

NAME:

COURSE:

RED FACE

ASHLEY COLE last night leapt to the defence of Nicolas Anelka after their ugly last-gasp bust-up overshadowed an Arsenal victory which takes them back to the top of the Premiership. England full-back Cole insisted former Arsenal striker Anelka should not have been sent off. And Cole claimed that if the Frenchman had to go then he should have been red-carded himself. Anelka and Cole got involved in a scrap after the Manchester City striker scored an 88th-minute goal.

But it could not stop Arsenal from equalling a club record for their best-ever start after going 23 league games unbeaten. Cole, who escaped with a yellow card, said: "I feel sorry for him. He shouldn't have done what he did but I don't think he should have been sent off." It should have been us both getting a yellow card or a red card. I only did the same as him. "It left City boss Kevin Keegan furious with referee Alan Wiley but Gunners boss Arsene Wenger defended Cole and the rest of his team. Wenger said: "I was not worried about Ashley being sent off. Ashley had the ball after the goal and did not want to give it back. We've seen that many times before without creating a national scandal.

"We should not have to apologise. If we have to kneel down and apologise after every push and shove then we would never score a goal." The referee saw the whole incident and made his decision. What else can I say?" But Keegan, who claimed Cole elbowed Anelka in the flare-up, was left furious and launched an attack on referee Wiley which could land the manager in trouble with the Football Association. It heaped pressure on Keegan as City's run stretched to 12 games without a win and Anelka now faces a three-match ban. Keegan said: "It was an unbelievable decision. I respect the referee but he seemed to have a blind spot today.

"Nicolas felt that he was elbowed. Anyone who knows Nicolas knows that he does not retaliate. It was a very poor refereeing performance." Thierry Henry's late wonder-strike and Michael Tarnat's own-goal earned Arsenal victory. New £16m signing Jose Antonio Reyes was also given his debut as a 69th-minute substitute. Spanish star Reyes, 20, was only denied a goal by a terrific save from England keeper David James.

QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions using your own words. (2 points)

a. According to Cole, was the referee's decision fair?

b. What kind of punishment has Anelka got?

2. Are the following statements True or False? (1 point)

a. Spanish player Reyes scored one goal: _____

b. Ashley Cole was red-carded: _____

3. Find a word or phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to: (1 point)

a. Argument: _____

b. To say that you are sorry: _____

