



INGLÉS

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 1

Headmaster Who Banned Mobile Phones Makes the Right Call

Academic standards at Burnage Media Arts College have soared since pupils were forbidden to use mobile phones. The world, for these youngsters, began not with basic mobiles but with the BlackBerry and the touchscreen. In their lives, face-to-face social contact often takes second place to electronic text, Facebook and Skype. Real life like playing football or simply hanging around with one’s friends is not important in comparison with the virtual.

So it came as something of a shock when, in September of last year, the school’s headmaster, Ian Fenn, banned the use of mobiles by pupils on his premises. They can be brought into school but must be switched off at the gate in the morning and not switched on again until leaving time. Many schools allow the use of phones during break times, but pupils at Burnage who are caught using one must surrender it immediately or face exclusion. Confiscated devices can be recovered only by a parent or other responsible adult.

It seems to have worked in terms of lessening disruption in class, improving learning and reducing cyber bullying. Children are playing football at playtime again and rediscovering face-to-face contact.

Has Mr. Finn considered banning phones altogether at Burnage, given that children once managed perfectly well without them? “They are an extremely effective means of contacting home if someone is stranded or has missed the bus,” he concedes.

Adapted from The Daily Telegraph December 2012.

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) Academic levels at Burnage Media Arts College have increased because Mobile phones have been prohibited.
b) Students cannot bring mobile phones into the school.
c) Children can get their confiscated mobile phones back when school finishes.
d) Children used to cope very well at school without mobile phones.

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

- a) What benefits to the school has prohibiting mobile phones brought?
b) What benefits to the students has prohibiting mobile phones brought?

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

- a) To prohibit (Paragraph 2)
b) To disconnect (Paragraph 2)
c) A method or way of doing something (Paragraph 4)

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

- a) They will delay the flight because of the heavy fog.
The flight
b) “Don’t forget your key, Peter”, said his mother.
Peter’s mother
c) The students failed their exam because they did not study.
If the students

Question 5: [3 POINTS] Write a short essay (about 120-150 words) on the following topic:
– What are the benefits or disadvantages of mobile phones? Give reasons.

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 2

Learning a Foreign Language is Never Easy

Learning a new foreign language is never easy. It is a myth that intelligent people are better at learning languages. Most language learning skills, however, are in fact habits, which can be formed through a bit of discipline and self-awareness.

Just as babies learn to produce language by hearing and parroting sounds, language learners need to practise listening in order to learn. This can reinforce learned vocabulary and structures, and help learners see patterns in language. Listening is the communicative skill that is used most in daily life, yet it can be difficult to practise unless you live in a foreign country.

In language learning, attitude can be a key factor in how a student progresses. Linguists studied attitude in language learning in the 1970s in Quebec, Canada. The study found that Anglophones holding prejudices against French Canadians often did poorly in French language learning, even after studying French for years as a mandatory school subject. On the other hand, learners who are keen about the target culture will be more successful in their language studies.

It does not matter how well a person can write in foreign script, conjugate a verb, or finish a vocabulary test. To learn, improve, and truly use the target language, they need to speak. This is the stage when language students can clam up. In cultures where saving face is a strong social value, EFL teachers often complain that students, despite years of studying English, simply will not speak it. They are too afraid of mispronouncing words in a way that would embarrass them.

Adapted from The Daily Telegraph December 2012.

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) People of high intelligence are better at learning languages.
- b) It is very easy to practise listening if you are living in your native country.
- c) Enthusiastic learners will do better at learning a foreign language than unenthusiastic learners.
- d) In some countries foreign learners are afraid of speaking the target language because they feel ashamed.

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

- a) What benefits does listening give to language learners?
- b) Why do foreign language learners find speaking the target language difficult?

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

- a) Self-control (Paragraph 1)
- b) Imitating, repeating (Paragraph 2)
- c) To keep silent (Paragraph 4)

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

- a) "Will you be back before Monday?" The teacher asked the students.
The teacher asked the students
- b) It was said that some strange creatures inhabit this palace.
Some strange creatures
- c) "Don't drive so fast, please" the policeman told the boys.
The policeman told the boys

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

- What are the benefits of learning a foreign language? Give reasons.