English: 2Bac (All Streams)

Unit 1 (Youth: Potential and Challenges)
Comprehension : A football legend

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I- Text

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, playing 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 played with. He was suffering from 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 with Barcelona and have 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 another well-known Argentinean 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 1st, 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 dollars 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 player 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 Champions League match in early match. By the end of 2012, he had scored 91 goals in club and international matches. Therefore, he broke one more record. In January 2013, Messi was named Ballon d'Or winner for the fourth time.

Adapted from www.biography.com/people/lionel-messi

II- Questions

2-1/ Question 1

Choose the right answer from the list :

The text is mainly about :

- Messi's biography
- Messi's childhood
- Messi's family

II- Questions

2-2/ Question 2

Answer these questions :

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

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2) How much money does Messi earn each year ?

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3) What did Messi achieve in 2012 ?

II- Questions

2-3/ Question 3

Complete the following sentences :

1. The first team Messi played for was _____ .
2. Maradona thinks that Messi _____ .

II- Questions

2-4/ Question 4

Fill in the chart with the right information from the text :

Year	Messi's awards and performances
2005	Messi put himself in the record books _____
	Messi won the FIFA world player of the year
2013	Messi _____

II- Questions

2-5/ Question 5

Find in the text words that mean the same as :

expensive (paragraph2) :

- _____

fast (paragraph 3) :

- _____

famous (paragraph 5) :

- _____

II- Questions

2-6/ Question 6

What do the underlined words in the text refer to ?

- native town :

_____

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- he :

_____

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- his team :

_____

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