**Mr Average of Football Nets £1m**

**A2 Economics Unit 3 Wage Differentials**

The average annual salary of a footballer in England’s top flight has broken through the £1m ceiling for the first time. Players in the premier league are no earning 15 times more than the ‘golden generation’ who lifted the World Cup in 1966, even when inflation is factored in. In 1966, First Division players were paid an average of £100 a week by their clubs. Today, that figure, when performance related bonuses are taken into account, stands at an eye watering £21,000 a week, according to Deloitte, the accountants. Those at the pinnacle of the game, such as the England captain, reportedly make more than six times that amount!

The rate of increase means that footballers now earn almost as much in a week as the average person is paid in a year. The England women’s football team have criticised the FA for paying them just £40 per day as they competed for five weeks at the World Cup in China.

In labour markets, not just in the UK, but globally, why is it that people working in professions, saving and improving lives, are paid so much less than those who provide entertainment managing to just about spell their own name?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Occupation** | **Weekly Wage in 1966 (£)** | **Weekly Wage 2007 (£)** | **% Increase after inflation** |
| Top Footballer | 100 | 21,154 | 1,459 |
| GP | 71 | 2,115 | 120 |
| Teacher | 27 | 661 | 80 |
| MP | 63 | 1,167 | 37 |
| National Av. | 18 | 452 | 85 |