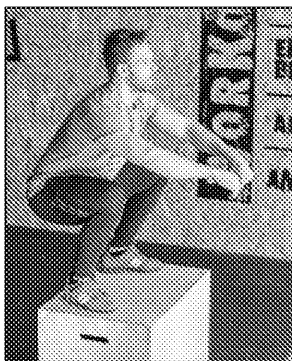
SAQ® training is trademark-registered.

You can access equipment and programmes through their website: zzed.uk/12122



Power

Plyometric training is used to develop power.



Plyometric exercises consist of three key stages:

Stage 1:

Controlled eccentric contraction (where the muscle lengthens).

Stage 2:

Amortisation phase where elastic energy is stored, ready to recoil.

Power is the combination of speed and strength. Strength is the force needed to overcome a given resistance. Therefore, selecting the optimum weight to maximise power. This is often done using a weight that is 50-60% of the person's 1RM.

Examples of plyometric exercises include box jumps, hurdle jumps, medicine ball throws and incline press-ups.

Balance

Specific training exercises to develop balance involve balancing on a reduced-size base of support.

There is various equipment that can be used and exercises that can be done by a performer to achieve this:

- **Balance boards** provide an unstable surface which challenges the performer to continuously correct their posture and try to maintain their centre of mass over the reduced base of support.
- **Single-leg exercises** provide a stable surface with a reduced base of support, and can be used to perform a range of static and dynamic exercises possible in different directions or hopping side to side and front to back.

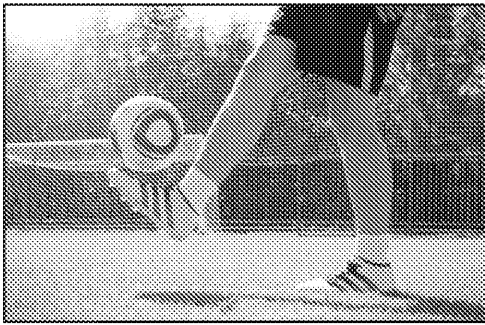
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Coordination

Specific training exercises to develop coordination involve using two or more body



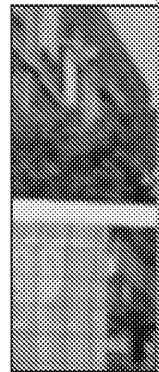
Coordination in sport commonly involves using both hands or feet, such as following the ball with the eyes to its highest point, or dribbling with a football. It also involves working with teammates and opposition players.

Example activities to develop hand-eye coordination include juggling or rope jumping. Exercises such as performing kick-ups in football or catching a ball in cricket require alternating hands or feet.

Reaction time

Specific training exercises to develop reaction time involve practising rapid responses to an external stimulus. These stimuli may be responding to a noise or signal, such as the blow of the whistle or the movement of an arm, or they could be in response to a moving object, such as a bouncing rugby ball.

Reaction time activities may also integrate an element of decision-making, such as someone shouting the colour of a cone that the performer must touch or run towards. Activities can be made sport-specific, such as reacting to a shot played by smash shots made by an opponent in volleyball.



Applied activity
Design your own reaction time exercise to improve your balance, coordination, or sport of your choice, specific to the reaction time component.



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Chapter C4: Additional requirements for each of the fitness training methods

Not all fitness training methods are as effective as each other at improving certain components of fitness. Some may better reflect the demands of certain sports more than others, or some may be more suitable for a given component of fitness. There are also other advantages and disadvantages of each method, including the number of participants that can take part, the ease of setting up, the risk of injury that each method poses to the performer. These should all be considered when choosing a training method. The most effective, safe and accessible training methods for specific sports particular advantages and disadvantages for the main training methods are summarised in the table below.

Training method	Advantages	Disadvantages
 Continuous training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires minimal equipment • Can be done in simple environments • Can be performed for a variety of modes • Easy to gauge intensity • Easy to progressively overload • Can be performed in a group or on one's own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tedious • May result in overtraining • Requires more time for long duration • Not sport-specific • Little room for progression • Doesn't develop specific fitness components
Fartlek training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performer can adjust intensity throughout (e.g. to suit speed or muscular endurance) • Improves aerobic and anaerobic fitness • Develops a range of fitness components • No equipment required • Uses many environments, which helps prevent tedium • Specific to physical demands of intermittent sports such as football and tennis • Can be performed in a group or on one's own 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not wholly sport-specific • Is solely anaerobic • Athletes may not enjoy the sprint intervals • Some terrain may be unsuitable • Changes in intensity may lead to injury • Most sports require aerobic fitness • Difficult to control varying intensity
Interval training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires minimal equipment • Can be done in many environments • Work-to-rest ratios can be manipulated to mimic fitness needs • Improves aerobic and anaerobic fitness • Develops a range of fitness components • Easy to apply progressive overload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires exact timing • Requires appropriate equipment • Increased risk of injury • Requires high intensity • Requires time for recovery
 Circuit training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensity and duration of each station can be tailored to different fitness needs • Types of exercise can be altered to improve different components of fitness • A range of exercises provides variety, which helps prevent tedium • Exercises can target the whole body or isolate different areas used in the sporting activity • Exercises can be made sport-specific (e.g. use of treadmills for running, exercise bikes for cycling) • Can be performed in large groups • Can be performed using body weight exercises to avoid cost of equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require equipment (e.g. racks, weights) if weight training is included • May take a long time to set up • Requires a lot of space for the circuit • Not wholly sport-specific • Inappropriate intensity may cause fatigue-related injuries • Cost of equipment

