



## READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following text and choose the correct answer for the questions below.

### THE SEVEN STAGES OF BEING A MANAGER

#### Introduction

'All the world is a stage and all the men and women are merely players' is taken from Shakespeare's play *As You Like It*, in which the seven stages of man are introduced. Here though, and with apologies to the 'The Bard', are the seven stages of being a football manager.

#### Stage 1: Managerial merry-go-round

Getting a job as a football manager is not such an easy prospect, as it seems that the same old faces are always involved. This is known as the managerial merry-go-round with bosses never really leaving football but seemingly just swapping jobs. Therefore, getting onto this merry-go-round is your first priority and to do so you need to read the job advertisements in the newspapers. Or, more specifically, the football gossip on the back pages.

#### Stage 2: Applying for a job

Of course, you need to send in a CV but, before you do that, you need to be linked with the post or become a target for the club. If you see your name written with these phrases, then you can improve your job chances by expressing an interest in the position.

#### Stage 3: Appointed

Congratulations, you have been appointed as first team coach, manager, trainer, or boss or whatever, you have the job. You have succeeded the previous incumbent and finally you can lead the team. You are in charge. Don't forget to sign a contract and make sure there is a pay-out clause, just in case things don't go as planned. You've made it. Well done. You're on the managerial merry-go-round.

#### Stage 4: Being in charge

Now you are in charge; what do you have to do? Well, you're responsible for all sorts of jobs, including choosing the tactics, selecting the starting team, buying and selling players in the transfer market, dealing with agents, the media and your chairman and, of course, keeping an eye out for a new job. Invariably, the start of your tenure is a good one, as players try harder and a sense of hope surrounds the

club and this leads to what is known as a honeymoon period, when results improve and everyone loves you.

### **Stage 5: Trouble ahead**

But then results don't go your way and your name is on the back pages of the papers again, but this time with a picture of you looking upset. Speculation is rife and rumours abound, as others on the merry-go-round sense an opportunity. You meet the owners for crisis talks as there are suggestions that you have lost the dressing room; the players have little or no respect for you and, then, before you know it, you have become a dead man walking.

### **Stage 6. Good-bye**

And then just as you are getting used to the hot seat, you have to go. You are out of a job: sacked, fired, dismissed, left by mutual consent. You have got the boot for poor results and you are paying the price. But you're not really, as you receive a multi-million pound pay-out in compensation.

### **Stage 7. Round again**

You decide to take a break from the game but you do not rule out a return at some stage in the future. And then suddenly your name is back in the frame for another post. Initially, you distance yourself from it, dismissing it as mere speculation. But you miss the cut and thrust of the day-to-day challenges of the Premier League and you feel you cannot turn down the opportunity of managing once again. And before you know it, you're on the merry-go-round once more.

## **Questions**

- 1. Getting a job as a football manager is not as easy as it might be thought due to the fact that...**
  - a. Managers who are implicated in this job are usually the same people over and over again.
  - b. It seems that managers just exchange positions among the different teams.
  - c. A and B are correct.
  
- 2. According to the text, in order to apply for a football manager job...**
  - a. You just need to send your CV to the team or teams you would like to work for.
  - b. It is necessary that the club which you want to work for be interested in you before you send them your CV.
  - c. First of all, you send in your CV and, afterwards, if they consider that your CV is suitable for the position, they will call you.

- 3. As stated in stages 3 and 4, once you have been appointed as first team coach...**
- a. You should enjoy what is known as the honeymoon period, although you ought to be on the lookout for new positions to anticipate trouble ahead.
  - b. You should just relax and enjoy your new position.
  - c. You will be too busy to keep an eye out for a new job.
- 4. Once you have been sacked,...**
- a. You'd better start saving up until you get another job as a manager.
  - b. They won't pay anything to you.
  - c. You won't have to worry too much about it, as you will be compensated economically.