

Amir Khan

Adapted from

<http://worldcelebsbiography.blogspot.com/2011/04/world-light-welterweight-boxing.html>

Name _____ Date _____



Amir Khan was born in Bolton in early December 1986. He showed early promise as a boxer, and in 2003 he won a gold medal at the AAU Junior Olympic Games, closely followed by another gold medal at the European Student Championship in 2004. This early interest was encouraged by his father Shah Khan, who considered his son a born fighter and was confident that his son could be very successful at his chosen sport. At the 2004 Athens Olympics, Khan won a silver medal at the age of 17.

Khan won the WBA World Light-Welterweight World Championship title, defeating Andreas Kotelnik in a unanimous decision over 12 rounds in July 2009. He is also the former Commonwealth lightweight champion, WBO Inter-Continental lightweight champion, and WBA International lightweight champion.

Background

Khan spent his early years supporting his local soccer team, Bolton Wanderers whilst attending Smithills school. This early support has since been repaid by the club who have allowed Khan to use their training facilities.

Amir's parents hail from the Punjab province of Pakistan, Rawalpindi and as a result he can speak Urdu and Panjabi in addition to his native English.

He has a younger brother Haroon Khan who is also an amateur boxer; and his first cousin, Sajid Mahmood is an English cricketer.

Amateur

The early amateur career of Khan was distinguished and at the age of 17 he won an Olympic Silver Medal from the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. This was two years earlier than even the great Muhammad Ali who won his Gold Medal at the age of 19 at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. Khan was beaten to the gold by Cuban Mario Kindelan. They had met before when Kindelan had beaten Khan a few months earlier in Greece, Athens. By 2005, Khan was good enough to avenge these earlier defeats and he beat the Cuban by 19 points to 13 at the Reebok Stadium. This became Khan's last amateur fight before turning professional later in 2005 when he signed for one of the leading boxing promoter in England, Frank Warren.

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Professional

Khan's professional career began as his amateur career had ended, with a resounding victory over David Bailey in Bolton on July 16th 2005. A further three successful fights brought 2005 to an end, and 2006 proved that the young Khan was as talented as his early promise seemed to indicate. In that year he fought a further six times, winning four of these fights inside the distance. This huge promise continued in 2007 with Khan fighting a further 5 times, all but one inside the distance. In mid 2008, Khan suffered his first defeat at the hands of undefeated Columbian Breidis Prescott.

He underwent training at the famous Wild Card gym in Los Angeles under the watchful eyes of Freddie Roach who also trains Manny Pacquiao. Khan has recovered by easily winning his three subsequent fights, beating the highly ranked Marco Barrera in March 2009.

On July 18 2009, Khan won the WBA World Light-Welterweight Championship title in Manchester, defeating Andreas Kotelnik in a unanimous decision over 12 rounds. This has made Khan the third youngest British world champion in boxing history behind Prince Naseem Hamed and Norwich's Herbie Hide.

Outside boxing

Since July 2006, Khan has been involved in No Messin' campaign, which promotes child safety on British Railways.

Charity Work and Volunteering:

After the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir (Pakistan), Khan went there to give food packets to the children in the camps.

He also raised over £6,000 to help a fire fighter who was badly burned after trying to help a family escape from a arson attack in Bolton

He used £1 million off his own money to open a boxing gym and Gloves Community Centre in Bolton in order to get youngsters off the streets.

Media:

Khan has appeared on several TV shows, including 'Amir Khan's Angry Young Men' for Channel 4 which had three episodes of 50 minutes each. It was a programme which dealt with some troubled angry men to help them focus on family values, faith and self-discipline.

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Questions

Fill in the gaps in the following sentences, scanning the first section for the answers:

- 1) Amir Khan was born in _____ in December 1986.
- 2) He won his second gold medal in the year _____.
- 3) His interest in boxing was encouraged by _____.
- 4) He won a silver medal at _____ in 2004.
- 5) At that time he was _____ years old.

Answer these questions using the sections headed Background, Amateur and Professional to find the answers:

- 6) Which soccer team does Khan support? _____
- 7) Where do Khan's parents come from? _____
- 8) Which three languages does Khan speak? _____
- 9) In what year did Khan turn professional? _____
- 10) How many times did Khan fight in 2007? _____
- 11) Where did the boxer who beat Khan in 2008 come from? _____
- 12) Which two British boxers became world champions at a younger age than Khan?
_____ and _____

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**There are 12 mistakes involving capital letters, full stops and spelling in the
'Charity work and volunteering' part of the story about Khan.**

See if you can find them and correct them:

After the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir (pakistan), khan went their to give food packets too the children in the camps.

he also raised over £6,000 to help a fire fighter who was badly burned after trying two help a family escape from a arson attack in Bolton

He used £1 million off his own money two open a boxing gym and Gloves Community Centre in bolton in order to get youngsters of the streets.

Teaching notes:

The main aim of this resource is to encourage scanning techniques with level 2 students. There is also a short proof reading exercise.

Adult Literacy

Rt/L2.7 Use different reading strategies to find and obtain information (e.g. skimming, scanning, detailed reading)

(a) understand the importance of choosing the best reading strategy for the purpose in terms of time and efficiency

(b) know how to skim for gist, scan to locate information, read in detail to select and judge relevance of specific information

(c) understand the importance of selecting and noting key points for future reference

<http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=sflcurriculum>

Functional English

Ideal for underpinning the following Coverage and Range statement.

Level 2

Select and use different types of texts to obtain and utilise relevant information

<http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/qualification-and-assessment-framework/89-articles/238-functional-skills-criteria>

Answers

1) Amir Khan was born in **Bolton** in December 1986.

2) He won his second gold medal in **2004**.

3) His interest in boxing was encouraged by **his father Shah Khan**

4) He won a silver medal at the **Athens Olympics** in 2004.

5) At that time he was **17** years old.

6) Which soccer team does Khan support? **Bolton Wanderers**

7) Where do Khan's parents come from? **Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan**

8) Which languages does Khan speak? **English, Urdu, Panjabi**

9) In what year did Khan turn professional? **2005**

10) How many times did Khan fight in 2007 **Five**

11) Where did the boxer who beat Khan in 2008 come from? **Columbia**

12) Which two British boxers became world champions at a younger age than Khan?

Prince Naseem Hamed and **Herbie Hide**

After the 2005 earthquake in Kashmir (Pakistan), Khan went **there** to give food packets **to** the children in the camps.

He also raised over £6,000 to help a fire fighter who was badly burnt after trying **to** help a family escape from **an** arson attack in Bolton.

He used £1 million **of** his own money **to** open a boxing gym and Gloves Community Centre in **Bolton** in order to get youngsters **off** the streets.