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Training method	Advantages	
Flexibility training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple to perform • Active stretches can be performed on one's own • Suitable for all ability levels • Can be done with little or no equipment • Effective in injury prevention and improving flexibility • Can focus on specific muscle groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tedious • Performer must be flexible • Risk of going too far • Doesn't improve strength • Performer must be motivated • Passive stretches require external resistance
Weight training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of exercises can be performed • A variety of equipment can be used • A number of different methods can be used • Can target specific muscle groups and perform a variety of body movements • Can apply progressive overload • Can manipulate load, sets and reps to target a range of fitness components 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spotter or training partner may be needed • Correct technique is essential • Increased risk of injury • May require gym membership • Not sport-specific • Requires motivation
Speed training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous participants can take part in acceleration sprints at any one time • A variety of equipment can be used for resistance drills for variation • A number of different training methods can be used • Resistance drills can be manipulated to enhance speed, e.g. the weight of a sled • Resistance drills can replicate the demands of sports (e.g. leg drive in a rugby tackle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be a need for numerous resistance drills • Equipment may be expensive • Replicating speed requires an athletic background • High risk of injury • Requires high motivation
SAQ training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of equipment can be used • Activities can be made sport specific, e.g. zigzag movement in and out of cones can replicate dribbling in ball sports • Can be performed with simple equipment (e.g. cones) • Can replicate demands of a sport, e.g. using a ball with drills • Can be performed in large groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May use additional equipment to cost (e.g. cones) • Highly specific actions involve high speed • Risk of injury from twisting and turning • Can be high intensity
Plyometrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can use sport-specific movements • Uses a range of equipment • Effective for developing power • Training sessions are usually short 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of injury • Correct technique is essential • Performer must be motivated • May require gym membership • Only develops power
Specific training exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be made sport specific, i.e. by including activities such as catching, throwing or kicking • A range of equipment and exercises can be used for variety • Numerous participants can often take part at once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some exercises may be complex, e.g. reaction drills • Some exercises may be boring, such as in a reaction drill • Requires high motivation

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Chapters C1, C2, C3 and C4: Revision

Checking understanding questions

1. Continuous training and interval training are used to improve aerobic endurance.
 - a) Identify **two** characteristics of continuous training.
 - b) Name **two** other training methods used to improve aerobic endurance, continuous training and interval training.
2. Describe the difference between active and passive forms of static stretching.
3. Describe the difference between the training principles for muscular strength and endurance.
4. Describe how interval training is different when training for aerobic endurance and for muscular strength.

Taking it further questions

1. For a sport of your choice, justify **two** examples of free weight exercises that be relevant for that sport.
2. Give **two** examples of specific training exercises that could be used to improve coordination for tennis.
3. For a sport of your choice, explain the activities that would go into an appropriate warm-up and cool-down.

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Chapter C5: Provision for taking part in fitness training

Fitness training is provided by three sectors – public, private and voluntary. These sectors have different advantages and disadvantages to performers in sport, relating to types of equipment they offer, the facilities they provide and the additional support offered.

Public provision

The main aim of sports providers in the public sector is to increase participation levels in sport within a local area. Therefore, they are more focused on breaking even on the money invested and not on the profit they receive. Sport in the public sector is provided for by government funding, which comes from taxes and National Insurance paid by the general public. This is distributed to local government and authorities such as councils, which provide facilities and initiatives to get people involved in sport.

Examples include local leisure centres, public tennis courts, and sports fields for football. This allows for participation in a range of training methods, such as continuous running, circuit training in leisure centres.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provides a wide range of sport and physical activities to increase the diversity of opportunities, so that people from all backgrounds and walks of life can get involvedCost of participation is heavily subsidised as sports providers in the public sector are not looking to make a profit, but must still ensure they cover the costs to run facilities and pay staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilities and equipment can be expensive to maintain, cut costs and may be outdatedThere may be a lack of specialist facilities in different categories, such as accessible featuresThere are limited facilities for specific user groups, such as people with disabilities and crèches

Did you know?

Greater participation levels in sport improves the health of the nation. This, in turn, reduces the financial strain on the NHS, has a positive impact on the economy. Physical inactivity is estimated to cost the NHS around £1 billion per year. This is one of the main reasons why the government provides funding for public provision of sports!

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Private provision

The main aim of sports providers in the private sector is to make a profit. These are often run by a consortium of investors who open more and more facilities in major urban areas around the country as their brand becomes more and more successful and thus profitable. Private sports providers are also run by individuals who are able to invest their own money into a local gym and grow their brand. The private sector also extends to sports clubs whose facilities are exclusive to members who are signed onto a sports club or who pay a membership fee.



Examples include health and fitness centres such as PureGym, Bannatyne, Virgin Active. This allows the use of equipment in a range of fitness methods, such as training for muscular strength and endurance, and metrics for power.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a service to cater for the latest trends in health and fitness, securing popularity • Equipment is top-class and regularly maintained • There is often access to additional services such as personal training, physiotherapy, refreshments and crèche facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memberships are often very costly, and may have a lower cost for the general public • Access to some facilities is members only, and not for the general public

Case studies

Sports providers in the private sector have built their success on responding quickly to fitness trends. For example, centres such as PureGym offer a range of fitness classes to paying members. PureGym also have their own personal training academy where becoming a certified PT within 14 weeks. They also guarantee a role in the gym, allowing people looking to pursue this career path to work their way up to a manager. More information on this course can be found here:

<https://www.puregym.co.uk/12122-puregym>

Voluntary provision

The main aim of sports providers in the voluntary sector is to meet the needs of people in the local area. Voluntary provision of sport is not-for-profit and is usually run by people in the local area who have an interest in and a passion for sport and their local community. This requires these individuals to give up their own time to organise training sessions and supervise fixtures, among other roles. Costs towards facility hire, equipment and running the club are mainly covered by subscriptions from registered members, but may also be partly self-funded, helped out through grants and sponsors, or generated through fundraising events.



Examples include amateur football clubs that compete in local leagues or for fun, and football. This allows people to train for their sports using physical fitness methods and skill-related training methods related to the sport.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports provision is tailored to the needs of the local area • Cost of participation is low, making it accessible for people with a low disposable income • Can provide a range of sports or physical activity opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires volunteers to give up their free time to run the club • Provision of sport may be operating in debt or an increased cost

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Chapter C6: The effects of long-term fitness on the body systems

Training for the different components of fitness results in certain responses to the training over the space of 6–12 weeks, the repeated exposure to training for the various application of training principles to fitness programmes results in adaptations to the permanent changes to the structure and function of the body's systems, and are the improvements in each component of physical fitness. This section will look at these for each component of physical fitness.

