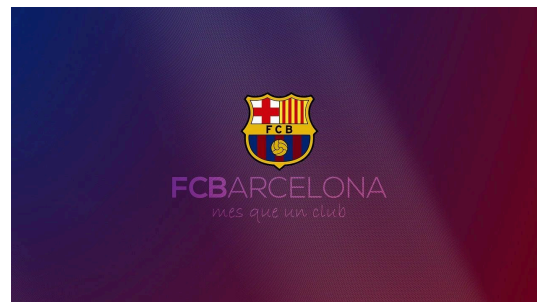


# MÉS QUE UN CLUB



## 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?

## 2) Vocabulary

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

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1) Laid the foundation (phrase) | a) To care for and encourage the growth or development of something e.g talent.   |
| 2) Distinctive (adjective)      | b) Being widely known and celebrated as a star or a highly successful and famous individual, especially in entertainment or sports. |
| 3) Stardom (noun)               | c) Started and set up the basic groundwork for something.   |
| 4) Nurture (verb)               | d) Unique and easily recognizable.  |
| 5) Mirror (verb)                | e) To reflect or resemble closely.  |



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

- 1) Johan Cruyff, a football visionary, \_\_\_\_\_ for modern tactics and strategies that revolutionised the way the game is played.
- 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.



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

- a) What makes La Masia, FC Barcelona's youth academy, special, and how does Johan Cruyff's vision contribute to its unique football style and values?

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## 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, and Lionel Messi. These players not only became Barça 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 three spots in the Ballon d'Or. This mirrored the team's success that season, winning the UEFA Champions League and 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) 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?

