	Evaluación de Bachillerato para el Acceso a la Universidad de Castilla y León	INGLÉS	EXAMEN Nº páginas: 4
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NOTE: Choose option A or B, and answer the questions from 1 to 4. For question 5, you can choose to write the composition that you like best, from either option A or option B.

OPTION A

**HOW RISING TEMPERATURES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE ARE SHORTENING
PREGNANCIES**

It's bad enough that adults have made a climatological mess of the world. It's worse that the mess is having a disproportionate impact on kids—who did nothing to create the problem, but are more susceptible to health issues caused by rising temperatures than adults are. Now, it appears, global warming is doing its damage even further down the human age spectrum. According to a new study published in *Nature Climate Change*, rising temperatures may have a direct impact on human gestational time, increasing the risk of early delivery.

Babies are considered premature when they are born at 37 weeks or earlier. But delivery between 37 and 40 weeks is still not considered ideal, with late-term births correlated to lower birthweight and even potential cognitive development problems later in life. Many variables can cause an otherwise healthy pregnancy to come to term earlier than it should—one is extreme heat.


To study this effect, Alan Barreca, an associate professor at UCLA's Institute of Environmental Sustainability, analyzed daily temperature and county-by-county birth rates across the U.S. in a two-decade window from 1969 to 1988. That is an admittedly old dataset, but the researchers had little choice.

"In 1989, the vital statistics system started to be more cautious about information it allowed out publicly in order to make it hard to identify individuals precisely by place or date of birth," says Barreca. "They even began masking some counties. So 1969 to 1988 gave us the most thorough information."

In that dataset, the researchers found that on days when temperatures reached or exceeded 32.2°C, the birth rate per 100,000 women increased by 0.97, compared to dates in which the temperature was between 16-21° C. There was a smaller, but still significant, bump of 0.57 additional births per 100,000 women on days that were hot but not quite as sweltering, ranging from 26.7-32.2° C. (Fragment adapted from *TIME*).

1) BRIEFLY ANSWER ONLY 4 OUT OF THE FOLLOWING 6 QUESTIONS WITH ONLY THE DATA REQUIRED (NOT A WHOLE SENTENCE) (2 POINTS; 0.5 POINTS EACH).

1. In the phrase *who did nothing to create the problem* (line 2), the word 'who' refers to ...
2. In the phrase *when they are born at 37 weeks or earlier* (line 7), the word 'they' refers to ...
3. Which type of mess is the text referring to?
4. In which journal did the study about the impact of rising temperatures appear?
5. Who is Alan Barreca?
6. What happened on days that were hot but not too hot?

	<p align="center">Evaluación de Bachillerato para el Acceso a la Universidad de Castilla y León</p>	<p align="center">INGLÉS</p>	<p align="center">EXAMEN Nº páginas: 4</p>
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2) ARE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? INDICATE THE LINES THAT SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER (1 POINT).

1. Babies born at 40 weeks are still premature.
2. Extreme heat can cause an early delivery.

3) CHOOSE a OR b, ONLY ONE CHOICE IS CORRECT ACCORDING TO THE TEXT (1 POINT).

- a) It is admitted that the information in the dataset is old.
- b) The data set contains a two-decade information dealing with lower birthweight and baby development.

4) VOCABULARY (2 POINTS).

4.1 Choose one of the options below and find one word in the text for its definition (0.6 POINTS):

- a) Too large or too small in comparison to something else
- b) Easily influenced or harmed by something

4.2 Find a synonym in the text for one of the two words below (0.6 POINTS):


- a) heating
- b) enlarging

4.3 For one of the following words from the text, give a synonym that fits the meaning of the text (0.8 POINTS):

- a) cautious (line 14)
- b) identify (line 15)

5) WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 120-150 WORDS (4 POINTS).

What will happen if the birth rate keeps falling in Spain?