Aerobic endurance training

Training for aerobic endurance results in adaptations to the **cardiovascular** and **respiratory** systems.

Cardiac hypertrophy

This is the increase in the size of the heart that occurs as a result of regular aerobic endurance training. In particular, it is the left ventricular wall that increases in thickness. This is because blood flows from the left ventricle to the rest of the body during exercise, allowing the left ventricle to contract with more force to increase stroke volume.

Stroke
blood
ventricle

Decreased resting heart rate

As more blood is able to leave the heart per beat (increased stroke volume), the heart can achieve the same volume of blood needed by the body's tissues at rest in fewer beats. When training for aerobic endurance, over time, heart rate decreases at any given speed as it has become more efficient at pumping blood around the body's working muscles.

Research activity

A resting heart rate below 60 bpm may not always be a sign of good health and fitness. Read more about what is a 'normal' pulse rate on the British Heart Foundation website:

[bhf.org.uk/12122-pulse](https://www.bhf.org.uk/12122-pulse)

Increased strength of respiratory muscles

Respiratory muscles include the intercostals and the diaphragm, and are the important muscles involved in the processes of inhalation (breathing in) and exhalation (breathing out). The intercostals run between the ribs and the diaphragm, found at the base of the ribs. When we breathe in, these muscles contract and the diaphragm flattens, which expands the ribcage up and out and allows air to fill the lungs. When we breathe out, these muscles relax and the diaphragm becomes dome-shaped, which reduces the volume of the chest cavity and forces air out of the lungs. An increased strength of respiratory muscles allows more air to be drawn into the lungs per breath, known as an increased tidal volume.

Capillarisation around alveoli

Capillaries are microscopic blood vessels that branch out from arteries and veins in the body. They are involved in gaseous exchange at the lungs and at the working muscles. Training for aerobic endurance increases the density of capillaries – an adaptation known as capillarisation. This increases the rate of gaseous exchange at the lungs, allowing more oxygen from the atmosphere to be exchanged for carbon dioxide produced as a by-product of the working muscles. Gaseous exchange occurs at the alveoli, a collection of small end branches of the respiratory system.

Flexibility training

Training for flexibility results in adaptations to the **muscular** and **skeletal** systems.

Increased flexibility of connective tissue

Ligaments and tendons are connective structures around the joint. Ligaments join to bone whereas tendons join muscles to bone. When the muscle contracts, the tendon pulls on the bone to cause movement. Flexibility training can increase the pliability of these connective tissues, allowing them to safely stretch to a greater degree.

Increased muscle length

Muscle is an elastic tissue that is able to stretch and shorten during contraction. The biomechanical effect of flexibility training results in anatomical changes to the muscle which allow it to increase in length. This increases the range of motion that a muscle is able to move through.

Increased range of motion permitted at the joint

Both an increase in flexibility of connective tissue and an increase in muscle length allow for a greater range of motion at the joint. This is what ultimately leads to improvement in flexibility as a component of fitness, and translates to an enhanced performance in many and sporting actions requiring flexibility, such as gymnastics and hurdle jumping.

Muscular endurance training

Training for muscular endurance results in adaptations to the **muscular** system.

Capillarisation of muscle tissues

Just as capillarisation occurs around the alveoli with aerobic endurance training, it also occurs around the muscles as a result of muscular endurance training. Many activities that develop aerobic endurance will also develop muscular endurance as well, and so capillarisation as an adaptation to training will occur around both the alveoli and the muscle at the same time. Increased capillarisation around the muscle allows the muscle cell to extract more oxygen from the blood and remove more carbon dioxide produced as a by-product during exercise.

Increased muscle tone

Muscular endurance training helps to build lean muscle and burn fat. This improves the ratio of fat-free mass to fat mass. This, in turn, results in a toned appearance.

Applied activity

How might an increase in muscle tone benefit an endurance performer?

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Muscular strength and power training

Training for muscular strength results in adaptations to the **muscular** and **skeletal** systems.

Increased bone density

Any activity that places a stress on the skeletal system can help to increase bone density. Strength training involves loading the muscle under large forces. In order to produce movement, the muscle contracts to cause the tendon to pull on the bone. This action places a stress on the bones, which stimulates the bone to increase its density.

Power training involves bounding exercises that result in large forces on the skeletal system. Weight-bearing activities such as hurdle jumping result in constant remodelling of bone, which increases bone mass and bone density.

Weight-bearing activities support bone density.

Muscle hypertrophy

Hypertrophy refers to the increase in size of a tissue. In this case, it is the skeletal muscles that are being worked. In muscular strength and power training, strength training places a large mechanical tension on the muscles as they work under high loads. This stimulates the synthesis of muscle protein, which increases muscle size.

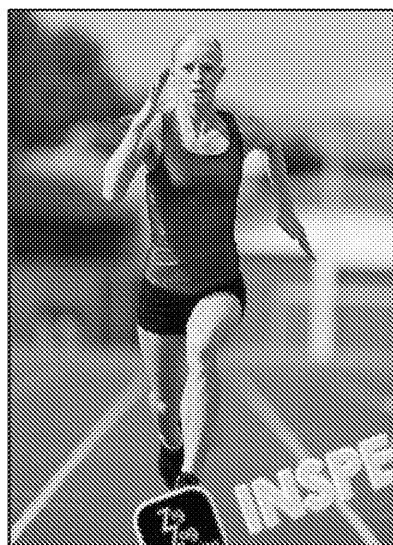
The eccentric action of plyometric exercises when power training results in structural damage to the muscle. The reparation of this damage adds muscle protein, which contributes to increases in the size of muscles.

Increased strength of ligaments and tendons

Alongside increases to the size and strength of muscles, muscular strength and power training also increases the strength of ligaments and tendons. This helps protect against tendon and ligament injuries that can occur when lifting weights or when performing explosive exercises.

Speed training

Training for speed results in adaptations to the **muscular** system.



Lactic acid is a by-product of anaerobic exercise. The painful sensations felt when performing high-intensity training methods involve repeated sprints that tax the muscular system, it results in a build-up of lactic acid in the muscles.

