



INGLÉS

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 1

E-Cigarettes Increase the Risk of Flu and Pneumonia

Using electronic cigarettes may harm the body’s defences against pneumonia and flu, according to a recent study. The research, which reopens the debate on the dangers and benefits of e-cigarettes, suggests the vapour produced by the devices can compromise the immune system in the lungs, leaving them more vulnerable to infection by harmful bacteria and viruses.

Scientists from John Hopkins University exposed mice to e-cigarette vapour twice a day for two weeks. They then administered some of the mice with an influenza virus and others with the bacteria which is responsible for pneumonia. The mice that had been exposed to the vapour were less able to fight off illness, and some died. Professor Shyam Biswal, senior author of the study, said the findings suggested that e-cigarettes are not neutral in terms of the effects on the lungs and that studies should now be carried out on people, particularly those with common lung problems which often affect smokers and ex-smokers – the main users of e-cigarettes.

It is true that e-cigarettes have been shown to be highly effective in helping smokers to quit, and there is a broad consensus that despite some uncertainty over their health impact, they are less harmful than tobacco cigarettes but Professor Biswal remains concerned e-cigarettes could pose risks to future generations, particularly given evidence from some countries that they are becoming more popular among young people who have never smoked. He has recommended to the World Health Organisation that they be banned in indoor public spaces – a measure the Department of Health in England has ruled out, but which is being considered by the Welsh government.

However, Professor John Britton from the UK said the most important point was that harm to the lungs was less from e-cigarettes than from tobacco. “The lung is an exquisitely delicate organ and therefore nobody with any common sense would believe that inhaling heated vapour many times a day would be harmless,” he said. “What matters here is not a comparison of the effects of e-cigarette vapour compared with nothing, but the effects compared with those of tobacco smoke. Harm to the lungs will be less with electronic cigarettes than tobacco cigarettes, and any smoker who cannot quit using nicotine, and doesn’t find medicinal products effective, would be well advised to try an electronic cigarette.”

The Guardian, 4 February 2015 (Adapted).

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) This is the first time the question of e-cigarettes has been discussed.
b) The study was carried out on human beings.
c) Both England and Wales have decided to ban e-cigarettes in public buildings.
d) Professor Britton believes e-cigarettes are not dangerous for a person’s lungs.

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

- a) According to the text, which different groups of people are smoking e-cigarettes?
b) On what points do Profesor Biswal and Professor Britton agree and disagree?

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

- a) discussion (paragraph 1)
b) principal (paragraph 2)
c) extremely (paragraph 3)
d) give up (paragraph 3)
e) consequently (paragraph 4)

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

- a) The only way not to be lonely in a new city is to make some new friends.
Unless you
b) The university has included various new subjectts on the degree course.
Various new subjects
c) “Don’t eat the fish at that restaurant because it isn’t fresh!” John advised us.
John advised us

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

- In your opinion, what things are important for a healthy lifestyle ?

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 2

Do Young People Care about Learning Foreign Languages?

Do young people in the UK care about learning languages? Fewer students than ever are choosing to study a language degree at university, and since 2004, taking a language at GCSE* has not been compulsory, so the simple answer would seem to be no. This is disconcerting news for a country which is not exactly famous for its multilingualism.

However, research conducted by the organisation ICM paints a far more complex picture of youth attitudes in the UK. Those choosing to study languages may have dropped, but of the 1001 young people between the ages of 14-24 interviewed in the survey, almost 20% already speak another language at home with their family, and 70% would be interested in learning another language in the future.

When asked to pick the three main benefits of learning a language, students said that job prospects at home and abroad were both key incentives. Learning about another culture and the experience of communicating also scored highly in this section. So if languages offer you the ability to make new friends and work abroad, why are young people put off? Asked to pick the three main downsides of learning a language, the difficulty of the learning process was an important reason but the idea that they were less interesting than other subjects came top for our young interviewees. Interestingly, low confidence levels in speaking another language also played a role in this decision.

Asking interviewees to comment on their ability in the language they had studied at school provided perhaps the most revealing piece of data from the survey. For most of the languages, students don't perceive themselves to be progressing past basic language levels. The survey suggested that the opportunity to use a language outside the classroom and communicate with native speakers would make language learning more attractive. As for teaching inside the classroom, young people want more interaction, and more technology.

*GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education (in the UK)
November 2014, The Guardian (Adapted).

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) More students are choosing to study a language degree at university than before.
- b) One fifth of students in the study are bi-lingual.
- c) Better work opportunities are seen as an advantage to learning languages.
- d) Students are completely happy with how languages are taught at schools.

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

- a) What positive aspects to language learning are given in the text?
- b) Why do the students questioned find language learning so difficult?

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

- a) Obligatory (paragraph 1)
- b) Points of view (paragraph 2)
- c) Disadvantages (paragraph 3)
- d) See (paragraph 4)
- e) Chance (paragraph 4)

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

- a) They stopped going to the matches because the football club put the prices up.
If the football club
- b) A good coach can teach normal players to improve a lot.
Normal players
- c) "I really enjoyed the concert and the time we spent together," Michael told me.
Michael told me

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

In your opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages of having to learn foreign languages?