



Please answer the following 6 questions:

1) True/False; 2) Reading comprehension; 3) Vocabulary; 4) Grammar; 5) Phonetics, and 6) Composition. You can choose any of these 6 questions from the two exam options given (A or B). Note that you have only 2 possible options per question. When questions are composed of different subsections [i.e. questions 1 (True/False), 3 (Vocabulary), 4 (Grammar) and 5 (Phonetics)], you necessarily have to answer all the subsections of the chosen question without exception. Be careful not to separate or mix the different subsections of any question between the two options.

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

### OPCIÓ A

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

#### From Miley Cyrus to Taylor Swift: How pop singers get their revenge

Revenge is a dish best served loud. At least it is if you are a singer eager to make an impression on the charts. That is the logic seemingly behind Miley Cyrus's comeback single, "Flowers". Pop's one-time *enfant terrible* breaks a three-year silence with the release of the song on 13 January. That day is also the 33rd birthday of her ex Liam Hemsworth, whom she divorced in January 2020 after two years of matrimony. Coincidence? Not if the snippet of lyrics she has shared on Instagram is anything to go by. "I can love me better than you", sings Cyrus, her husky voice broken by emotion.

But is the urge to share her heartache the only motivation? She would not be the first to adopt that strategy. If in doubt, goes the logic, rip your ex to pieces – and watch the public come running for more. Consider many of your favourite pop stars – and then reflect on their best-known songs. A case in point is "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" by Taylor Swift. The rumour is that this song is about Jake Gyllenhaal, with whom Swift was romantically involved for about three months in 2010. "It's a definitive portrait of how I felt when I finally stopped caring what my ex thought of me", she told *USA Today*.

Although perhaps the most explicit – and notorious – example of the commercial potential of revenge was Justin Timberlake's "Cry Me a River", from 2002. The lyrics to "Cry Me a River" were inspired by his split from his ex, Britney Spears. However, Timberlake made the implicit explicit in the accompanying video, which not only featured a dancer styled to look like Britney Spears, but was filmed in a way that suggested that Spears had been unfaithful to Timberlake. At the time, the video served its purpose, painting Spears as the heartbreaker, Timberlake as the innocent and naive boyfriend. Twenty years later, far from being seen as the victim, Timberlake was now viewed as a bully and, in fact, in 2021 he publicly apologised to Spears. And yet, even here, he was not breaking new ground. His lack of generosity towards Spears was part of a tradition of male artists taking it out on their exes.

If Timberlake's reputation has suffered, he can console himself by knowing he is not alone in criticising a former lover. Even Ed Sheeran has done so, with his 2014 song "Don't", about his ex-girlfriend, Ellie Goulding, allegedly cheating on him.

These are just a few examples. The question, then, is why do these songs speak to us? Perhaps it is the intensity of the emotion. But every bad break-up is unique. This gives each of these tracks its own personality. Also, it perhaps restores our faith in human nature to be reminded that even glamorous pop stars are dumped, and cheated on, and nurse resentful feelings about the person who offended their dignity. They are, in other words, just like us.

Adapted from *The Independent*, January 2023



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) Miley Cyrus celebrated her 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 13 January. (0.5)

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b) Ed Sheeran's "Don't" song was inspired by an ex-girlfriend who was supposed to be unfaithful to him. (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 personal opinions or responses copied directly from the text. (1 point)

Why has Timberlake's reputation been damaged after the release of his song "Cry Me a River"?

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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) A person who uses his/her strength or power to frighten or hurt someone who is weaker. (0.25)

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2) Feeling angry and upset about something that you think is unfair. (0.25)

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3) To tear something quickly and with a lot of force. (0.25)

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4) An example of the situation or behaviour that you are talking about. (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: Do you know whether Beyoncé ..... ever  
..... (make) an album in Arabic?

B: I don't think so, although I ..... (not  
surprise) since she's an extremely multi-talented artist.

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

a) His next album will be released next month and it will  
..... (sure) be a great success.

b) I don't understand why people criticise her. She has led a  
..... (remark) life and has had an extremely productive  
career.

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

a) Although he didn't want to, he had no choice but to  
..... (cancel) the concert.

b) As soon as she ..... (overcome) the shock of meeting  
her ex-boyfriend at the party, she was able to enjoy herself.

**4.4. Turn the following sentence into the passive voice. (0.5)**

This artist has sold over 50 million records worldwide.

