

Worksheet: World Cup Group C

Task A. Main Idea – Scanning

Quickly read the whole report and fill in the chart with any appropriate information.

	Current FIFA Ranking	Number of Previous World Cup Appearances	Other Information
Colombia			
Ivory Coast			
Japan			
Greece			

Task B. Main Idea - true or false

Listen to the whole report again answer the following questions.

1. T | F The writer thinks this is the most difficult of the World Cup groups.
2. T | F All of the teams in the group play attacking football.
3. T | F The writer feels that Japan and the Ivory Coast will qualify from the group.
4. T | F The Ivory Coast have had tough groups in previous World Cups.

Task C. Vocabulary

Read the text again and find synonyms for the following words and phrases.

1. In a row (There are two answers)
2. Amazing
3. Doubts
4. An attractive team to watch
5. A win

ANSWERS

Task B. Main Idea - true or false

Listen to the whole report again answer the following questions.

1. T | F The writer thinks this is the most difficult of the World Cup groups.
The most open of the groups
2. T | F All of the teams in the group play attacking football.
Greece are known for the strong defence
3. T | F The writer feels that Japan and the Ivory Coast will qualify from the group.
Japan and Colombia
4. T | F The Ivory Coast have had tough groups in previous World Cups.
two relatively unkind draws in Germany and South Africa

Task C. Vocabulary

Read the text again and find synonyms for the following words and phrases.

1. In a row (There are two answers) **Consecutive / In succession**
2. Amazing **Remarkable**
3. Doubts **Questions over**
4. An attractive team to watch **Easy on the eye**
5. A win **A victory**

Transcript

Though not really a Group of Death, Group C is one of the most open of the World Cup. It is difficult to predict as all teams fancy their chances of making it to the knock-out round. I also have a strong interest in this group as I have tickets for the three matches involving the Ivory Coast.

Colombia

Colombia qualified for their first World Cup since 1998 in second place two points behind **CONMEBOL** winners Argentina. Many were tipping 'Los Cafeteros' to be one of the dark horses in this year's tournament but an injury to **prolific** striker Radamel Falcao has meant that even though there is strength in depth in attack, the Colombian side will miss their **talismanic forward**. FIFA rank Colombia in 8th position in the world which is remarkable considering their recent poor World Cup qualification record. Though there are question marks over the defence, there is enough strength in depth among **the front four** to allow manager Jose Pekerman's side to dream of qualifying for the second round.

Ivory Coast

This is the third time **in succession** that the Ivory Coast have qualified for the World Cup and this time there is hope that they can make it to the knock-out stage after two **relatively unkind draws in Germany and South Africa**. The side can **call on** established stars in Yaya Toure, Didier Drogba and Gervinho but there are worries about the defence and the fact that this team is an ageing one. They are currently ranked 23rd in the world but despite this **relatively** low position they can make it to the second round.

Japan

The 'Blue Samurai' are playing in their fifth **consecutive** World Cup finals and are ranked 46th by FIFA. They were so close to making it to the quarter-finals in the last World Cup in South Africa only losing out to Paraguay on penalties and this time round they will **fancy their chances** of again trying to make the last 8. Known for their fluid passing game and speed the Japanese side under Italian coach Zaccheroni will be easy on the eye but whether that will be enough to qualify for the second round remains to be seen. I think they just might **scrape though**.

Greece

Greece managed to qualify for the World Cup despite only scoring 12 goals in 10 games but a **comprehensive** play-off victory allowed the team ranked in 12th place to qualify for their third finals. In spite of a poor record in their previous appearances - only one victory - everyone knows that the Greek side are hard to beat but, like the other teams in the group, Greece will think they have a chance of making it to the second round. I am not so sure however.

Overall prediction

I think this group will be one of the most open in the tournament and **I fancy Japan** (and along with Colombia) to cause an upset and make it through at the expense of the Ivory Coast.

Vocabulary

CONMEBOL: The South American football federation

prolific: A striker who scores a lot of goals; someone who does a lot of something is prolific

talismanic forward: Their leader, the striker that everyone looks up to

the front four: The four forward players

in succession: In a row (2016, 2010 and now 2014)

relatively unkind draws in Germany and South Africa: Ivory Coast had been tipped to do well but faced the Group of Death in the past two World Cups.

call on: Choose or select for the team

relatively: Fairly (compared to previous times)

consecutive: In a row; in succession

fancy their chances: They think they can make it

scrape though: Just about qualify

comprehensive: A clear and easy victory

I fancy Japan: I am going to choose