

# Valencia's Golden Era



## 1) Discussion

- a) When was your team's most successful time?
- b) Who were the important players? Who was the manager?
- c) What trophies did they win?

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## 2) Vocabulary

### a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1) Golden era (noun)  | a) Leaving or going away from a place.                       |
| 2) To propel (verb)   | b) Not being steady or firm, often changing or uncertain.    |
| 3) Tenacity (noun)    | c) A special period of great success or prosperity.          |
| 4) Departure (noun)   | d) The quality of being determined and not giving up easily. |
| 5) Instability (noun) | e) To keep something going or maintain it over time.         |
| 6) To sustain (verb)  | f) To push forward or make something move forward.           |



**b) Complete the sentences with the vocabulary from exercise 2a.**

Golden Era

To propel

Tenacity

Departure

Instability

To sustain

- 1) During its \_\_\_\_\_, Barcelona FC won numerous league titles and Champions League trophies.
- 2) Despite facing tough opponents, the team's \_\_\_\_\_ in defence means they concede few goals.
- 3) The changes in management led to \_\_\_\_\_ within the team, affecting their performance on the field.
- 4) After his unexpected \_\_\_\_\_, many fans were saddened by his absence from the club.
- 5) Real Madrid's challenge is to \_\_\_\_\_ their success in the upcoming seasons.
- 6) The coach's innovative tactics helped to \_\_\_\_\_ the team to the top of the league table.



### **3) Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.**

- a) What did Valencia win during their golden era?
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## **Valencia's Golden Era**

From 2001 to 2004, Valencia FC, with Rafa Benitez as the manager, experienced a golden era. Benitez took charge in 2001, and his tactical intelligence propelled Valencia to new heights.

Key players like Roberto Ayala, Pablo Aimar, and David Albelda formed the backbone of the team. Ayala's defensive solidity, Aimar's creative brilliance, and Albelda's midfield tenacity were very important in Valencia's success.

The biggest moment was the 2001-2002 season, where Valencia won the La Liga title for the first time in 31 years. They finished with 75 points, seven more than second place Deportivo La Caruna.

Another significant moment came in the 2003- 2004 when Valencia won the UEFA Cup, defeating Marseille 2-0 in the final. Mista and Vicente Rodríguez scored the crucial goals in a historic triumph for the club. They also won La Liga in the same season.

However, despite these achievements, Valencia had financial difficulties, leading to the departure of key players and Benitez himself in 2004. Benitez left to manage Liverpool, while several stars moved on to other clubs.

After Benitez's departure, Valencia experienced instability, struggling to copy their previous success. Despite occasional successes, the club couldn't sustain their dominance.

In conclusion, the years between 2001 and 2004 were a golden period for Valencia FC, with Rafa Benitez as the manager.



#### 4) Discussion

- a) What are your thoughts on Valencia's golden era?
- b) Do you think Valencia will be good in the future?
- c) What do you think of their manager Rafa Benitez and his career?