Over .....

**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) father    B) balloon    C) bottom    D) later** (0.25)

**5.2. A) though    B) thumb    C) threat    D) theme** (0.25)

**5.3. A) mind    B) schedule    C) Wednesday    D) sand** (0.25)

**5.4. A) talked    B) lived    C) kissed    D) helped** (0.25)



## OPCIÓ B

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

### **Why hybrid work is emotionally exhausting?**

When Klara was offered a hybrid working arrangement, she thought it would be the best of both worlds. The account manager had initially joined her London-based firm on a full-time office contract, only for successive waves of Covid-19 to force her to work from home. Klara's boss introduced the hybrid policy in September 2021, when UK government guidance recommending home working came to an end: Tuesdays and Thursdays would be home-working days, with the remainder of the week spent in the office during normal contracted hours. "Having a permanent hybrid set-up initially came as a relief", says Klara. As the months went by, however, the novelty of hybrid work soon gave way to fatigue. Klara feels she now has two workplaces to maintain – one in the office and one at home. "It involves planning and a stop-start routine: taking my laptop to and from the office every day, and remembering what important things I've left where", she adds.

Emerging data is beginning to back up such anecdotal evidence: many workers report that hybrid is emotionally exhausting. In a recent global study by the employee engagement platform *Tinypulse*, more than 80% of people leaders reported that such a set-up was extremely tiring for employees. But what is it specifically about hybrid working that is so emotionally exhausting? And how can workers and companies avoid pitfalls so that hybrid actually works? In theory, hybrid offers the best deal for both employer and employee. It combines pre-Covid-19 patterns of office-based working with remote days, in a working schedule that would allow greater flexibility and the opportunity for focused work at home. It seemed a win-win for workers; in one May 2021 study, 83% of the employees said they wanted to go hybrid after the pandemic.

However, as the novelty of hybrid working has faded, so too has workers' enthusiasm. In *Tinypulse's* survey of 100 global workers, 72% reported exhaustion from working hybrid – nearly double the figures for fully remote employees and also greater than those based fully in the office. It seems that it is the disruption to employees' daily routines that workers find so tiring. Physically carrying work back-and-forth between home and the office may also come with a psychological impact for some. A recent study found 20% of UK workers reported difficulties switching off from work and feeling 'always on'.

Yet these figures do not necessarily mean that workers should head back to their office desks five days a week, or seek jobs that are permanently remote. Hybrid can still be a perfect harmony for workers – as long as their employer gets it right. "Both people and organisations claim they want hybrid", says Gail Kinman, a chartered psychologist and fellow of the British Psychological Society. "So, there is a great opportunity to change how we work. But it has to go further than the hours bosses set – it has to be a mindset that works for both employer and employee", he adds.

**Adapted from BBC News, January 2022**



**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) Workers' enthusiasm about hybrid work has gradually disappeared. (0.5)

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b) Negative figures on hybrid work suggest that workers should return to work in the office. (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 *personal opinions* or *responses copied directly from the text*. (1 point)**

According to research, why do many workers find hybrid work so exhausting?

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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 provide support for something. (0.25)

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2) The way that something is organised or arranged. (0.25)

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3) A timetable or a plan of activities or events and when they will happen. (0.25)

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4) Problems or difficulties that are likely to happen in a situation. (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: Do you think John ..... (bring) the reports to the meeting tomorrow morning?

B: Yes, I think so.

A: OK, then. As long as he ..... (have) everything under control, I guess nothing can go wrong.

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

a) I'm ..... (fair) sure that you will be able to handle the situation with diplomacy.

b) This is a real waste of time. I'm just tired of spending so much time on this unnecessary and ..... (point) work.

**4.3. Join the following two sentences with a relative pronoun. (0.5)**

Jacob went back to the office. He used to work there.

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**4.4. Rewrite the sentence using a modal verb. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence. (0.5)**

It isn't necessary for the boss to shout at the staff.

The boss .....

**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) any      B) wreck      C) her      D) enemy      (0.25)**

**5.2. A) web      B) doubt      C) comb      D) debt      (0.25)**

**5.3. A) chalk      B) could      C) salmon      D) sole      (0.25)**

**5.4. A) fished      B) saved      C) hugged      D) enjoyed      (0.25)**

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

What are your views on hybrid working? Would you prefer to work from home, a hybrid model, or going to the office everyday? 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:					

