

B1-B2

LA MASIA



1

Discussion

- a) Are there any famous football academies in your country?
- b) Can you think of any teams that focus on playing young players?
- c) Do you think academies can play an important role in modern football?



2a

Match the vocabulary to the definition.

1) To Lay the Foundations
(phrase)

2) Distinctive (adjective)

3) Stardom (noun)

4) To Nurture (verb)

5) To Mirror (verb)

a) To care for an encourage the growth or development of something, e.g. talent.

b) Being widely know and celebrated.

c) To start and set the basics for something.

d) Unique and easily recognisable.

e) To reflect or be closely the same.



2b

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

To Lay the Foundations

Distinctive

Stardom

To Nurture

To Mirror

- 1) Arsène Wenger, a football visionary, _____ for modern tactics and strategies in English football.
- 2) Manchester City have a _____ style of play thanks to Pep Guardiola.
- 3) Youth academies play an important role in the development of young talents, aiming to _____ their skills for success in the sport.
- 4) Erling Haaland rose to _____ after scoring 8 goals in 6 Champions League games for RB Salzburg in 2019.
- 5) The way an academy team plays should _____ the way the 1st team play.

2c

Now, write your own sentences using the vocabulary.



3 Quick Read - Read the article quickly and answer the question.

a) Who are some of the players to graduate from La Masia?

La Masia

In the heart of Barcelona is La Masia, the youth academy of FC Barcelona. Established in 1979, it owes its success to Johan Cruyff's vision of creating a unique football style. More than just a place to learn football, La Masia instils values like teamwork and dedication.

Johan Cruyff, a football legend, laid the foundation for La Masia's success. He wanted not just victories but a special way of playing - creative, with quick passes and a focus on young talent. Under Cruyff's influence, it became the birthplace of this distinctive playing style.

La Masia is more than a football school. It teaches values like teamwork and humility alongside football skills. This approach ensures that players not only become excellent on the field but also carry the club's spirit with them.

La Masia has produced stars like Xavi Hernandez, Andres Iniesta, Pep Guardiola and Lionel Messi. These players not only became Barca icons, but also champions of the unique playing style developed at the academy. Their journey from youth ranks to global stardom shows La Masia's dedication to nurturing talent.

The peak of La Masia's success came in the 2010-2011 season. Xavi, Iniesta and Messi, all from the academy, claimed the top 3 spots in the Ballon d'or. This mirrored the team's success that season, winning the UEFA Champions League and the FIFA Club World Cup. With other La Masia graduates playing important roles in the team, such as Pedro, Pique, Puyol, Busquets and Victor Valdes. Adding to the amazing story, they were managed by La Masia graduate Pep Guardiola.

La Masia is more than just a youth academy; it's a place where a special football philosophy is passed on. Johan Cruyff's vision lives on through generations of players, leaving a lasting impact on FC Barcelona's history and the world of football.



4

Read for Detail - Complete the sentences with words from the article.

- a) La Masia, the youth academy of FC Barcelona, was established in _____.
- b) Johan Cruyff's vision for La Masia emphasised not only winning matches but also creating a _____.
- c) La Masia's approach ensures that players develop values such as _____ alongside their football skills.
- d) The peak of La Masia's success in the _____ season was marked by Xavi, Iniesta, and Messi claiming the top three spots in the Ballon d'Or.
- e) La Masia is not only a youth academy but also a place where a special _____ is passed on, reflecting Johan Cruyff's vision.