Over time, training helps the body to improve its ability to remove lactic acid from the muscle and its ability to tolerate it. This allows athletes to perform at a higher intensity of exercise before lactic acid builds up, and also helps them maintain in the same exercise for longer periods.

Did you know?

Lactic acid removed from the muscle can be transported to the liver and converted to glucose to be used as a fuel source for exercise.

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Chapters C5 and C6: Revision Questions

Checking understanding questions

1. Identify **one** advantage and **one** disadvantage of voluntary sport and physical activity provision.
2. Explain **two** long-term effects of flexibility training.

Taking it further questions

1. Patricia is looking into the negatives of different types of sporting provision to which would be most suitable for her.
 - a) State **one** disadvantage of public provision of sport and the impact this may have on Patricia.
 - b) State **one** disadvantage of private provision of sport and the impact this may have on Patricia.
2. Chiwetel is a triathlete who has benefited from cardiac hypertrophy as a result of aerobic endurance training.

Explain **one** reason why cardiac hypertrophy would benefit Chiwetel's performance in the triathlon.

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Learning Outcome D: Investigate fitness to improve fitness and sports performance

Overview

In this section you will gain an understanding of the personal information that aids the design of a fitness training programme, and how the programme itself is designed.

You will also learn about the different motivational techniques for fitness programming and the benefit they have on the performer, as well as the principles of goal-setting and how setting personal and long-term goals can influence motivation.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to:

D1/D2: Understand the personal information which is used in programme design.

- ☐ Identify the different pieces of personal information used in a fitness programme design
- ☐ Explain how the different pieces of information are used in a fitness programme design
- ☐ Analyse the appropriate training methods and apply them to a fitness programme
- ☐ Understand the motivational techniques that are used in fitness and how goals can be set to influence motivation.
- ☐ Identify the different types of motivation and the SMARTER principles
- ☐ Describe short- and long-term goals and give examples
- ☐ Explain the impact of goal-setting on motivation and performance of a sports performer

Key terms

Aims	outline what the participant is hoping to achieve overall
Attitude	the way in which an individual approaches a task
Lifestyle	how someone lives their life and the factors involved
Motivation	the external stimuli and reasons we have that stimulate behaviour
Intrinsic motivation	the internal drivers for success
Extrinsic motivation	the external stimuli that direct behaviour
Objectives	outlines how the performer intends to meet their aim
SMARTER principles of goal-setting:	
Specific	goals should relate to the overall aims of the training programme and an aspect of the performer's sport/activity that needs improving
Measurable	goals should be able to be monitored through some sort of measurement such as time taken or weight lifted
Achievable	goals should be tailored to the performer's abilities and not 'quick wins' to be achieved
Realistic	goals should be set within the capabilities of the performer and not have unrealistic effects
Time-related	goals should be given a set duration in which to achieve them and not against what was expected
Exciting	to prevent the boredom of training, goals should allow for some excitement to maintain motivation
Recorded	goals should allow a record to be kept for reference within the training programme
Short-term goals	goals set over a short period of time, usually between 1-6 weeks
Long-term goals	goals set over a longer time frame which lay out what the performer wants to achieve in the future

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Chapter D1:

Personal information to aid fitness training programme

It is important to gather relevant pieces of information about the participant you are designing a programme for. This allows the fitness trainer to develop a programme that is tailored to meet their unique needs. Personal information that aids the programme design includes lifestyle and physical activity history, and the individual's attitude, mindset and motivation.

Aims and objectives

The aims of a training programme outline **what** the participant is hoping to achieve. Performers at all levels use set aims for their training programmes. An elite performer may have a specific aim in order to qualify for an upcoming competition or make it as a regular performer in a sport. A beginner may complete a training programme in order to take up a sport or achieve a specific goal. Whatever the aim, the performer must set objectives to help them achieve it.

The objectives of a training programme, therefore, outline **how** the performer intends to meet their aim. These are set by considering the appropriate components of fitness and the methods of training required for the sport. For example, a performer hoping to take up tennis as a sport should set objectives to improve their aerobic endurance, agility, speed and coordination, which are all components of fitness important for that sport. They can do this by programming appropriate training methods, such as interval training, plyometrics and specific training exercises for agility and coordination.

Lifestyle, medical and physical activity history

It is important that information about an individual's lifestyle and their medical and physical activity history is gathered to aid the design of a fitness training programme. This information is usually gathered using an Activity Readiness Questionnaire, known as a PAR-Q.

Lifestyle information aims to identify any factors that may influence training or the programme designed. Common lifestyle information includes smoking status, alcohol consumption and sleep patterns. For example, interventions may be put in place for someone who reports sleeping undisturbed, which may be affecting performance during their training programme.

Medical history includes any health conditions the individual may have, any medical treatments they are currently taking and any injuries they have had that may affect their ability to participate in training. For example, a performer may be required to have an inhaler with them in order to take part, or low-impact exercises may be recommended for someone who has suffered from joint issues.

Physical activity history is gathered to establish how active a performer may be before starting training and in order to establish a starting point for the training programme. For example, someone new to muscular strength training programmes will require a gym induction to learn the correct use of equipment.

Attitude, mindset and personal motivation for training

It is important for the fitness trainer to understand the individual's attitude and motivation towards training. Everyone participating in a training programme has different motivations for training. These may be related to sports performance or they may be related to improving health and fitness. The fitness trainer can tailor their approach around the individual's attitude and motivations. For example, a fitness trainer may use a lot of encouragement and positive feedback to someone with a hard-working attitude who responds well to a specific kind of motivation.

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Chapter D2: Fitness programme design

Once the personal information is gathered from the sports participant through questionnaires, it is time to use that information to design the fitness training programme. Below is a list of questions that might be asked in a questionnaire administered prior to completing a training programme.

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Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire (PAR-Q)

Please read each of the statements below carefully and provide a 'yes' or 'no' answer, or other, where indicated.

Are you a smoker?	
Do you consume more than 14 units of alcohol per week?	
Do you regularly get less than 7 hours sleep at night?	
Do you have any health conditions?	
If 'yes', please state which:	
Do you get any pain in your chest when you exercise?	
Do you suffer from joint issues?	
Do you currently have any injuries?	
Are you currently taking any medication?	
Is there any possibility that you are pregnant?	
On average, how many hours per week do you exercise?	

