



INGLÉS

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 1

Can Scientists Make It Rain?

A Swiss company called Meteo Systems claims to have started more than 50 rainstorms over the Abu Dhabi desert last year. Meteo Systems uses a network of towers that use electricity to electrically charge the air. The ionized air then seeds rain.

Professor Peter Wilder of the Technical University of Munich is keeping an open mind about this new idea. "I am convinced that the ionization technology has the potential to work," he says.

Attempts to change the weather are being made in about 40 countries now. The Beijing government in China employs around 50,000 scientists in various weather modification centers. Most of these are charged with making rain fall on arid, unfarmable land. But when forecasters said there was a good chance of drizzle on the National Day Parade in October 2009, Chinese scientists were told to hold back the rain. They seeded clouds in the surrounding area with silver iodide crystals and the parade in Tiananmen Square took place under clear blue skies. Whether that is due to the scientists or whether it would have happened anyway is still hotly contested.

Rain is not the only attempt to modify the weather in scientists' sights. There are efforts to disperse fog. There are those who want to cut down the chance of a hailstorm damaging delicate crops or the structure of buildings. And then there are the truly ambitious projects that aim to prevent a tornado or halt a hurricane.

Of all our attempts to modify the weather, only one has been shown to work to the satisfaction of scientists, the lightning conductor which protects our tallest buildings from the worst devastation of the weather.

Adapted from the *Daily Mail* January 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.

- a) Meteo Systems is a company from Abu Dhabi.
- b) Professor Peter Wider does not believe that the ionization technology can work.
- c) On the National Parade in China in October 2009 there was a strong possibility of rain.
- d) The only weather scientists want to control is rain.

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

- a) Why do scientists want to control the rain?
- b) Apart from trying to control the rain what are scientists trying to do?

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

- a) Different (paragraph 3).
- b) To reduce (paragraph 4).
- c) To alter (paragraph 5).

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

- a) Paul said that his family was coming the following morning.
Paul said "....."
- b) They told us a secret.
We
- c) Sally couldn't make the cake. She had run out of sugar and flour.
If Sally

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

– What types of weather do you like/dislike? Give reasons.

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 2

Why Is Handwriting Practice So Important?

Handwriting practice in schools has been criticised for being inconsistent and insufficient. The Institute of Education says that poor handwriting also affects a child's chances in further and higher education and is a handicap in the job market.

Some teachers have suggested there may be a link between behaviour and handwriting. Children that have difficulty writing look for other things to occupy themselves in class. One teacher says, "Many children in our school have difficulty writing and to overcome this problem we have introduced more handwriting classes."

Research carried out by psychologists at Columbia University shows that handwriting speed is important to the quantity and quality of children's written work. In other words, children are able to concentrate on thinking about their ideas and arguments rather than on writing. Good writing skills create an interest in children, and children think of ideas in a more logical way.

There are lots of ways parents can support their child's handwriting at home. Parents must provide their children with a special handwriting book and pen. This way it will be exciting for the children. Parents must remember to think about how their children sit when they write. Children must sit with their backs straight and never rock their chairs. Children must keep their feet flat on the floor. All these factors can affect a child's ability to write.

Adapted from *My Child* April 14th 2009.

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) Bad handwriting is a disadvantage to people applying for jobs.
- b) Children who cannot write well do not pay attention in class.
- c) Writing quickly does not improve children's written work.
- d) Children are more interested if they write well.

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

- a) Why is it important to have good handwriting abilities?
- b) What can parents do to improve their child's handwriting?

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

- a) Inadequate (paragraph 1).
- b) To search (paragraph 2).
- c) To move back and forth (paragraph 4).

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

- a) We told him we wouldn't be back until that night.
We said to him "....."
- b) They didn't pay me much for that job.
I
- c) They went to Gill's party and met her parents.
If they

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

- Is handwriting important nowadays? Why?/Why not? Give reasons.