Sports
Notes, Summary, Questions, Essays and Grammar
Class 12 English

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I. Summary of the Reading Passage: Euro 2020

Euro 2020 was a memorable football tournament that was postponed until 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The final match between Italy and England became one of the most emotional sporting events for football fans.

Italy, under the leadership of manager Roberto Mancini, won all its group-stage matches. This victory was especially meaningful because Italy had failed to qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup. After 53 years, Italy finally won the European Championship again.

England also performed impressively throughout the tournament. In the quarter-final, England defeated Ukraine by 4-0 and advanced to the semi-final. The team reached the final of a major international tournament for the first time since the 1966 World Cup. The final was played at Wembley Stadium in London.

In the final, England scored an early goal, but Italy later equalized. Neither team could score another goal during regular time or extra time. The match was therefore decided by a penalty shootout, which Italy won. English fans were disappointed, and some young English players faced criticism after the defeat.

The passage highlights the emotional power of sports and the importance of second chances. It shows that teams and individuals can overcome past failures and achieve success through determination and hard work.

2. Working with Words

2.1 Match the Words with Their Meanings

Word - Meaning

Anxiety - A feeling of worry, nervousness, or fear.

Fan - A person who strongly supports a particular team, player, or sport.

Beat - To defeat someone in a game or competition.

Outburst - A sudden expression of strong emotion.

Cause - A person or thing that makes something happen.

2.2 Fill in the Blanks

Words: Trophy, Penalty, Stadium, Manager, Goalkeeper

Italian manager Roberto Mancini led his team to victory.

The final match was played at Wembley stadium in London.

England lost the match in a penalty shootout.

The goalkeeper saved two crucial shots.

Italy lifted the trophy after 53 years.

3. Comprehension

Answer the Following Questions

a. Why was Euro 2020 played in 2021?

Euro 2020 was played in 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the tournament was postponed, its original name, Euro 2020, was kept.

b. How did Italy start its campaign in Euro 2020?

Italy started its campaign strongly. Under the leadership of Roberto Mancini, the team won all its group-stage matches.

c. What was the result of the match between England and Ukraine?

England defeated Ukraine by 4-0 in the quarter-final match.

d. How did English fans feel after the final match?

English fans were heartbroken and disappointed after losing the final. They had hoped that England would win its first major international trophy since 1966, but the team lost to Italy in the penalty shootout.

e. What does the writer mean by a second chance?

A second chance means getting another opportunity to overcome failure and achieve success. Italy had failed to qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, but it later won Euro 2020. Similarly, England had another opportunity to achieve success after many years.

f. How does the final match remind the writer of the 1966 World Cup?

Both finals were played at Wembley Stadium, and England had the opportunity to win a major international tournament at home. England won the 1966 World Cup but lost the Euro 2020 final.

g. What is the main theme of the passage?

The main theme of the passage is the emotional power of sports and the importance of second chances. It shows how sports can create happiness, disappointment, unity, and hope.

4. Critical Thinking

Answer the Following Questions

a. Do you think the pressure of the audience helps or hinders athletes? Explain.

The pressure of the audience can both help and hinder athletes. Cheering and support from fans can motivate players to perform better. However, excessive expectations and pressure can make athletes nervous and affect their concentration.

For example, during the Euro 2020 final, some young English players

faced criticism after losing the penalty shootout. Athletes should learn to remain calm and focused even when they face pressure from the audience.

b. Do you believe in second chances? Why?

Yes, I believe in second chances because everyone makes mistakes and experiences failure in life. A second chance gives people an opportunity to improve and achieve their goals.

For example, Italy failed to qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup but later won Euro 2020. Similarly, students can learn from their mistakes and perform better in future examinations. Confidence, patience, and learning from failure are important for success.

c. How can sports unite a divided nation?

Sports can unite a divided nation because people from different religions, cultures, political backgrounds, and social groups can come together to support their national team.

Sports create a sense of national pride and unity. They also teach important values such as teamwork, cooperation, and mutual respect. The Euro 2020 tournament showed how sporting events can bring people together, especially after a difficult period of global health crisis.

