



INGLÉS II

Se deberá escoger la Opción A completa o la Opción B completa. TODAS las preguntas deberán responderse en el pliego de respuestas, NO en esta hoja.

OPCIÓN A

Asturias: an unknown treasure, a unique destination

Welcome to paradise. Most probably, the scene reflected in the Genesis in which God placed Adam and Eve in Paradise had been set in Asturias. It appears too coincidental that the forbidden fruit were an apple in the Garden of Eden, or that the landscape of such a romantic place were of an outstanding type of beauty. Asturias.

The geographical barrier of the Picos de Europa, cutting off access from the south, made Asturias the most isolated part of the country. Asturias was a nation and kingdom seven centuries before Spain was invented, and it formed the origin of the reconquista, by which the rest of the peninsula was eventually won back from the Moors by King Pelayo at the Battle of Covadonga. Indeed, a popular saying has it that 'Asturias is Spain – the rest is conquered territory'.

If Asturias is a series of pleasant surprises, Oviedo often comes as the first of them. It is a compact, handsome little city. Woody Allen is a huge fan of Oviedo, which has responded by putting up a bronze statue of him in the street. There is a lively cultural life, a superb produce market, and a couple of the country's best restaurants. Asturias shares the Spanish passion for food. Queen of traditional dishes is *fabada*, a stew of big, white beans with a collection of smoked meats and sausages. Cheese is also a very big deal. Asturian cheeses are many and various; the most celebrated one is Cabrales cheese. And what tends to go with all this Asturian food is the Asturian drink by definition: cider.

The Asturian coast, washed by the Cantabrian Sea, blends water and nature, sandy and rocky areas. In Asturias, cliffs, fine-grained sand beaches, small bays, and the protected landscape go hand in hand. Along the coast there is a series of harbour towns like Cudillero, picturesque and genuine, Lastres, a proper fishing village, or Llanes, where the sculptor Ibarrola has painted the concrete cubes of the harbour wall in bright colours.

• QUESTIONS. Do not copy literally from the text. (1 punto por respuesta = 4 puntos)

1. Why is Asturias connected to the Genesis?
2. What is the meaning of the popular saying 'Asturias is Spain – the rest is conquered territory'?
3. In a visit to Asturias, what typical food and drink could you take?
4. What is particularly remarkable about the Asturian coast?

• EXERCISES

5. Fill in the gaps with the correct, most appropriate word in each case. (0,25 por acierto = 1 punto)

Asturias is very Spanish in (A) _____ ways, and surprisingly unlike the (B) _____ of the country in many others. The greenness of Asturias is amazing, there you will find (C) _____ snowy mountains to sandy beaches, humble tapas bars and fabulous contemporary cuisine restaurants, local fiestas and silent valleys (D) _____ bears and wolves can be easily spotted.

6. Rephrase the following sentences so that their meaning is as similar to the original as possible. (0,25 por acierto = 1 punto)

- A) How much does that computer cost?
I'd like to know how...
- B) My advice is to save some of your income for next year's holidays.
If I...
- C) I didn't recognize Mary at first sight.
Mary...
- D) 'If the lift stops between two floors, press the emergency button,' he said.
He told me to...

7. Write a composition about the following topic (100-120 words). (4 puntos)

Describe a town, village or place in Asturias that you love visiting



OPCIÓN B

The education debate

There is a general feeling in Britain that there is something wrong with its system of education. Education is the area of public life about which British people and governments feel the most uncertain. No other area has been subject to so many changes in the last quarter of a century.

Quality is one of the matters debated about education in Britain centre around. For decades, there has been a widespread feeling that British schoolchildren do not get taught properly and do not learn enough, and that they are less literate than their European counterparts. These days it is common for employers and universities to complain that their new recruits do not have the necessary basic knowledge or skills, and there is much talk about 'grade inflation' with respect to school exam results.

Moreover, there is no doubt that Britain suffers from a chronic shortage of teachers. This shortage of teachers consequently results in class sizes often becoming larger. Why is this situation? One reason, probably, has to do with the fact that teachers in Britain have, in comparison with other European countries, rather low status and educational standards are very poor. People want someone to blame for this, so they blame the teachers. This means that teachers have to spend a lot of time being inspected and filling in forms to prove they are doing a proper job, making the job seem even less attractive.

Another aspect that is the subject of constant worry in Britain is social justice. British governments are obsessed with the knowledge that the majority of children who do well in education are from middle-class, comparatively wealthy backgrounds. Most of the teenagers who get the best exam results and who go to university are those from advantaged backgrounds, so universities are now encouraged to accept students with poor exam results if they come from a disadvantaged background. In some poorer areas, children are even offered money incentives to pass their exams.

• **QUESTIONS. Do not copy literally from the text. (1 punto por respuesta = 4 puntos)**

1. What do Britons feel about their education system?
2. Why is quality of education in Britain open to question?
3. What working conditions do British teachers have in schools?
4. Why are British governments worried about social justice in education?

• **EXERCISES**

5. Fill in the gaps with the correct, most appropriate word in each case. **(0,25 por acierto = 1 punto)**

Ever (A) _____ schools made their appearance in Britain, it has been common for pupils to wear school uniforms. Uniforms were a sign of status. It proclaimed the child's attendance and it showed that the parents (B) _____ afford to buy it. When schooling (C) _____ universal, most schools took this lead and insisted (D) _____ their pupils wearing uniform.

6. Rephrase the following sentences so that their meaning is as similar to the original as possible. **(0,25 por acierto = 1 punto)**

- A) I like black tea more than decaffeinated coffee.
I prefer...
- B) 'If I were you, I wouldn't buy the car, Tom,' said his neighbour.
Tom's neighbour advised...
- C) The film was so long that we missed our last bus.
It was...
- D) Thieves broke into our house while we were on holiday.
Our house...

7. Write a composition about the following topic (100-120 words). **(4 puntos)**

Advantages and disadvantages of becoming a school teacher