Consideration should be given to the following factors that may account for each of the following:

1. **Smoking** – stop or reduce consumption of tobacco
2. **Alcohol** – not train on an empty stomach
3. **Sleep** – not get sufficient sleep between training sessions
4. **Health conditions** – measures should be taken to ensure someone is fit to exercise
5. **Pain in chest** – stop exercise immediately and seek medical advice to obtain a doctor's clearance before resuming
6. **Joint issues** – stop exercise immediately and seek medical advice
7. **Injuries** – stop exercise immediately and seek medical advice
8. **Medication** – stop exercise immediately and seek medical advice
9. **Pregnant** – stop exercise immediately and seek medical advice
10. **Exercise** – stop exercise immediately and seek medical advice

Applied activity

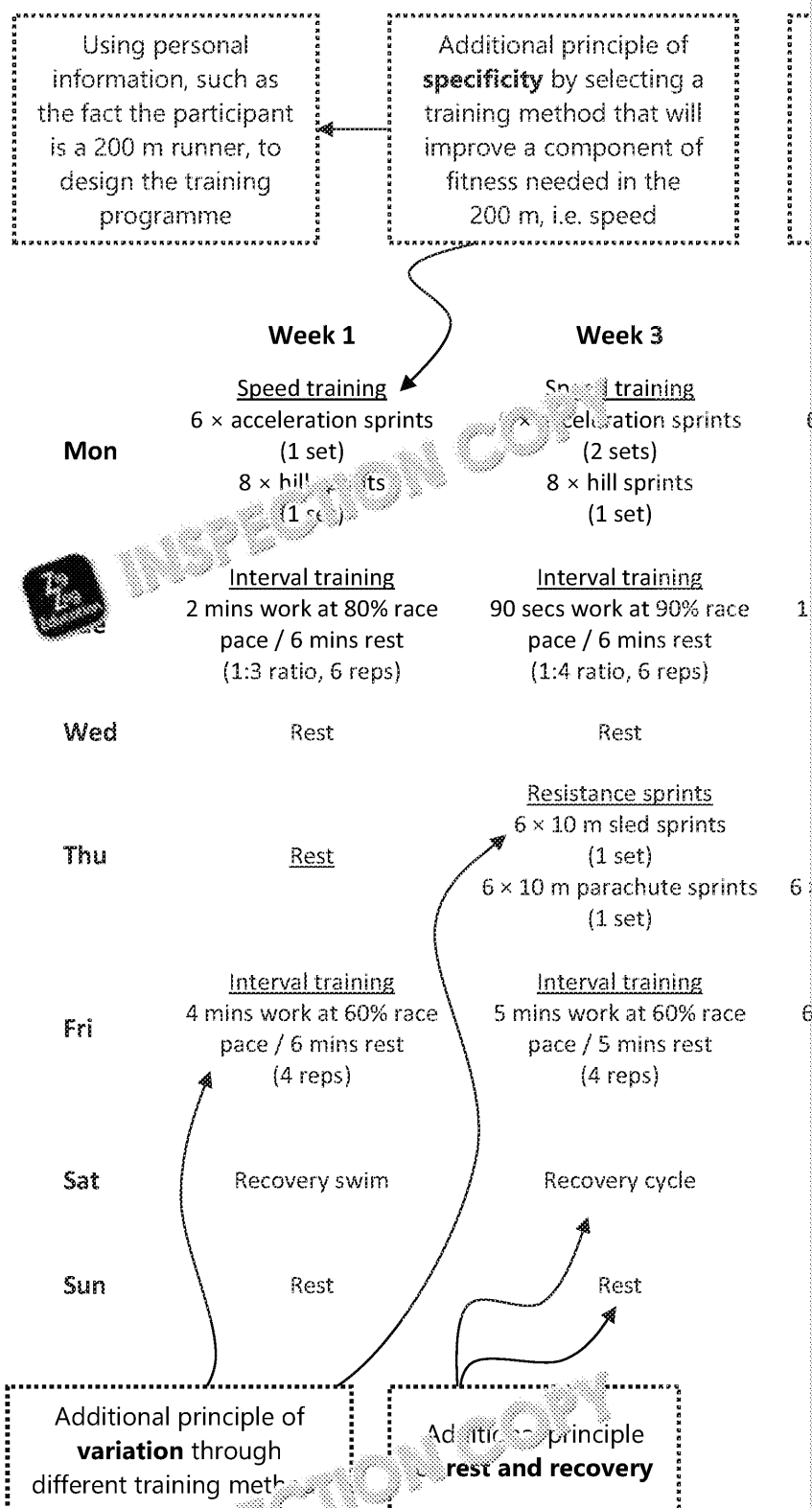
Complete the same questionnaire in pairs and swap sheets with a partner. Suggest ways that you would use the information they provided in the design of a training programme.

Selecting the most appropriate training methods/activities and applying the principles of training

The programme should include information about the training methods and activities. The components of physical and/or skill-related components related to the participant's six-week training programme is shown on the next page for a 200 m runner, with a list of training methods and activities, and the principles of training, are applied.

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- **Specificity** is applied to ensure training methods are developing the speed required for the 200 m race, e.g. acceleration (acceleration sprints) and sustained peak speed (hill sprints).
- **Progressive overload** of training is applied through the FITT principles to ensure the participant is challenged by the increased loads placed on them, but are comfortable enough to deal with the increased intensity without injury or fatigue (e.g. increasing the intensity of interval training sessions but maintaining the same duration).
- **Individual differences** take into account the personal information of the client, such as their current fitness level, and the programme is designed around them.
- **Adaptation** is achieved through progressive overload of training which provides a stimulus for the body to adapt to, and **rest and recovery** (e.g. through sleep and rest days), where adaptation takes place.
- Training in each week avoids any **reversibility** in fitness, which would put the participant's fitness gains at risk.
- **Variation** is achieved through different training methods and activities, which helps to prevent boredom and overuse injuries.

