



## READING COMPREHENSION

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

### **Ballon d'Or: Luka Modric ends dominance of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo**

Real Madrid and Croatia midfielder, Luka Modric, won the 2018 Ballon d'Or, becoming the first player other than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to claim the award in more than a decade. Modric, 33, won his third successive Champions League in May before helping Croatia to a first World Cup final.

Former Brazil and AC Milan forward, Kaka, in 2007 was the last player other than Messi or Ronaldo to win it. Ronaldo, who joined Juventus from Real Madrid in the summer, came second. Barcelona forward, Messi, finished fifth with Atlético de Madrid frontman, Antoine Griezmann, and PSG attacker, Kylian Mbappe, both of whom won the World Cup with France, third and fourth respectively.

This is a stellar year for Modric, who also was named the world's top male player at the Best FIFA Football Awards and received the Golden Ball award for the best player at the World Cup.

Speaking to BBC Sport, Modric dedicated the award to all of the other players who have missed out in the 10 years dominated by Messi and Ronaldo. "Maybe in the past there were some players who could have won the Ballon d'Or, like Xavi, Andrés Iniesta or Wesley Sneijder, but people finally now are looking at someone else," he said. "This award is for all the players who probably deserved to win it and didn't. It was a really special year for me. It is difficult to express my emotion and how I feel in words. It is something unique for me."

Modric was one of the eight Real Madrid players in the top 30, including Wales international, Gareth Bale, in 17<sup>th</sup> position.

#### **How did Premier League players do?**

Liverpool forward, Mohamed Salah, who set a record for the most goals in a 38-game English top-flight campaign last season, was the highest-placed Premier League player in sixth position.

Chelsea forward, Eden Hazard, was eighth, followed by Belgium teammate, Kevin de Bruyne, of Manchester City, in ninth position.



Tottenham striker, Harry Kane, who captained England to the World Cup semi-finals and won the Golden Boot, finished 10<sup>th</sup> as the only Englishman on the shortlist.

Chelsea and France midfielder, N'Golo Kante, was 11<sup>th</sup>, with World Cup-winning team-mate, Paul Pogba, of Manchester United, finishing 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sergio Agüero, a Premier League winner with Manchester City last season, was 16<sup>th</sup>, while Liverpool's Champions League finalists, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane, were 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, respectively.

Brazil goalkeeper, Alisson, who joined Liverpool from Roma in the summer, was 25<sup>th</sup>, with Tottenham and France captain, Hugo Lloris, 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **What is the Ballon d'Or?**

The Ballon d'Or has been awarded by France Football every year since 1956, with England's Stanley Matthews the first winner. It was only for European players until 1995, when it expanded to become open for any player at a European club. From 2007 it opened up to the rest of the world.

The 30-man list of nominees is compiled by the editorial staff of the French magazine, with the winner voted for by journalists from around the world, with one representative per nation.

From 2010 to 2015, it merged with FIFA's awards, but they split and the world governing body set up its own awards again in 2016.

### **Questions**

#### **1. In the last 11 Ballon d'Or ceremonies, the winners have been...**

- a. Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka and Luka Modric
- b. Luka Modric, Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi**
- c. Cristiano Ronaldo and Messi have been the only players who have won this award in this period.
- d. Messi, Luka Modric, Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka and Antoine Griezmann

#### **2. The number of English players that were on the list of nominees was...**

- a. 11
- b. 7
- c. 8
- d. 1**



**3. Before 1995, the Ballon d'Or...**

- a. was only for players who had been born in Europe
- b. was for European players, as well as for players who played in any team in the world
- c. was only for players at European clubs
- d. None of the answers is correct.

**4. The shortlist is made by...**

- a. French journalists
- b. Journalists from around the world
- c. Editors and publishers who work for a French magazine
- d. Journalists who represent all the European nations in a French magazine