



Anglès

Model 1A

Opció elegida

A B

Nota 1a

Nota 2a

Nota 3a

Aferrau la capçalera d'examen
un cop acabat l'exercici

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.

Too busy to be polite?

It appears to be the case that in these modern days many people have no time to be polite. The fact is that we are living in a rushing, distracted age when the most that many of us seem able to do is barely to catch trains without wasting time on formalities or pretty speeches by the way. Rudeness does seem to be on the rise. According to the American civility researcher Christine Porath, you are about twice as likely to experience incivility in the workplace as in the 1990s. Porath's work shows that around 40% of us, across multiple industries, say we are rude because we have not the time to be polite. The notion that rudeness saves time, while politeness consumes time, is deeply ingrained in our culture. Yet on closer inspection it is very strange. For one thing, many forms of politeness take no time at all: it is no quicker to frown than to smile, or to talk quietly into your phone on the train, rather than shouting. Moreover, research suggests that rudeness at work is rarely a good time-saving tactic anyhow: when bosses treat employees rudely, it causes productivity and creativity to decrease, so in the end rudeness slows things down.

One vivid example of how confused we have become about time and politeness is the horrifying rise of the abbreviation "Rgds" used to end an email, which probably ought to be prohibited. But "Rgds" is a clumsy attempt to preserve a businesslike formality, while drawing attention to the sender's unwillingness to invest the extra milliseconds it would take to add three more letters (i.e. "Regards"). You risk giving offence, while saving essentially no time: it is just rudeness without compensation.

Technology may make matters worse: some studies suggest that digital culture encourages a digital communication style, in which we divide attention in discrete bits, paying attention to other people when we need to exchange information, then abruptly withdrawing it when we are finished, with none of the smoothness of ordinary conversation. In short, it may feel like your rudeness is saving you time, but it is not. You are just reacting to overwhelm by being rude. Understood? Thx.

Adapted from The Guardian, 11th July 2015

Vocabulary:

- **Rudeness** (N) = impoliteness, having no manners, culture or refinement.



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) Being rude at work seems to be a good way to save time. (0.5)

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b) Technology encourages good manners in everyday communication. (0.5)

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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)

Why does the author find it difficult to believe that politeness make us waste time?

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3. Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the ones below. In the case of verbs, ONLY infinitive forms will be accepted (1 point):

1) Moving with great speed usually too fast. (0.25)

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2) To wrinkle the forehead, such as when one is displeased or in deep thought. (0.25)

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3) Without skill, tact or grace. (0.25)

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4) In conclusion, to sum up. (0.25)

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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. (0.5)

A: You look upset. What happened?

B: I (have) a terrible argument with a total stranger over a parking space at work.

A: Really? anyone (contact) the police?

B: Yes, in fact, the police arrived within minutes and arrested him.

4.2. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets. (0.5)

a) It was a really (disappoint) meeting. Everybody ended up shouting at everybody else.

b) I am not used to (be) told what to do.

4.3. Turn the following sentence into the passive voice. (0.5)

You should send your complaints to the customer's services.

Your complaints

4.4. Fill the blanks in the following two sentences with a phrasal verb that means the same as the verb in brackets. (0.5)

a) I'm sorry, I'm on the phone and I can't hear you very well. Can you
..... (speak louder), please?

b) I think we should take the time to (reduce speed) a bit, and enjoy the simple wonders of life.

5. Look at the highlighted 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):

5.1. A) butt B) shudder C) rough D) burn (0.25)

5.2. A) both B) other C) three D) health (0.25)

5.3. A) lack B) fatal C) hate D) tail (0.25)

5.4. A) saved B) rented C) enjoyed D) rained (0.25)



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Model 1B

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A B

Nota 1a

Nota 2a

Nota 3a

Aferrau la capçalera d'examen
un cop acabat l'exercici

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.

Is less news good news?

A few days before Christmas, I went on a media diet: I quietly unsubscribed from, or otherwise disconnected from several people and news sources which did nothing but bring me down. This felt like defeat. If bad stuff is happening out there, my reasoning had always been, I do not want to live in an artificial bubble of privilege and positivity; I want to face reality. But at some point during 2015's continuous awfulness, it became clear to me: the days when I read about another mass shooting, another tale of desperate refugees or anything involving the words "Donald Trump" were the days I would end up more sorrowful and distracted.

One problem is that merely *knowing* that the news focuses disproportionately on negative and scary stories does not mean you will adjust your emotions accordingly. This phenomenon has curious parallels with the "busyness epidemic". Recent research on leisure time suggests that we are not much busier than we used to be, yet we feel busier, partly because – for many of us, anyway – there is no limit to the number of emails we can get, the demands that can be made of us, or the hours of the day we can be in touch with the office. Work feels infinite, but our capacities are finite, therefore overwhelm is inevitable. Similarly, technology connects us to more and more of the world's suffering, of which there is an essentially infinite amount, until feeling depressed by it becomes structurally inevitable. And the consequences go beyond despair. They include "compassion fade", the well-studied effect whereby our wish to help the unfortunate declines as their numbers increase.

This is not an argument for avoiding news entirely: I certainly do not, and neither should you. It is just an argument for carefully balancing the importance of staying informed against a pointless sadness and pessimism that helps no one. You do not want to avoid reality. But constant exposure to everything intending to be news these days is not "reality". It paints a picture that is equally fake – and way, way more stressful.

Adapted from The Guardian, 20th February 2016

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) There is an excess of negative reports and information in the news. (0.5)

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b) The news gives us an exact representation of reality. (0.5)

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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)

Why did the author decide to stop watching so much news?

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3. Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the ones below. In the case of verbs, ONLY infinitive forms will be accepted (1 point):

1) To make somebody feel sad and depressed. (0.25)

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2) A failure to win or succeed in doing something. (0.25)

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3) Causing fear, fright or alarm. (0.25)

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4) Without meaning, lacking any purpose or use (0.25)

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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. (0.5)

A: I couldn't watch the news last night. they finally (catch) the murderer?

B: Not really, he managed to get away while the others (fall) asleep.

4.2. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets. (0.5)

a) The news was very sad. It made all of us (cry).

b) It is not worth (watch) the news nowadays.

4.3. Complete the following sentences with an appropriate word (Use only one word in each blank). (0.5)

a) These stories are interesting but aren't.

b) A: Are they going to cancel the sports programme? / B: No, I hope

4.4. Rewrite the following sentence in reported speech. (0.5)

'Shut the door and lock it' Ted told me.

Ted told

5. Look at the highlighted 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):

5.1. **A) chord** **B) war** **C) dose** **D) born** (0.25)

5.2. **A) rich** **B) meter** **C) beach** **D) peel** (0.25)

5.3. **A) joke** **B) yet** **C) June** **D) page** (0.25)

5.4. **A) missed** **B) hitchhiked** **C) offered** **D) camped** (0.25)



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

Do you think that the media generally focuses too much on bad news? What kind of news or stories are you interested in? Explain.

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Total number of words:

Assessment criteria:					
Task fulfilment:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Grammar:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Organisation:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Vocabulary:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Total :					