

## A football legend

- 1- Professional football player, Lionel Messi, was born on June 24th, 1987, in Rosario, Argentina. He started football at the age of 8, plying for the Newell's Old Boys- a team in his native town.
- 2- As a kid, Messi was smaller than most of the boys he plays with; he was suffering from a hormone deficiency that restricted his growth. Medication was costly and Messi's parents couldn't pay for it. At the age of 13, Messi was offered an opportunity to play for Barcelona and have his medical bills paid by the team. So, the whole family moved across the Atlantic to Spain.
- 3- Messi was famous for being short and rapid with a fierce style of play. He was soon compared to a well-known Argentinian footballer, Diego Maradona. Messi moved quickly through the ranks of the team's junior system, and by the age of 16, he had made his first appearance for Barcelona. He put himself in the record books on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, as the youngest player to ever score a goal. That same year he led Argentina to the title in the under-20 World Cup.
- 4- In recent years Messi has become one of the highest paid football players, earning an estimated \$ 18 million a year. He has justified that he is worth that price by leading Barcelona to a lot of success; his team won the Champions League, La Liga, and Spanish Club Titles in 2009. That same year, he took home the FIFA World of the year award.
- 5- Even Maradona, the renowned retired player, has praised Messi. " I see him as very similar to me," he told the BBC. "He's a leader. He is offering lessons in beautiful football. He has something different from any other player in the world."
- 6- Messi became the first player to score five goals in a Champion League match in early March. By the end 2012, he had scored 91 goals in club and international matches. Therefore, he broke one more record. In January 2013, Messi was named the FIFA Ballon d'Or winner for the fourth time!

I. Comprehension 15 POINTS

A- Choose the right answer from the list. (1pts)

The text is mainly about:

1.  Messi's biography.
2.  Messi's childhood.
3.  Messi's family.

B- Answer these questions (3pts)

1. Why did Messi's family move to Spain?

.....  
 .....

2. How much money does Messi earn each year?

.....  
 .....

3. What did Messi achieve in 2012?

.....  
 .....

C- Complete the following sentences (2pts)

1. The first team Messi played for was.....

2. Mradona thinks that Messi .....

.....

D- Fill in the chart with the correct information from the text. (3pts)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Messi's awards and performances</u>       |
|-------------|--|
| 2005        | .....  |
| .....       | Messi won the FIFA World player of the Year. |
| 2013        | .....  |

E- Find in the text words that means the same as: (3pts)

1. **Expensive** (paragraph 2) .....

2. **Fast** (paragraph 3) .....

3. **Famous** (paragraph 5) .....

F- What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3pts)

1. Native town (paragraph 1) .....

2. Team (paragraph 4) .....

3. He (paragraph 5) .....

II. Language

15 POINTS

**A- Make present perfect progressive sentences. Use *since* or *for*. (3pts)**

1. The people next door started playing loud music at 9.00 p.m. (3hours)

.....

2. The dog started barking at 6.00. ( 6. O'clock)

.....

3. Mr. Andrew started making violins when he was 20 years old. (30 years)

.....

**B- Complete the sentences using *can*, *must*, or *be able to* in the correct form. (3pts)**

1. She used to ..... to stand on her head but she can't do it anymore.

2. He's a child prodigy, he..... speak four languages when he was just six years old.

3. They ..... respect each other.

**C- Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense. (4pts)**

1. .... (you/ever/ read) Hamlet?

2. Katy ..... (visit) many countries since she ..... (start) working two years ago.

3. Is it still raining? No, it ..... (stop).

4. How long ..... (you/save) money to go on a world trip?

**D- Add the correct prefix to make these words negative. (2pts)**

1. ....rational.

2. ....usual.

3. ....polite.

4. ....agreement.

