

## READING COMPREHENSION

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

### Real Madrid in crisis: Zinedine Zidane faces the sack at the Bernabéu

Real Madrid coach, Zinedine Zidane, is under pressure after a poor season so far. Real Madrid fans are calling for Zinedine Zidane to be fired after the La Liga giants suffered more humiliation in the last match.

Fourth in La Liga, and already 19 points behind their rivals, Barcelona, Los Blancos were knocked out of the Copa del Rey by Leganés. Despite taking a 1-0 lead into the second leg at the Bernabéu, Real were beaten 2-1 by Leganés and went out of the competition via the away goals rule. Following the defeat to Leganés, the club's crisis has just got even worse, says the Spanish newspaper Marca. Describing the Copa del Rey exit as "the most ridiculous night of Zidane's Real Madrid reign.

Appointed in 2016, Madrid icon Zidane has achieved huge success in the Bernabéu hot seat. He has led Madrid to back-to-back Champions Leagues in 2015-16 and 2016-17, as well as the La Liga title, two Uefa Super Cups, two Fifa Club World Cups and a Spanish Super Cup victory. But this season the club are struggling domestically with only 10 wins from their 19 league matches so far. Five defeats and four draws sees Real behind Barça, Atlético de Madrid and Valencia in the table.

Speaking after the 2-1 defeat to Leganés, Zidane said: "Yes, it's a failure for me, clearly. Yes, I feel very responsible. It's a difficult night for everyone. We will look at the situation and I will first because I am to blame." In a separate interview, and quoted by the BBC, Zidane added that last night's result was a "fiasco". The Frenchman said: "My worst moment as a coach. I don't regret anything I did in the game, though. I take responsibility for what I do."

### Is he to blame?

Domestically Real have been poor, but in European competition they have qualified for the last-16 of the Champions League, where they will face Paris Saint-Germain.

Zidane admits that his future in Madrid could depend on the results against PSG on 14<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March. He said: "I'm responsible for this, I'm the boss. I have to find the solutions. We've found some of them but not consistently enough. I need to take responsibility and I'll always fight."



While fans on social media are calling for his sacking by using the #ZidaneOut hashtag, Real Madrid skipper, Sergio Ramos, has defended the under-fire coach and says the players will stand up for Zidane. Spain defender, Ramos, admits that being knocked out of the Copa del Rey was a failure, but says the squad are also responsible for the results on the pitch. “To fall in the Copa del Rey is a failure,” he told Marca. “These are tough times, but we must be as united as possible and not throw the rest of the season away. You have to learn from bad moments.” It’s win-or-bust for Zizou and his Galácticos.

## **Questions**

### **1. In accordance with the matches that Real Madrid has played...**

- a. The number of victories is lower than the number of defeats.
- b. The number of defeats is lower than the number of draws.
- c. The number of defeats is higher than the number of victories.
- d. The number of defeats is higher than the number of draws.

### **2. Regarding Real Madrid’s poor results, ...**

- a. Zidane feels responsible.
- b. He is copping out.
- c. He wants nothing to do with the matter.
- d. He is avoiding responsibility.

### **3. According to Zidane’s opinion, his future...**

- a. is already clear enough
- b. won’t be clear for sure until the end of the season
- c. might be clear soon after a couple of matches
- d. has already been decided

### **4. Sergio Ramos thinks that the person or people responsible for this situation is/ are...**

- a. just the coach
- b. the coach, as well as the team
- c. just the squad
- d. the fans, the coach and the squad