



## **READING COMPREHENSION**

- Read the following text and answer the questions below:

### **CHELSEA STRIKER FERNANDO TORRES OVERLOOKED BY SPAIN AGAIN**

**Chelsea's Fernando Torres has been omitted by world and European champions Spain for the second game in a row**

Striker Torres, 28, has 101 caps for his country, but he is not part of the 21-man squad to face Uruguay after previously missing out versus Panamá.

Coach Vicente del Bosque said: "Torres is one of our most experienced players but neither could we find him space."

Swansea's Michu is overlooked, but Chelsea right-back César Azpilicueta has received a first senior call-up. Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina will look to take advantage of the injury to captain Iker Casillas, while midfielder Santi Cazorla is joined by new Arsenal team-mate Nacho Monreal in the squad. Chelsea winger Juan Mata and Manchester City playmaker David Silva are also selected.

Despite being top scorer in Spain's victorious Euro 2012 campaign and scoring 15 goals in all club competitions this season, Torres has regularly received criticism for his performances since joining Chelsea in January 2011.

While Torres, who has scored one goal in his last 10 games, has struggled, Michu had been tipped for a debut call-up after scoring 16 goals in all competitions since arriving from Rayo Vallecano in July.

This form saw del Bosque take in the 0-0 draw with Everton last month, and the 62-year-old admitted it had been a tough decision to leave the attacker out of next week's friendly in Qatar. He said: "It

has left a little bit of a bad taste in the mouth not to call up someone [Michu] who deserves it. But those who have been named also deserve it. We recognize his worth and his goals in the Premier League, but we couldn't find a space for him at the moment. In the position which Michu plays there is great competition with five or six players."

## Questions

1. Fernando Torres...
  - a. has played for Spain in the last two matches against Uruguay and Panamá, respectively.
  - b. has only played in the match against Panamá.
  - c. has been put aside in both matches.
  
2. Vicente del Bosque justified his decision by saying that...
  - a. there was no space for him in the national squad.
  - b. he isn't a good striker anymore.
  - c. he has scored just a few goals lately.
  
3. Which of the three following players wasn't chosen for the match against Uruguay?
  - a. César Azpilicueta
  - b. Michu
  - c. Pepe Reina
  
4. Fernando Torres has regularly been praised for his performances since he joined Chelsea in January 2011.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. Michu was called up for Spain friendly match in Qatar.
  - a. True
  - b. False