**E- Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning as the first sentence. Use the given word and write between two and five words. (3pts)**

1. The journalist was so embarrassed when she fell over .

→ The journalist went ..... when she fell over. (Beetroot)

2. My father looked at me angrily when I asked him for a new mobile phone.

→ My father gave me a ..... when I asked him for a new mobile phone .  
(black)

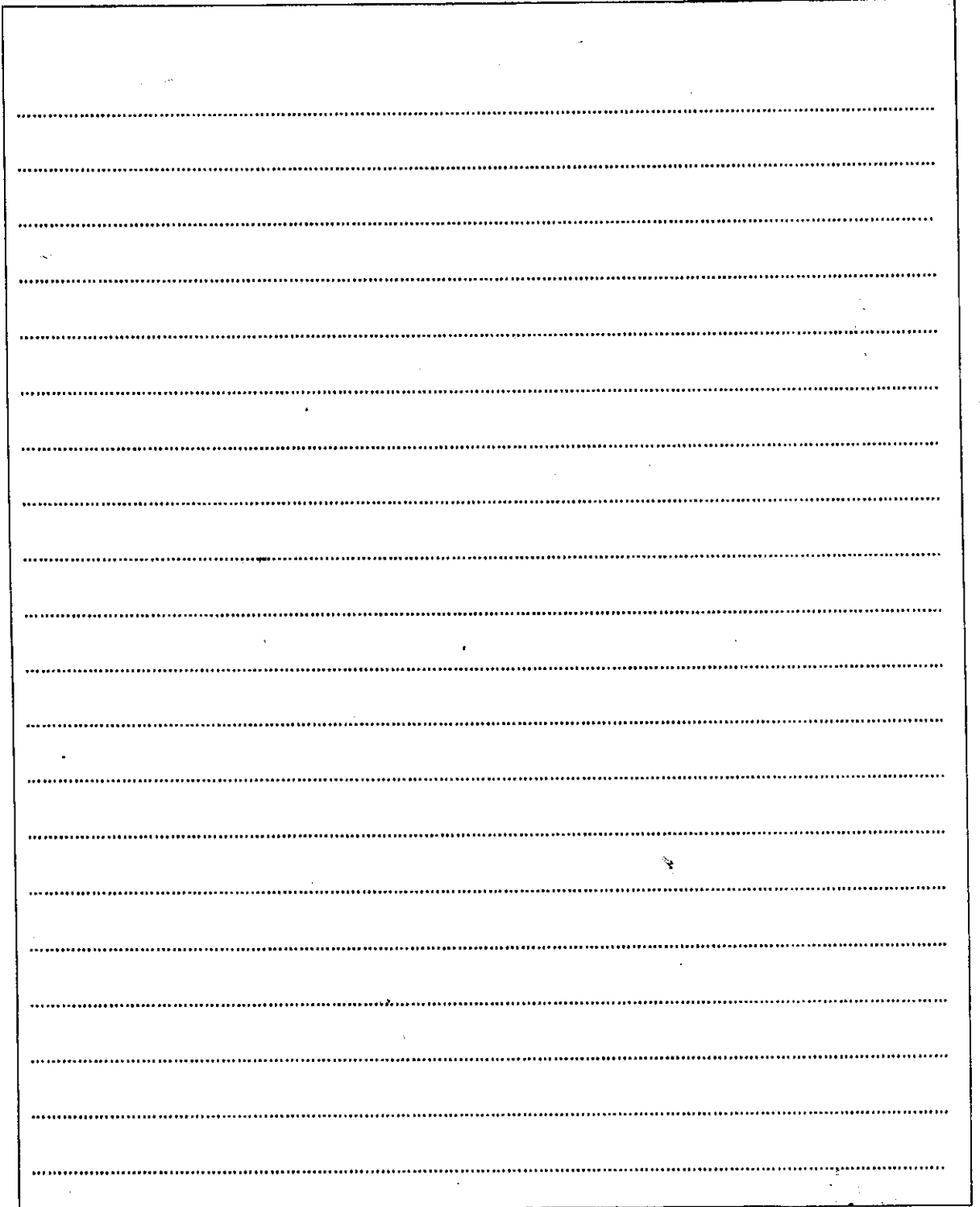
3. The police caught the murderer with the murder weapon in his hands.

→ The police caught the murderer ..... . (red)

III. Writing

(10points)

Write a story with the title: *An Amazing Journey!* (100\_ 120 words)

A large rectangular box with a solid black border, containing 25 horizontal dotted lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box.

Good luck.