



UNIVERSIDAD DE CANTABRIA

PRUEBAS DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD

LOE – JUNIO 2015

INGLÉS

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 1

Train to Take you from Los Angeles to San Francisco in Three Hours

Everyone's talking about California's high-speed rail project – a \$68 billion network that could zip passengers from San Francisco to Los Angeles in less than three hours. Construction of the first phase of the line will begin next year in the Central Valley, a 28-mile stretch from Madera to Fresno. In future years, the rail line will stretch north to San Jose and south to Palmdale and the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles. The whole network might not be completed until 2028.

The project has been surrounded by controversy. Some have said even though the nation's first bullet train will take a quarter of the time it currently takes, it will still not be fast enough to attract sufficient customers. Others have said the price tag is too high. Yet officials at California's High-Speed Rail Authority say it is still cheaper than building dozens of new airport runways and highways to accommodate a state population that is estimated to reach 46 million by 2035.

At a special ceremony in Fresno on Tuesday, California Governor Jerry Brown compared the rail line to the construction of the great cathedrals of Europe, which took generations. "The high-speed rail links us from the past to the future, from the south to the north," he said. "It's not that expensive. We cannot really afford not to build it. All these projects are a little controversial. You'll always have some critics say why spend all this money?"

Last year, two government transport officials from the state, Brian Kelly and Mary Nichols, wrote in a newspaper article that the only genuine alternative to the high speed train was to invest up to \$150 billion to build 4,300 new lanes of highway, more freeways and hundreds of new airport gates and runways." They added: "This would cover large parts of the state with concrete and asphalt."

By car, the journey takes at least six-and-a-half hours in optimum traffic conditions, and can cost about as much depending on the type of car, fuel and highway tolls. The high speed train tickets will be similar to the cost of air travel, promoters say, and deliver people to central stations, saving more time and money.

The Independent, 7 January 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) The first phase of building has already started.
- b) The complete project could take more than 10 years to finish.
- c) All the critics say that building the line will be too expensive.
- d) People will find it cheaper to use the train than flying.

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

- a) Why does the text say that not everyone is happy with the planned rail link?
- b) What are the disadvantages of alternative transport options such as road and air?

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

- a) stage (paragraph 1)
- b) entire (paragraph 1)
- c) clients (paragraph 2)
- d) authentic (paragraph 4)
- e) the best (paragraph 5)

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

- a) My mother didn't listen to me and went to see the new horror film.
If my mother
- b) A technician is installing a new PC at our house at the moment.
We
- c) "It'll be warm and sunny for the next week," Samantha told Michael.
Samantha told Michael that

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

- How do you prefer to travel long distances and why?

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN N° 2

How Facebook Affects us

Two recent studies have revealed amazing facts about how Facebook affects its users. The first study, carried out by researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia, has shown that being envious of Facebook friends can cause depression and that looking through the site to compare achievements with those of friends can have a very detrimental effect on a person's mental health. Margaret Duffy explains, "Facebook can be a fun and healthy activity if users take advantage of the site to stay connected with family and old friends and to share interesting and important aspects of their lives. However, using it to see how well an acquaintance is doing financially or how happy an old friend is in his relationship can lead to feelings of depression."

Duffy and a colleague based in Singapore surveyed 700 students for the paper, published in the journal 'Computers in Human Behaviour'. She went on to say, "Facebook can be a very positive resource for many people, but if it is used as a way to compare your own accomplishments against others, it can have a negative effect. It is important for Facebook users to be aware of these risks so they can avoid this kind of behaviour when using Facebook."

A second study, completely independent from the first, has shown that a computer can be better at assessing someone's basic personality than close friends or family. A study of more than 86,000 users of Facebook has demonstrated the power of intelligent machines to predict an individual's character based on what they have listed as their "Likes."

Researchers said that the day when computers are able to judge a person's personality accurately has almost arrived and even suggested that science fiction films like "Her", based on a man's emotional attachment to an intelligent computer, are closer than we think. In the future, computers could be able to infer our psychological characteristics and react accordingly in an emotionally-intelligent way. "People may choose to change their own intuitions and judgements with this kind of data analysis when making important life decisions such as choosing activities, career paths or even romantic partners," said Wu Youyou of Cambridge University.

The Independent, 12 January and 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.

- Duffy says Facebook should not be used at all by people.
- The two studies mentioned were linked to the same research team.
- According to the second study, your computer could predict your character better than a person.
- The second study suggests people may one day listen to a computer's opinion before making important decisions.

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

- Does the first study see Facebook as positive or negative?
- What possible future relationship between people and computers is described in the second study?

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

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a) jealous (paragrah 1) | d) forecast (paragraph 3) |
| b) entertaining (paragraph 1) | e) exactly (paragraph 4) |
| c) teammate (paragraph 2) | |

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

- "Are you going to study for the English exam?" they asked us.
They asked us
- We have to test more than 30 samples for this study.
More than 30 samples
- She's not good at cooking because she never helps her parents cook at home.
If she

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

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of social networks like Twitter and Facebook?