	Evaluación de Bachillerato para el Acceso a la Universidad de Castilla y León	INGLÉS	EXAMEN Nº páginas: 4
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NOTE: Choose option A or B, and answer the questions from 1 to 4. For question 5, you can choose to write the composition that you like best, from either option A or option B.

OPTION B

CHINESE CHILDREN BANNED FROM LATE NIGHT GAMING


5 China has imposed restrictions on minors playing video games to combat what the government says is a serious addiction “harming the physical and mental health of minors”. The new regulations ban children under the age of 18 from playing online games between 10pm and 8am. Children will also be limited to 90 minutes of game time on weekdays, extending to three hours on weekends and holidays. In addition, the new rules will limit the amount of money they can spend on online games. Children aged 8-16 cannot spend more than 200 yuan (\$29) a month. The amount rises to 400 yuan (\$57) a month for children between the ages of 16-18.

10 These limitations are the latest government measure to rein in China’s online gaming industry, one of the largest in the world. Companies and online platforms are required to enforce the new rules, which should serve as a “guide” to parents, an unnamed spokesperson for the press and publication administration told state news agency Xinhua. According to Xinhua, the new measures are “guided by” China’s leader, Xi Jinping, thought on socialism. Last year he attributed the rise of short-sightedness amongst children in China as being a result of excessive video game playing. Xi Jinping’s disapproval has led to efforts from different government departments in China to tackle the issue. Other limits as a result of the new regulations
15 include banning violent video games and those that feature gambling.

20 On a microblog named Weibo, users doubted how well the new restrictions would be enforced. Minors could use the identification numbers of their parents, as many currently do to get around age restrictions. “The higher ups have policies. Those lower down have counter policies,” one user said, quoting a Chinese idiom on the ways people find to get around government directives. But officials said they would provide “more powerful support” to collaboration between China’s ministry of public security and relevant agencies to build a thorough identification system that would avoid any means of escape. (Fragment adapted from *The Guardian*).

1) BRIEFLY ANSWER ONLY 4 OUT OF THE FOLLOWING 6 QUESTIONS WITH ONLY THE DATA REQUIRED (NOT A WHOLE SENTENCE) (2 POINTS; 0.5 POINTS EACH).

1. In the phrase *the amount of money they can spend on online games* (line 5), the word ‘they’ refers to ...
2. In the phrase *Last year he attributed* (line 12), the word ‘he’ refers to ...
3. In the phrase *as many currently do to get around age restrictions* (lines 17-18), the word ‘many’ refers to...
4. How much time can Chinese children play videogames during the weekends and holidays?
5. What kinds of video games have also been banned?
6. Are users of Weibo convinced of the application of the new restrictions?

	<p align="center">Evaluación de Bachillerato para el Acceso a la Universidad de Castilla y León</p>	<p align="center">INGLÉS</p>	<p align="center">EXAMEN Nº páginas: 4</p>
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2) ARE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? INDICATE THE LINES THAT SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER (1 POINT).

1. The new rules will also impose a restriction on how much money children can spend on games.
2. There are no restrictions on violent video games in China.

3) CHOOSE a OR b, ONLY ONE CHOICE IS CORRECT ACCORDING TO THE TEXT (1 POINT).

- a) The Chinese government is not concerned about children's health.
- b) Extreme videogame playing has been blamed for the increase in Chinese children's visual problems.

4) VOCABULARY (2 POINTS).

4.1 Choose one of the options below and find one word in the text for its definition (0.6 POINTS):

- a) The fact or condition of being dependent on a particular substance or activity.
- b) A group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own.

4.2 Find a synonym in the text for one of the two words below (0.6 POINTS):

- a) manual
- b) consequence

4.3 For one of the following words from the text, give a synonym that fits the meaning of the text (0.8 POINTS):

- a) regulations (line 15)
- b) thorough (line 21)

5) WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 120-150 WORDS (4 POINTS).

Do video games have a good or bad influence on children?