Chapter D3: Motivational techniques for fitness p

Motivation is key if a performer wants to achieve their training aims. It consists of external stimuli such as encouragement from others, as well as personal reasons for training, helping to provide direction to behaviour. Motivation has many benefits. It allows the performer to put all their effort into each session, helping them get the most out of their training.

Goal-setting over the short term and the long term can act as a motivational tool to adhere to the training programme week by week, and to continue to focus on the end goal. The types of motivation, the benefits for the performer, and the use of personal goals.

Types of motivation

There are two main types of motivation – intrinsic and extrinsic.



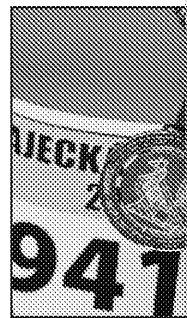
Intrinsic motivation –
the internal drivers for success



Examples include the pride associated with achieving a goal or the self-satisfaction from achieving a personal best performance.

Extrinsic

the external stimuli



Examples include winning or the pride following a good performance.

Intrinsic motivation is more personal to the performer and helps them to maintain motivation in the long run. Use of extrinsic motivation can help spur the performer on through tough times, but it is important for it not to be overused as the performer may become reliant on it. Extrinsic motivation should be consistently given for good performances.

Applied activity

Think about what motivates you to participate in sport. Are there intrinsic or extrinsic factors, or both? Is one a more significant source of motivation to you than the other? You could share your responses with a partner.



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Principles of goal-setting to increase and direct motivation

Goal-setting can be used to provide direction for behaviour and to maintain focus in a training programme. However, certain principles of goal-setting must be applied in order to be encompassed by the SMARTER principles of goal-setting.

SMARTER principle	What it means
S pecific	Goals should relate to the overall aims of the training programme and an aspect of the performer's sport/activity that needs improvement.
M easurable	Goals should be able to be monitored through some sort of measurement, such as time taken or weight lifted.
A chievable	Goals should be tailored to a performer's abilities, not 'quick wins' to be met easily.
R ealistic	Goals should be within the capabilities of the performer, not unrealistic demands.
T ime-bound	Goals should be given a set duration in which to achieve them, not open-ended against what was expected.
E xecuted	To prevent the boredom of training, goals should allow for variety and excitement to maintain motivation.
R ecorded	Goals should allow a record to be kept for reference when reviewing the training programme.

Case study

Michael Phelps used goal-setting throughout his career. When he was young he wrote down a goal 'to win an Olympic gold medal' before crossing it out and replacing it with the goal 'to make the Olympic team'. Even then he was applying the SMARTER principle of 'realistic'. He would go on to use goal-setting for the rest of his career to motivate him towards 23 gold medals.



Applied activity

Create your own goal for a sport of your choice, which meets all the SMARTER principles of goal-setting. You should be able to justify how it satisfies all SMARTER principles.



Goals are set over the short term and the long term.

Short-term goals are set between a day and a month in duration, whereas **long-term** goals set out what the performer wants to achieve over a longer period of time. Therefore, multiple short-term goals can be linked into one or two bigger long-term goals.

Short-term goals are set over a short period of time, usually less than a month.
Long-term goals are set over a longer period of time, usually more than a month, and are often the performer's ultimate wish to achieve.

For example, a football player may set a short-term goal of giving 100% in the next game. Their linked long-term goal may be to make the starting line-up for the next game. From this, it is clear that short-term goals that are achieved within a month can lead to long-term goals set to be achieved in the future.

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Influence of goal-setting on motivation

Goal-setting is key to providing direction for behaviour and maintaining focus on the training programme and offers the performer something to work towards that

Providing direction for behaviour

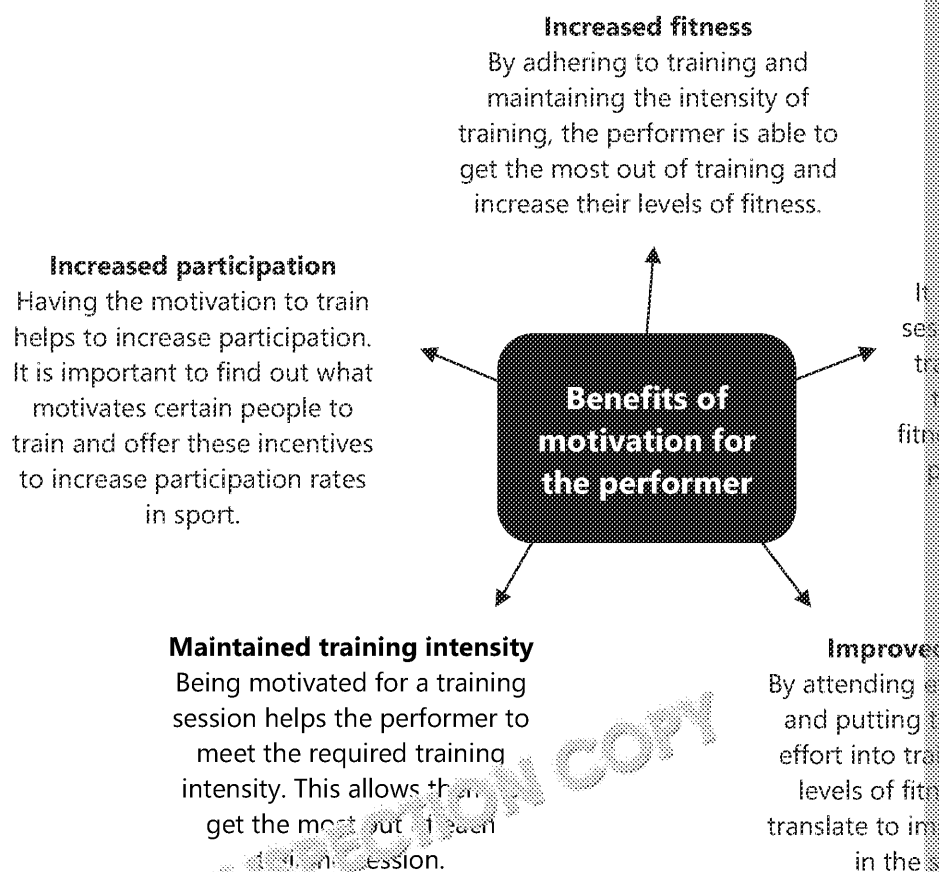
Goals that apply the SMARTER principles are clear on setting out what the performer is hoping to achieve and when they are hoping to achieve it by. All their behaviours, whether it be their attitude to training, their social life, or the amount of sleep they get, will be directed towards achieving the goal.

