



INGLÉS

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 1

Technology Becomes Most Popular Homework Excuse

School children no longer rely on traditional excuses such as “the dog ate my homework,” preferring more modern variations such as “my computer crashed”.

A study of pupils and teachers found excuses such as “I spilt my dinner on it” and “I dropped it on the way to school” are a thing of the past. Modern children are more likely to claim “I finished my homework but deleted it by accident,” “the internet was down” or “my printer broke”.

The study also found the average teacher hears at least twenty different homework excuses a week. Claire Galbois-Alcaix of Mozy, says, “Technology and computing have changed the way we conduct every aspect of our lives. Our research has discovered that many UK schoolchildren are using technological errors as excuses with their teachers.”

“But it’s not always a fabrication though. I’m sure all of us have experienced the panic of losing documents as a result of a computer virus, accidental deletion or even spilling a drink onto a computer and causing a catastrophic crash.”, she added.

In the list of top ten modern day excuses eight are technology-related. Among them was ‘I finished my homework but was unable to save it,’ “my printer ran out of ink” and “my house was burgled and my computer was stolen.”

The report also found that eight out of ten pupils regularly attempt to pull the wool over teachers’ eyes by blaming modern gadgets that older staff members don’t understand. And according to the study, 78 per cent of pupils are now submitting school work typed on the computer.

Adapted from the *Daily Telegraph* 8th September 2010.

Question 1: [2 POINTS] Indicate whether the following statements are true or false and write down which part of the text justifies your answer.

- a) Modern children use the same excuses as children did in the past.
- b) Using technological errors as an excuse is always a lie.
- c) Eight out of ten students never use technological errors as excuses with their teachers.
- d) Nowadays most homework is typed on the computer.

Question 2: [2 POINTS] Answer the following questions in your own words according to the text.

- a) What traditional excuses do children give to teachers?
- b) What modern excuses do children give to teachers?

Question 3: [1,5 POINTS] Find words or phrases in the text that correspond to the words and definitions given.

- a) To depend (paragraph 1).
- b) Ordinary (paragraph 3).
- c) To try (paragraph 6).

Question 4: [1,5 POINTS] Complete the following sentences without changing the meaning.

- a) Fred said to the policeman, “What time do the shops close today?”
Fred asked the policeman
- b) It was said that some ghosts inhabit this palace.
Some ghosts
- c) We missed the train. It had an accident.
If the train

Question 5: [3 POINTS] Write a short essay (about 120-150 words) on the following topic:
– Is it always right to tell the truth?

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 2

China to Create Largest Mega-City in the World with 42 Million People

China is planning to create the world's biggest mega-city by merging nine cities that lie around the Pearl River Delta to create a metropolis twice the size of Wales with a population of 42 million people.

The new mega-city will cover a large part of China's manufacturing heartland with an express rail line linking it with nearby Hong Kong. "The idea is that when the cities are integrated, the residents can travel around freely and use the health care and other facilities in the different areas," said Ma Xiangming, the chief planner. "It will not be like Greater London or Greater Tokyo because there is no one city at the heart of this megalopolis, so we cannot just name it after one of the existing cities."

Mr. Ma added that residents would be able to use universal rail cards and buy annual tickets to allow them to commute around the mega-city. This would help spread industry and jobs more evenly across the region and public services would also be spread more fairly.

Twenty-nine rail lines will be added, cutting rail journeys around the urban area to a maximum of one hour between different city centers. According to planners, phone bills will also fall and hospitals and schools will be improved. Pollution, a key problem in the Pearl River Delta because of its industrialization, will also be addressed with a united policy, as will the price of petrol and electricity.

The process of merging the Bohai region has already begun with the connection of Beijing to Tianjing by a high speed railway that provides an axis around which to create a network of cities.

Adapted from *Daily Telegraph* February 2011.

Question 1: [2 POINTS] Indicate whether the following statements are true or false and write down which part of the text justifies your answer.

- Nine cities are going to be integrated to make one huge city.
- Trips by train in the megalopolis will be more than one hour.
- Telephone calls will cost less when the megalopolis is completed.
- Pollution is not a major problem in the Pearl River Delta.

Question 2: [2 POINTS] Answer the following questions in your own words according to the text.

- What benefits will residents receive when the megalopolis is completed?
- How will the change affect employment and public amenities?(facilities)

Question 3: [1,5 POINTS] Find words or phrases in the text that correspond to the words and definitions given.

- To connect (paragraph 2).
- To travel regularly a distance between work and home (paragraph 3).
- To unify (paragraph 4).

Question 4: [1,5 POINTS] Complete the following sentences without changing the meaning.

- We said to Mary, "Are you going out tonight?"
We asked Mary if
- They'll ask you lots of questions.
You
- Maggie was in the garden, Her dinner burnt.
If Maggie

Question 5: [3 POINTS] Write a short essay (about 120-150 words) on the following topic:

- Is the world over-populated? Why? / Why not? Give reasons.