

8th January 2023

In a World Cup victory elusive to Argentina since 1986, Lionel Messi received the greatest possible glory for their win against France. Messi netted two goals and France's star player Kylian Mbappé scored a three goal hat-trick. But after 120 minutes in the most dramatic finale ever it was tied 3-3 and Argentina scored the winning penalty. Messi roared "Let's go, Argentina!" and held his first World Cup trophy aloft. While Mbappé scored the first World Cup final hat-trick since 1966, Messi had the largest domination by far during the Qatari World Cup. This stakes his claim with fellow Argentine Diego Maradona as one of the best players ever. Having the World Cup title on his résumé puts Messi in the highest possible slot, above footballing counterparts like Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo. Argentina had the slowest momentum by far when they lost their first match 2-1 to Saudi Arabia. After this hottest controversy ever for Argentina, Messi played with his strongest aggression yet. **Embracing** his fans' passion, he became the first ever player to score in the group stage, the round of 16, the quarter-finals and semi-finals, and the final. It was Mbappé though with eight goals who poached the Golden Boot trophy, awarded to the tournament's top scorer. Messi received the Golden Ball **trophy** for being the tournament's most skillful player by far. He scored seven goals throughout the tournament's span. As the win sparked the wildest celebrations yet, Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said, "The match was completely **insane**".

Q1. _____

Think of your favourite sport or game. Which is better – being a player or being a spectator?

What does it feel like to achieve a long-term goal? What does it feel like to not achieve one? For example, a personal goal, a sporting goal, or a professional goal?

Q2. _____

Which bolded words in the text mean:
welcoming - marks - prize - crazy - fame

Q3. _____

"*elusive* to Argentina since 1986"

What does the italicised word above mean:
exclusive - unknown - challenge?

Q4. _____

Comprehension questions:

1. How was the final score settled?
2. Messi is likened to which famous footballer?
3. Who scored in every round?
4. Who is the Golden Ball trophy awarded to?
5. What was Scaloni's impression of the final?

Q5. _____

Link the five synonym pairs:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. roar | A. take |
| 2. counterpart | B. shout |
| 3. slot | C. get |
| 4. net | D. position |
| 5. poach | E. equal |

Q6. _____

Spell the words correctly:

held his first World Cup **y t p r o h** aloft

n a m i r b c e g his fans' passion

the match was completely **n s i e a n**

Q7. _____

Discussion questions / Writing practice:

What are the highs and lows of the football World Cup?

Can you explain the rules of your favourite sport?

What can people learn from losing?

Q8. _____

10 C1 revision keywords: underlined in text.