



LISTENING

FOOTBALL IN CHINA

In order to do this task, you should follow these steps:

1. Listen to the podcast.
2. Do the exercises below. There is only one correct answer for each question.
3. Have a look at the vocabulary support and read the podcast transcript to help you understand the text if necessary.

✓ WORKSHEET

1. In China, according to FIFA ranking, the national team that is currently in a higher position is ...
 - a. The Chinese men's national team, whose position has increased 15 places
 - b. The Chinese women's national team, whose position has increased five places
 - c. The Chinese men's national team, whose position has increased 37 places
 - d. The Chinese women's national team, whose position has increased 13 places
2. The Chinese national team has played in the World Cup on...
 - a. On two occasions, once in Japan and another one in Korea
 - b. On two occasions, in 2002 and in 2014
 - c. One occasion, in 2014
 - d. One occasion, in 2002
3. The current number of teams in the Chinese Super League is...
 - a. 16
 - b. 12
 - c. 19
 - d. 18
4. According to the podcast, "the most capped player" refers to...
 - a. The maximum scorer in the Chinese national team
 - b. The player that has won the highest number of cups with the Chinese national team
 - c. The player that has been called up the most to play for the Chinese national team
 - d. The player that has been sidelined the most in the Chinese national team

✓ VOCABULARY SUPPORT

- **The 1998 high:** the highest position that China has featured on FIFA's ranking of countries
- **To progress from:** to qualify
- **To register a point:** to get a point
- **Inaugural:** the first ever
- **The second tier:** the second division
- **Not too shabby:** not too bad

✓ PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

FOOTBALL IN CHINA

We wish a Happy Year of the Sheep (or Goat) to all our listeners around the world and as it is Chinese New Year, we take a look at football in China through numbers in this week's main listening report.

82

This is the current FIFA ranking for the Chinese men's football team; an increase of 15 places since the start of the year thanks to their performances in the recent Asian Cup. Though this is an improvement, it is still a long way from **the 1998 high** of 37. The Chinese women's national team is currently in 13th position; up from 18th last year.

1

The Chinese national team has only played on one occasion in the World Cup, in 2002 in Japan/ Korea. The team failed **to progress from** the group stage which included Brazil, Costa Rica and Turkey and did not even **register a point** or score a goal.

They have not really looked like qualifying since then and, indeed, in the 2014 qualification campaign, they did not even manage to make it into the final group stage in the Asian section.

2004

The Chinese Super League first started in 2004 with 12 teams taking part. Shenzhen Jianlibao were the **inaugural** winners but the most successful club in Super League history is Guangzhou Evergrande, which have won the last four titles followed by Shandong Luneng with three wins.

There are now 16 teams in the league with the top three teams qualifying for the Asian Champions League, while the bottom two sides are relegated to **the second tier**.

112

The most capped player in Chinese history is Li Weifeng with 112 appearances for the national side, while the all-time leading scorer is Hao Haidong with 41 goals in 107 games; not too **shabby** at all.