5

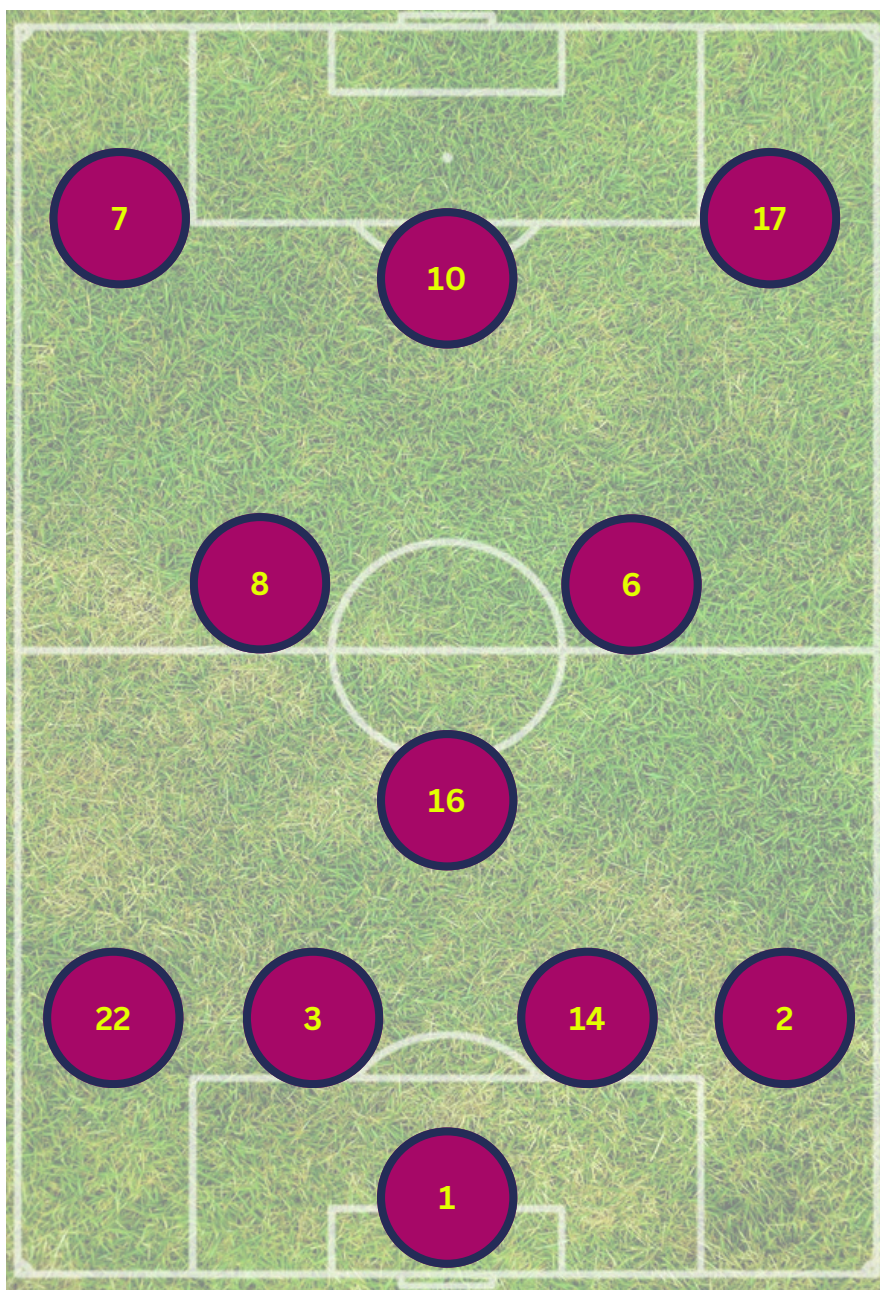
Discussion

- a) What do you think of FC Barcelona's La Masia?
- b) Apart from Messi, which players did you like to watch from La Masia?
- c) Is the 2010-2011 FC Barcelona team the best you have seen? If yes, why? If not, what team is?
- d) Do you think that FC Barcelona have moved away from their youth policy?



6

What was Barcelona's starting 11 from the 2011 Champions League final?



- 1: _____
- 2: _____
- 14: _____
- 3: _____
- 22: _____
- 16: _____
- 6: _____
- 8: _____
- 7: _____
- 10: _____
- 17: _____



B1-B2: La Masia

2a) Match the vocabulary to the definition.

- 1 - C
- 2 - D
- 3 - B
- 4 - A
- 5 - E

2b) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the vocabulary from exercise 2a.

- 1) Laid the foundations
- 2) Distinctive
- 3) Nurture
- 4) Stardom
- 5) Mirror

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

a) Xavi Hernandez, Andres Iniesta, Pep Guardiola, Lionel Messi, Pedro, Gerard Pique, Carlos Puyol, Sergio Busquets and Victor Valdes.

4) Reading for Detail - Complete the sentences with words from the article.

- a) La Masia, the youth academy of FC Barcelona, was established in 1979.
- b) Johan Cruyff's vision for La Masia emphasised not only winning matches but also creating a culture/playing style.
- c) La Masia's approach ensures that players develop values such as teamwork/humility alongside their football skills.
- d) The peak of La Masia's success in the 2010-2011 season was marked by Xavi, Iniesta, and Messi claiming the top three spots in the Ballon d'Or.
- e) La Masia is not only a youth academy but also a place where a special football philosophy is passed on, reflecting Johan Cruyff's vision.

6) What was Barcelona's starting 11 from the 2011 Champions League final?

1: Víctor Valdés, 2: Dani Alves, 14: Javier Mascherano, 3: Gerard Piqué, 22: Eric Abidal, 16: Sergio Busquets, 6: Xavi, 8: Andrés Iniesta, 7: David Villa, 10: Lionel Messi, 17: Pedro