5. Grammar: Relative Clauses

5.1 What Are Relative Clauses?

A relative clause is a part of a sentence that gives additional information about a person, place, thing, or animal. Relative clauses usually begin with relative pronouns such as who, whom, whose, which, and that, or the relative adverb where.

Examples:

The boy who won the race is my brother.

This is the book that I bought yesterday.

The woman whose son won the medal is happy.

This is the stadium where they played.

S.2 Uses of Relative Pronouns and Adverbs

Relative Word - Used For - Example

Who - People (subject) - The player who scored is famous.

Whom - People (object) - The player whom we met was friendly.

Whose - Possession - The fan whose team won was happy.

Which - Animals and things - The trophy which Italy won was beautiful.

That - People, animals, and things in defining clauses - The match that we watched was exciting.

Where - Places - This is the stadium where they played.

5.3 Types of Relative Clauses

A. Defining Relative Clauses

Defining relative clauses provide essential information about a person or thing. Without this information, the meaning of the sentence may be unclear.

Examples:

The man who is wearing a red shirt is my uncle.

The book that I bought yesterday is interesting.

B. Non-defining Relative Clauses

Non-defining relative clauses provide extra information about a person or thing that is already identified. They are separated from the main sentence by commas.

Examples:

My father, who works in a bank, is very helpful.

Wembley Stadium, which is in London, hosted the final.

Important: We do not normally use that in non-defining relative clauses.

5.4 Exercises

A. Join the Following Pairs of Sentences Using Relative Clauses

Sentences: The man is my uncle. He is wearing a red shirt. Answer: The man who is wearing a red shirt is my uncle. Explanation: We use "who" because it refers to a person and acts as the subject of the relative clause.

Sentences: I lost the book. You gave it to me yesterday. Answer: I lost the book which/that you gave to me yesterday. Explanation: We use "which" or "that" because it refers to a thing.

Sentences: The woman is a famous doctor. Her son won the gold medal. Answer: The woman whose son won the gold medal is a famous doctor. Explanation: We use "whose" to show possession or relationship.

Sentences: This is the hotel. We stayed there last summer. Answer: This is the hotel where we stayed last summer. Explanation: We use "where" because it refers to a place.

Sentences: The player was sent off. He had argued with the referee. Answer: The player who had argued with the referee was sent off. Explanation: We use "who" because it refers to a person.

Sentences: The stadium was full. It holds 90,000 people. Answer: The stadium, which holds 90,000 people, was full. Explanation: We use "which" in a non-defining relative clause to give extra information about the stadium.

Sentences: The girl is my sister. You met her at the party. Answer: The girl whom you met at the party is my sister. Explanation: We use "whom" because it refers to a person and acts as the object of the relative clause. "Who" is also commonly used in everyday English.

Sentences: I met a man. His brother is a pilot. Answer: I met a man whose brother is a pilot. Explanation: We use "whose" to show possession or relationship.

B. Fill in the Blanks with Suitable Relative Pronouns or Adverbs

The trophy which Italy won was very beautiful.

The manager who led the team was very successful.

Wembley Stadium is the place where the final was played.

The fans whose team lost were disappointed.

The penalty that he missed was very important.

6. Writing: Article / Email

Question

Write an article or an email about a memorable sports event that you have watched.

Sample Email: The Unforgettable Night of the Euro 2020 Final

From: [Your Email]

To: [Friend's Email]

Dear [Friend's Name],

How are you? I hope you are doing well. I am writing this email to share my experience of watching the Euro 2020 final, which was one of the most memorable sporting events I have ever watched.

The tournament was held in 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I watched the final match between Italy and England with my family. It was an exciting match from the beginning. England scored an early goal, and we were very happy. However, Italy equalized later in the match.

Neither team could score during regular time or extra time. Finally, the match was decided by a penalty shootout, and Italy became the champion. I felt sad because England came so close to winning the trophy.

The match taught me that sports are unpredictable. We should respect both winners and losers. Some young English players faced harsh criticism after the match, but every player deserves respect for their efforts.

That night was full of excitement, happiness, and disappointment. It is an experience that I will never forget.

What about you? Have you ever watched a memorable sports event? I would love to hear about it.

Best wishes,
[Your Name]

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