



READING COMPREHENSION

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

LIONEL MESSI'S NEW BARCELONA CONTRACT WITH HUGE BUYOUT CLAUSE

Lionel Messi has agreed a contract extension which will keep him at Barcelona until the summer of 2021.

The 30-year-old Argentina forward had been linked with Premier League sides Chelsea and Manchester City among others, but is now ready to commit his future to the club he joined at the age of 13. A statement released on the club's official website, www.fcbarcelona.com, said: "FC Barcelona and Leo Messi have agreed on a contract renewal that will keep the Argentinian at the club until June 30th, 2021." "The deal will be signed in the coming weeks, when Messi returns to the team for pre-season training."

Earlier, reports in Spain suggested the 30-year-old's buyout clause in this latest contract could be as high as €300 million (£264 million). Messi, who made his senior debut as a 16-year-old in a friendly against Porto, has eight La Liga titles, four Champions League wins and five Copa del Rey successes among his list of honours with the Catalan giants, and club officials are delighted to have secured agreement on another four years. The statement continued: "The club is very happy with both the renewal and the commitment of Messi, the best player in history, who has played his full professional career at Barça and has led the team to an era of extraordinary success."

Messi arrived at Barça from Newell's Old Boys as a teenager in 2000 and made his first competitive appearance against Espanyol as a 17-year-old. He scored the first of his club record 507 goals - they have come in just 583 matches - against Albacete in May 2005 and has since claimed the Ballon d'Or on five occasions, more than any other player. However, the club, which finished second to Spanish champions Real Madrid and bowed out of the Champions League at the quarter-final stage last season, is expecting much, much more from its star man. The statement added: "Leo Messi has since gone on to break just about every record and has become the greatest player in the world. Now, at 30 years of age, Messi has completed 13 seasons with the first team and, with his new deal, will remain for a further four."

Questions

- 1. Before Messi's commitment to Barcelona, ...**
 - a. There were some rumours which stated that he could sign for a Premier League club.
 - b. There were some rumours which said that he could sign for Chelsea or Manchester City.
 - c. There were some rumours claiming that he was considering several options which included different clubs.
 - d. He wasn't linked with any Premier League club.

- 2. According to the text, his first ever match took place...**
 - a. When he was 17 years old
 - b. When he was 16 years old
 - c. When he was 13 years old
 - d. It is not stated in the text.

- 3. As stated in the text, ...**
 - a. Messi hasn't signed the contract yet.
 - b. He has already signed the contract.
 - c. He will sign the contract when he is back for pre-season training.
 - d. A and B are correct.

- 4. Football Club Barcelona...**
 - a. Is already satisfied with Messi's performance
 - b. Hopes he improves his performance in the coming season
 - c. Is not expecting much more from him
 - d. Hopes he keeps on with his good job