

As the 2009/2010 football season kicks off, it's time to take a look at what we can expect from the next nine months...



First, write three sentences – complete with capital letters and full stops, about who you think will win the Premier League this season and why.

Next, write three more sentences about who you think will be relegated from the Premier League this season and why.

What do you think about the huge transfer fees in football over summer? (Manchester United, for example, sold Ronaldo for £80m). Given the current 'credit crunch' situation, do you think that transfer fees are obscene? Discuss this with the person next to you and then write a paragraph explaining your views.

What would you do with the £80m? Write two paragraphs on how you would spend the money – the first paragraph can be about players you would buy for your football team, but the second should be about how you would spend the money to help people in your local community.

Paragraph One

Paragraph Two

Lastly, write a paragraph about how you think football can help change the world. Is it good for local communities, or does it give hope to young kids in deprived areas? Does it bring trade and money for local businesses, or is it simply good, old-fashioned entertainment?

Look at the table on page four, which is the final table from the 2008/2009 Premier League season, and answer the following questions.

For Liverpool to have won the league, how many more games would Manchester United have needed to lose?

Aston Villa finished sixth, but how many points were they away from winning the league?

How would that break down into possible wins, losses and draws, given that it is 3pts for a win and 1pt for a draw?

How many teams won more games than they lost?

How many teams scored more goals than they conceded?

How many goals, in total, were scored in the Premier League last year?

And how many were conceded?

Manchester United played 38 games and scored 68 goals. What was their goals per game ratio?

Now work out which team in the league had the best goals per game ratio.

And who had the worst?

Stoke City scored 38 goals, but conceded 55. What was their overall goal difference?

Chelsea, meanwhile, scored 68 goals and conceded just 24. What was their overall goal difference?

What was the range of total points last season?

What was the median goal difference in the league?

What was the mode of total points?

Arsenal played 38 matches and won 20. What percentage of games did they win?

FINAL PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE FOR SEASON 2008-2009

Pos	Club	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Man Utd	38	28	6	4	68	24	90
2	Liverpool	38	25	11	2	77	27	86
3	Chelsea	38	25	8	5	68	24	83
4	Arsenal	38	20	12	6	68	37	72
5	Everton	38	17	12	9	55	37	63
6	Aston Villa	38	17	11	10	54	48	62
7	Fulham	38	14	11	13	39	34	53
8	Tottenham	38	14	9	15	45	45	51
9	West Ham	38	14	9	15	42	45	51
10	Man City	38	15	5	18	58	50	50
11	Wigan	38	12	9	17	34	45	45
12	Stoke City	38	12	9	17	38	55	45
13	Bolton	38	11	8	19	41	53	41
14	Portsmouth	38	10	11	17	38	57	41
15	Blackburn	38	10	11	17	40	60	41
16	Sunderland	38	9	9	20	34	54	36
17	Hull City	38	8	11	18	39	64	35
18	Newcastle	38	7	13	18	40	59	34
19	Middlesbrough	38	7	11	20	28	57	32
20	West Brom	38	8	8	22	36	67	32

FACT or OPINION?

Following the pre-season Community Shield match, here are some examples of what the newspapers were saying. Which ones are fact and which are opinion?

Write 'F' next to those you believe are facts, and 'O' next to those you believe are opinions. You might find that some examples are a bit of both...

"Chelsea and Manchester United launched the English season in explosive fashion as the Blues' 4-1 penalty shoot-out win in Sunday's Community Shield was marred by an ugly clash between Michael Ballack and Patrice Evra."

"There was rage over the substitute Michael Ballack's unpunished bodycheck on Patrice Evra moments before Frank Lampard put his side 2-1 ahead. "

"Michael Ballack will not face punishment for his off-the-ball challenge on Patrice Evra."

"In the aftermath of the incident, which incensed United manager, Sir Alex Ferguson..."

"Referee Foy was surrounded by protesting United players."

"Chelsea scored in the 52nd minute."

"Foster was blameless in the shoot-out as the victors converted all four of the penalties they needed, with Salomon Kalou slotting the last."

"Foster was still the goalkeeper who had the greater impact on the result."

"(The) stoppage-time goal left Chelsea manager looking anxious"

"The manager's decision to end Branislav Ivanovic's humiliation at half-time was perfectly reasonable."

"Manchester United's Portuguese midfielder Nani could miss the start of the Premier League season after dislocating his shoulder during Sunday's Community Shield against Chelsea at Wembley."

"Sir Alex Ferguson's team had taken an early lead when Nani drove home from the edge of the area"

"Cech saved from Giggs in the shoot-out and then easily kept out Evra's weak effort before Salomon Kalou slammed home the winner."