



Name: _____

Date: _____

Level 6 Mock Paper 24 – Cristiano Ronaldo (Answers)

Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Cristiano Ronaldo

Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the world's best and most famous footballers.

He was born on 5 February 1985 in Santo Antonio, a neighbourhood in Madeira, Portugal. His mother was a cook and his father was a gardener. His father chose the name “Ronaldo” after the U.S. president Ronald Reagan, who was his favourite actor. He has one brother, Hugo, and two older sisters, Elma and Liliana Catia. Ronaldo later said that he grew up in poverty, sharing one room with his siblings.

Although he was popular with the other students, Ronaldo was expelled from school for throwing a chair at the teacher. At the age of 14, Ronaldo believed that he had the ability to play semi-professional football, and his mother agreed that he should stop school to focus on his playing.

His first team was Portuguese team Sporting CP. In 2003, when he was 18 years old, his performance impressed the Manchester United players who urged their manager, Sir Alex Ferguson to sign him. Ferguson considered him “one of the most exciting young players” he had ever seen. He was signed to Manchester United soon after.

Whilst he was in England, Ronaldo's skills developed and he became one of the best players in the world. He helped United to win the FA cup, three Premier League titles, and the FIFA club world cup. By the age of 23 he won the Ballon d'Or – the award for the best individual footballer in the world. He eventually transferred to the Spanish team Real Madrid in 2009, for the record price of 94 million euros. He helped the team to win several titles and awards. He is the captain of the national Portuguese team, and the first Portuguese player ever to reach 50 international goals.

Ronaldo is a great attacker, can play in many different positions, and is strong with both feet. He is one of the fastest runners in football. He is known for his **dribbling** and his flair, and tricks such as “stepovers” have become his trademark.

Ronaldo has a rival: Lionel Messi of Argentina. Football fans are constantly asking who is better.

As well as their playing, many people compare their personalities; whilst Messi seems shy, and humble, Ronaldo can be arrogant and theatrical. Ronaldo said in 2011 that “people are jealous of me as I am young, handsome and rich”, a remark he has since regretted.

Ronaldo is one of the most marketable sportsmen in the world. He has signed many sponsorship deals for products such as Nike sportswear, soft drinks, clothing, electronics, video games, and much more. He is the most popular sportsperson on social media, with 158 million followers across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in 2015. A documentary film about his life, *Ronaldo*, was released on 9 November 2015. In this documentary he says “in football I don’t have a lot of friends. People I really trust? Not many. Most of the time I’m alone. I consider myself an isolated person”.

He is, however, charitable. He doesn’t have any tattoos because it would prevent him from being able to give blood, which he does about twice a year. During the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, an eight-year-old boy was shown on the television wearing a No. 7 Portuguese football shirt. After this, Ronaldo visited Indonesia to raise funds for the boy. And, in 2015, the boy signed a contract with Ronaldo’s old team, Sporting CP!

1. True or false: Ronaldo’s mother was angry with the idea that he should stop school to concentrate on football.

a. True

b. False

2. What does “dribbling” mean, in this context?

a. Scoring goals

b. Letting saliva roll down your chin

c. Using your head on the ball

d. Running fast whilst keeping control of the ball with your feet

3. Find **three** ways that Ronaldo’s personality has been described (by himself or others).

Arrogant/theatrical/isolated.

4. What is the name of the award given to the best individual footballer in the world?

The name of the award is Ballon d’Or.

5. Why doesn't Ronaldo have any tattoos?

It is because it would prevent him from being able to give blood.

6. How is Ronaldo's fame increased through activities other than football?

He is used by sponsors to advertise products/he has a large social media presence/there is a documentary film about his life.

7. Name **three** of Ronaldo's technical skills.

Great attacker/can play in many positions/strong with both feet/fast runner/dribbling/flair/tricks such as "stepovers".

8. Who is Lionel Messi?

He is Ronaldo's rival/an Argentine football player.

9. Are you surprised that Ronaldo considers himself to be an isolated person? Explain your answer.