



Prova d'accés a la Universitat 2010

Anglès

Model 1. Opció A.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in English. USE YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes. Total score: 10 points.

Foreign languages are becoming the 'privilege of elite'

Foreign language lessons are becoming the privilege of elite and rich children, a Government adviser warns today, as figures showed another decline in teenagers studying the subject.

According to Kathryn Board, chief executive of the National Centre for Languages, the blame for the decline in languages at the age of 14 is not due to lack of interest from pupils but to their over-full curriculum. Ms Board said she was worried about this continuing decline. "In the long term we're disadvantaging our young people in the world of employment," she said. "And, in the end, we will also harm our own economic situation and recovery."

Ms Board believes that there is a growing elitism around languages. According to her, "that cultural understanding, as well as the pleasure of speaking a language, is very active and lively in the independent sector but in the state school sector there seems to be decreasing very quickly. The elitism bothers me because languages must be for all." Thus, the figures reveal that, contrary to state schools, independent schools are promoting the learning of French, Spanish and German. Spanish seems to be increasing in popularity, at the expense of German, even though the latter is important to more employers. Ms Board explained that Spanish is seen as a more sexy and attractive language to teenagers, because of pop stars like Shakira, and the number of British people living and working in Spain.

Ms Board also criticised the Government for its obsession with promoting science and maths, admitting these were important subjects but saying: "We need our linguists as well." She said monolingual British graduates were losing out in the job market to foreign competitors, and that the European Commission was desperate to employ more native English speakers fluent in another language.

Adapted from Times, 21st January 2010

Vocabulary:

- State schools (N) = schools supported by government money.
- Independent schools (N) = private schools supported by private money rather than government money.

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1. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text. NO marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (1 point)

a) Teenagers are no longer interested in studying foreign languages.

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b) The British Government supports 'science' and 'maths' more than 'foreign languages'.

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2. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following question. NO marks are given for responses copied directly from the text. (1 point)

According to Ms Board, why is it so important for British graduates to speak a foreign language?

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3. Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the following (1 point):

1) To caution, alert or inform.

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2) Responsibility for causing something to happen.

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3) To the detriment of.

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4) Last-mentioned.

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4. Follow the instructions for each question and answer them (2 points):

4.1. Fill the blanks in the following sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

A: 'Tom (be) to Argentina several times this year'

B: 'Really? he (speak) Spanish?'

A: 'Yes, he speaks it fluently. He took classes as a teenager'.

4.2. Rewrite this sentence using a modal verb. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence.

'I'm not sure, but by the way she speaks English, she's probably American'.

She



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4.3. Turn the following sentence into the passive voice.

'You must write the report in English'

The report

4.4. Finish the sentence so that it means the same as the sentence before it.

'Stephen didn't study foreign languages at school and now he's sorry about it'.

Stephen wishes

5. Look at the underlined part of the words below. Three of the words in each line (A, B, C, D) contain the same sound. Circle the word which contains a different sound (1 point):

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|------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 5.1. | A) <u>b</u> ought | B) <u>h</u> ome | C) <u>i</u> mportant | D) <u>f</u> all |
| 5.2. | A) <u>sh</u> ip | B) <u>p</u> ension | C) <u>ch</u> air | D) <u>sh</u> e |
| 5.3. | A) <u>m</u> ine | B) <u>c</u> ar | C) <u>d</u> ie | D) <u>l</u> ight |
| 5.4. | A) <u>l</u> ives | B) <u>c</u> loses | C) <u>k</u> isses | D) <u>w</u> ashes |

6. Write a composition of 120-150 words on the following (4 points):

What are the main benefits or advantages of speaking a foreign language? Explain.



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Model 1. Opció B

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in English. USE YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes. Total score: 10 points.

Spain controls 'body image' advertisements on television

Spain has introduced a law banning the so-called "cult of the body" advertising on television before the children's watershed hour. Thus, plastic surgery advertisements, slimming products, and some beauty treatments will be prevented from advertising before 10 p.m.

The ban is extended to other advertisers who transmit a message to children that what matters most is how they look, or that their chances of success are linked to the type of body they have. The ban comes in a new broadcasting law that has been approved by the lower chamber of parliament and is being reviewed by the upper house.

This law states: "Broadcasters cannot carry advertisements for things that encourage the cult of the body and have a negative impact on self-image – such as slimming products, surgical procedures and beauty treatments – which are based on ideas of social rejection as a result of one's physical image, or that success is dependent on factors such as weight or looks."

A proposal to stop advertising for low-calorie foods was rejected. Spanish legislators decided that the dangers caused by slimming products were worse than those caused by, for example, alcoholic drinks. Wine, beer and other drinks can be advertised during children's viewing time – to the disgust of some consumer groups. "It makes no sense that slimming products have been banned when alcohol, which is for adults, has not," says Alejandro Perales, the head of the Association of Media Consumers. According to José Luis Colás, the president of the Television and Radio Consumers group, "the intentions are great but without sanctions they will be useless." Consumer groups also complained that the new law is not powerful enough and there would be implementation problems.

Adapted from The Guardian, 18th January 2010

Vocabulary: Watershed (N) = the time before which programmes that are not considered suitable for children may not be shown on television.



1. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text. NO marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (1 point)

a) Alcoholic drinks will be prevented from advertising on television during children's viewing time.

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b) Consumer groups believe that the new law will be carried out without any problem.

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2. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following question. NO marks are given for responses copied directly from the text. (1 point)

What is the main objective of the new law introduced by the Spanish Government?

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3. Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the following (1 point):

1) Prohibition, official rule that says that something is not allowed.

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2) Opportunities, possibilities.

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3) Ineffective, unproductive or no good.

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4) To protest, deplore or lament.

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4. Follow the instructions for each question and answer them (2 points):

4.1. Write a question asking for Jane's physical appearance (do NOT use the words 'physical appearance' in the question).

'Jane is very pretty; she has long brown hair and beautiful black eyes.'

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4.2. Fill the blanks in the following sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

A: 'Hello Pam. Are you going shopping?'

B: 'Yes, I think I (buy) a new dress for Mike's party'.

A: 'Oh!, Really? you (see) any one you like yet?'

B: 'Yes, I saw a beautiful red dress in the shop next corner'.



4.3. Rewrite this sentence using a modal verb. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence.

'I'm certain these slimming pills do not belong to Peter'

These slimming pills

4.4. Rewrite the following sentence using the 2nd conditional form. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence:

'Many people have body image problems because they spend too much time watching TV'

If

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5. Look at the underlined part of the words below. Three of the words in each line (A, B, C, D) contain the same sound. Circle the word which contains a different sound (1 point):

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|------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 5.1. | A) go | B) roll | C) owl | D) toe |
| 5.2. | A) <u>de</u> ad | B) b <u>e</u> d | C) s <u>ai</u> d | D) r <u>e</u> cent |
| 5.3. | A) f <u>i</u> ll | B) s <u>lee</u> p | C) m <u>ea</u> l | D) s <u>ee</u> |
| 5.4. | A) fin <u>ish</u> ed | B) dec <u>ide</u> d | C) r <u>ent</u> ed | D) inv <u>ite</u> d |

6. Write a composition of 120-150 words on the following (4 points):

How does the media influence body image? Are you affected by it? Explain.