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# The First World Cup in the Middle East



## Let's Think

1. Have you ever watched the World Cup?
2. What do you know about it?

You are Steven. You are reading a web page about a global sports event.

[http://www.sportstoday.com.hk/The\\_First\\_World\\_Cup\\_in\\_the\\_Middle\\_East](http://www.sportstoday.com.hk/The_First_World_Cup_in_the_Middle_East)



## The First World Cup in the Middle East



Football, also called soccer, is the most popular sport in the world and the World Cup, held only every four years, is the most anticipated event for football fans.

Aside from the host country, national teams compete for the 31 entrance qualifications to the tournament. All of them wait to steal the limelight from the other teams in the final.

As the most viewed international sports tournament, certain matches will shine brighter in the spotlight than others. Once out of the group stages, which is where different countries compete in sets, the focus turns to competition in the quarter final and semi-final matches. Two teams battle for the trophy in the final, and it never fails to wow its huge worldwide audiences.

Yet, despite how enviable it is to be a host

country, being in the spotlight doesn't come without challenges, such as the cost of building imposing stadiums, training volunteers, arranging opening and closing ceremonies and improving its security and infrastructure. Certain countries have more obstacles than others. Qatar has shown that holding the World Cup in a scorching desert requires climate-controlled stadiums and residential villages for athletes and more. In fact, it has cost Qatar a staggering 200 billion dollars, meaning the world can look forward to one of history's most expensive World Cups.

Despite the many challenges ahead, Qatar has proved to the public its readiness for the event. Being the first Arab country to host the World Cup, Qatar has proved it would host a World Cup that would be better than the one before.

(249 words)



## Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the web page. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

1. What does the word 'anticipated' in line 4 mean?  
 A. awaited  B. important  
 C. exciting  D. unusual
2. Which of the following statements is **TRUE** about Qatar hosting the World Cup?  
 A. They decided that hosting the World Cup in a desert was unsafe.  
 B. They did not invest in air-conditioning.  
 C. It was one of the costliest World Cup tournaments compared to past games.  
 D. They were loaned money by the previous host country.
3. From the web page, it can be inferred that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. the desert-like climate is not a concern to Qatar  
 B. the World Cup is only hosted by rich countries  
 C. the stadiums built by Qatar are better than those constructed by the countries which have hosted World Cup before  
 D. hosting any World Cup involves expensive and complex labour
4. The adjective 'imposing' in line 21 means '\_\_\_\_\_'.  
 A. underground and grassy  
 B. extravagant but useless  
 C. impressively large and grand  
 D. indoor and well-ventilated
5. Which of the following is another good title for the article?  
 A. *The Expensive Project in Qatar*  
 B. *Nations Compete for World Championship*  
 C. *The World Cup: Charm Comes with Challenges*  
 D. *The Most Watched Event in the World*

## Grammar Corner

A sentence includes a **subject (S)** and a **verb (V)**. Whether an **object (O)** is needed depends on the verb. An object is needed if the verb is transitive:

**e.g.** *Certain countries have more obstacles than others.* (Lines 24-25)

How should stadiums that are built especially for this global sports event be?

## Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the web page. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. What do the following pronouns refer to?

(a) 'them' (line 7): \_\_\_\_\_

(b) 'it' (line 16): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Find an adjective in the fourth paragraph which means 'highly desirable'.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the special feature of the stadiums built by Qatar for the World Cup?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages to hosting a World Cup for Qatar?

Advantage: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Disadvantage: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 5. The following flow chart shows how the World Cup Championship runs. Fill in each blank with one word only.



# Vocabulary Bank

The following are words related to football. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

striker coach football pitch defender  
referee midfielder goalkeeper trophy helmet



1.



2.



3.



4.



The World Cup



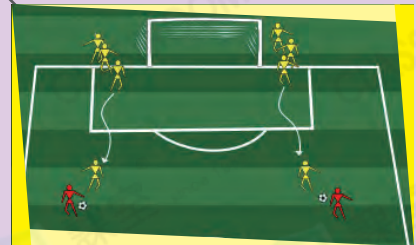
5.



6.



7.



8.



## Let's Discuss

- Do you think it is good to be the host country of the World Cup? Why?
- Which national team do you support in the World Cup? Why?