Maintaining focus

Goals inform the design of the training programme as all methods and activities are chosen to help the performer achieve the goal. The focus of the training programme, as the performer works towards the goal, is maintained.

Benefits of motivation on the sports performer

If motivation is used appropriately by the performer, and they do not become over-motivated, there are many benefits for the performer:



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Chapters D1, D2 and D3: Revision

Checking understanding questions

1. Describe the difference between aims and objectives.
2. Identify **two** pieces of lifestyle information which would aid the design of a training programme.
3. Define motivation.
4. Give **two** examples of extrinsic motivation.

Taking it further questions

1. Using a sporting example of your choice, give an example of a suitable aim and objective.
2. Give an example of a short-term goal for a 1500 m athlete who is aiming to compete at the Olympics.
3. Explain **one** way that goal-setting can improve motivation.

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Chapter A1

Checking understanding

1. Reaction time
2. Aerobic endurance (1) and muscular endurance (1)
3. Power = Strength (1) × Speed (1)
4. Sprinters require a high muscle mass (1) in order to maximise the mass that can be used in contractions (1)
5. Power – any activities requiring explosive movements, e.g. sprinting, high jump
Muscular endurance – any activity that requires repeated contraction of a muscle, e.g. open-water swimming
Flexibility – any activity that requires a large range of movement at the joint, e.g. gymnastics
Coordination – any activity that uses two or more body parts at the same time, e.g. set basketball, drop goal in rugby
Accept other appropriate responses.

Taking it further

1. e.g. when sidestepping an opponent in rugby / performing a feint in basketball / dribbling (or any other suitable examples)
2. Any two named components and supporting examples (max. 4 marks):
 - Flexibility (1) in order to produce a large range of motion at joints in actions such as
 - Strength (1) in order to maintain body position on the high rings (1)
 - Balance (1) in order to stay upright on the balance beam (1)
 - Power (1) in order to leap into the air when performing a somersault (1)*(or any other named components and suitable examples)*
3. Max. 6 marks from the following:
 - Aerobic endurance is needed to maintain running intensity / prevent fatigue in the
 - Speed is needed in situations such as dribbling with the ball or chasing an opponent
 - Aerobic endurance is important for recovery between bouts of sprinting or high
 - Aerobic endurance may be more important for players in positions that cover a large
 - Speed may be more important for players on the wings
 - Aerobic endurance and speed are not important for a goalkeeper
 - Reaction time and agility are more important for a goalkeeper and are also important*Accept other appropriate responses.*
4. Max. 6 marks from the following:
 - Power is needed to hit the ball with speed
 - Coordination is needed to hit the ball with the right part of the racquet so that it goes into the opponent's service box
 - The tennis player requires upper-body power in the swing of the racquet, as well as
 - The tennis player gives the opponent less time to react and successfully return the ball
 - The tennis player should be careful that they are not sacrificing accuracy for power
 - A tennis player has two attempts at a serve, so they may wish to focus on power and accuracy for the second serve
 - The serve requires multiple subroutines that need to be linked together, which requires
 - Good coordination allows for an efficient movement, meaning the tennis player can
 - Hand-eye coordination is required to focus on the ball at the same time as swinging the*Accept other appropriate responses.*

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Chapters A2 and A3

Checking understanding

1. Frequency (1)
2. By calculating maximum heart rate ($220 - \text{age}$) (1) and using this value to identify the training zone (1), which is between 60% and 80% HR max (1)
3. Any two from:
 - Heart rate monitors
 - Smartwatches / fitness trackers
 - (Mobile) apps
4. 150 bpm (1)
5. Above 70% (1)

Taking it further

1. Any two:
 - e.g. by increasing the number of training sessions performed per week
 - e.g. by increasing the %1RM of gym exercises
 - e.g. by increasing the length of strength training sessions
2. To recover between training sessions (1), allowing the body to adapt (1)
3. 3 marks for:
 - Heart rate max = $220 - \text{age}$ OR $220 - 36$
 - Anaerobic training zone = 80–100% OR $184 \text{ bpm} \times 0.80$ to $184 \text{ bpm} \times 1.00$
 - = 147 bpm to 184 bpm
4.
 - Specificity – e.g. performing interval training to improve aerobic endurance needs the full duration of a game (1)
 - Individual differences – e.g. to develop the speed of a hockey player for whom this is not the case (1)
 - Variation – e.g. to perform interval training sessions alongside agility training sessions to maintain the motivation of the player (1)

Accept other suitable examples.

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Chapters B1, B2, B3 and B4

Checking understanding

1. Any three from:
 - Provides baseline data that can be used as a comparison to future testing in order to
 - Informs the design of training programmes based on test results that highlight areas for improvement
 - To see whether the training programme is working by testing midway through
 - Provides the performer with something to aim for
 - Allows the performer to set goals in line with the results
2. Any two from:
 - To ensure participants are aware of the test protocols
 - To ensure participants are aware of any risks
 - To ensure participants are aware that they are free to withdraw at any time
 - To give participants the opportunity to ask questions about the test
 - To protect the person administering the test
3. Any two from (max. 4 marks):
 - The calibration of the equipment (1) will determine whether the results recorded with it are accurate (1)
 - The motivation of the participant (1) will determine how much effort they put in (1)
 - The conditions of the test environment (1) will determine how much of an effect the playing surface will have (1)
 - The experience of the person administering the test (1) will influence how well the results are recorded and analysed (1)
 - Compliance with the test procedures (1) affects how closely steps are followed (1)
4. 1 mark for:

The measure of whether the results of a test actually reflect the component of fitness it is intended to measure
5. Any two from:
 - Multistage fitness test
 - Yo-yo test
 - Harvard step test
 - 12-minute Cooper run/swim
6. a. Coordination (1)
b. 3 marks for:
 - The participant stands 2 m away from a wall
 - The participant throws a tennis ball off the wall with one hand and catches it
 - The number of successful catches in 30 seconds is used as the test score
7. 4 marks for:
 - Client A – Normal weight
 - Client B – Underweight
 - Client C – Obese
 - Client D – Overweight

Taking it further

1. Any two from:
 - The grip dynamometer and the 1RM test are both costly, so tests are equally impractical
 - The 1RM test takes longer to perform, so is less practical
 - The person doing the 1RM and the grip dynamometer could take a similar amount of time to perform
 - The time taken to analyse the results from both tests is minimal, so both tests are equally practical
 - Only one participant can be tested at any one time for both tests (as equipment is limited)
2. 1 mark for component of fitness and 1 mark for justification, maximum 2 marks:
 - Agility (1) – their rating on the Illinois agility run test is below average, and they need to change direction quickly in response to the opponent's shots (1)
 - Power (1) – their rating is only average on the vertical jump test, and they need to jump high, e.g. during a serve (1)
 - Coordination (1) – despite having an above average rating on the alternate-hand test, they still improve their hand-eye coordination between racquet and ball (1)

Accept other suitable explanations.

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Chapters C1, C2, C3 and C4

Checking understanding

1. a. Any two from:
 - Low-to-moderate intensity
 - Constant intensity
 - > 30 minutes in durationb. Fartlek training (1) and circuit training (1)
2. An active stretch is one that uses an internal force to stretch the muscle (1) whereas a passive stretch uses an external force is applied to the body in order to stretch the muscle (1)
3. Any two from:
 - Training for muscular strength uses high load whereas training for muscular endurance uses low load
 - Training for muscular strength uses a low number of reps whereas training for muscular endurance uses a high number of reps
 - The duration of rest for muscular strength is long whereas the duration of rest for muscular endurance is short
4. 2 marks
 - The intensity of work periods is greater when interval training for speed compared to interval training for endurance
 - The number/length of rest periods is greater when interval training for speed compared to interval training for endurance

Taking it further

1. e.g. rugby
 - Squats are relevant for improving strength when tackling or scrummaging
 - Deadlifts are relevant to lifting in the line-out*Accept other suitable sports that require muscular strength/endurance and justifications*
2. Any two from:
 - Throwing a ball up in the air with one arm and swinging the other arm back to rest
 - Rallying with a partner to improve hand-eye coordination between the ball and the hand
 - Juggling the ball with the tennis racquet to improve coordination between ball and hand*Accept other suitable examples.*
3. e.g. cricket
Warm-up (sub-max. 3 marks):
 - Pulse raiser to increase heart rate / blood flow to working muscles
 - e.g. running around the boundary of the pitch
 - Mobiliser to increase range of movement at the joints
 - e.g. swinging the arms in circles / using resistance bands for shoulder mobility
 - Stretches to increase the flexibility of muscles / pliability of ligaments and tendons
 - e.g. stretching the main muscles used in cricket (shoulder muscles and leg muscles)Cool-down (sub-max. 3 marks):
 - Light activity to gradually lower pulse and breathing rate / remove lactic acid
 - e.g. jogging between two sets of cones
 - Stretching to return muscles to pre-exercise length
 - e.g. shoulder reach-through-the-legs stretch*Accept other appropriate examples of activities in the warm-up/cool-down.*

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Chapters C5 and C6

Checking understanding

1. Advantages – any one from:

- Sports provision is tailored to the needs of the local area
- Cost of participation is low, making it accessible for people with a low disposable income
- Can provide a range of sports and physical activity opportunities

Disadvantages – any one from:

- Requires volunteers who are willing to give up their free time to run a club
- Provision of sport may stop if consistently operating in debt due to a lack of paying members / hiring facilities

Accept other appropriate responses.

2. Any two from:

- Increased flexibility of connective tissue as tendons/ligaments become more pliable
- Increased muscle length (1) due to the biomechanical effect of stretching (1)
- Increased range of motion at the joint (1) due to the increase in flexibility of connective tissue

Taking it further

1. Public provision – 1 mark for any disadvantage and 1 mark for the impact on Patricia:

- Basic, poorly maintained equipment and facilities lacking range (1), meaning they are not suitable for all / equipment may be out of order (1)
- Lack of specialist provision for different groups (e.g. people with disabilities) (1), meaning accessibility in and around the facility / activities will be inappropriate for some groups
- Limited additional services (e.g. crèche or cafeteria) (1), meaning there is little additional support beyond cheap pricing (1)

Private provision – 1 mark for any disadvantage and 1 mark for the impact on Patricia:

- High cost of using facilities (1), meaning that participation is only affordable to those with a high income (1)
- Many private facilities have an image of exclusivity (e.g. golf members being part of a club) / such facilities intimidating (1)
- Access to members only (1), meaning there is little opportunity to try out facilities

Accept other suitable answers.

2. 2 marks for:

- The heart is able to contract with greater force and increase the delivery of blood to the muscle
- Chiwetel is able to work at a higher intensity for longer as the muscles are able to sustain the work and delay fatigue

Accept other appropriate responses.

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Chapters D1, D2 and D3

Checking understanding

1. Aims are *what* the performer is wanting to achieve overall with a training programme is planning to achieve their aims (1)
2. Any two from:
 - Smoking status
 - Alcohol consumption
 - Diet
 - Sleep quality/quantity
 - Previous or existing health conditions
 - Stress levels

Accept any other suitable example.

3. The external stimuli and reasons for training that stimulate and provide direction for behaviour

4. Any two from:

- Prizes
- Medals
- Trophies
- Medals
- Awards
- Certificates

Accept other suitable examples.

Taking it further

1. e.g. to improve body composition, a suitable aim may be to move from an overweight category (1), and objectives could be to perform three interval training sessions a week and maintain a healthy energy balance (1)
2. e.g. qualify for regional/national competitions / improve personal best time / improve the 1500 m (e.g. speed and muscular endurance)

Accept other suitable examples.

3. Any one from:

- Provides direction for behaviour (1) so that the performer completes all planned training
 - Maintains focus on the task in hand (1) so that the performer is fully dedicated to the task
- Accept other suitable explanations.*

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