



Proves d'Accés a la Universitat. Curs 2009-2010

Llengua estrangera **Anglès**

Sèrie 2 - A

	Suma de notes parcials	Etiqueta de qualificació
Redacció		
Comprensió escrita		
Comprensió oral		

Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a

Ubicació del tribunal

Número del tribunal

DEGROWTH: WHEN LESS IS MORE

A **shift** to sustainable development is not enough in itself to resolve the challenges facing the future health of the planet. **Growth** must slow down and people have to adopt better lifestyles using less. In other words, reducing consumption and distributing resources more equally is the only way to bring the **depletion** of the planet's resources to a **halt**.

This is the premise behind "degrowth," a new trend in political, social and economic thinking which questions consumerism as the basis of our society and suggests a new way of looking at wealth, basing it not on material goods and the creation of artificial needs but rather focusing on simplicity. The moral question of whether it is fair that 20% of the world's population should have 80% of its wealth is only part of the degrowth equation. Another fundamental question is that of survival; that an economic model such as ours, based on constant growth, is not compatible with the planet's finite resources. The resources we have at our disposal are limited and, the argument goes, if we do not stop **plundering** them they will inevitably run out.

"We can clearly see that the current system is unsustainable and if we carry on this way it will be disastrous," says Santiago Vilanova, president of the association *Una Sola Terra*, which organised an international symposium in Barcelona in December 2006—the first intellectual and political debate in Catalonia about degrowth. And he insists: "Put another way, growth and the accumulation of wealth are not equivalent to well-being, quite the opposite, in fact." Arnau Montserrat, a member of the *Xarxa pel Decreixement*, a group of individuals and organisations already working with these ideas, says that "we have been sold the idea that progress is only linked to growth. Obviously not all growth is bad but the sort we are talking about has nothing to do with personal growth, community links or public and social amenities, its only aim being the accumulation of money."

It is easy to see degrowth as a utopian ideal and something very difficult to apply in practice. However, for degrowth supporters now is the time for a change of mentality and this change does not necessarily have to be for the worse. "We'll be happier if we work fewer hours and have more free time, we'll socialise more and we can do without piles of consumer goods that we have no need for," explains Carlos Taibo, a professor of political science at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. "Hyper-consumerism in our societies is an indicator of unhappiness, not happiness. You just need to look at the data showing the growing numbers of Americans saying they are unhappy—three times greater than those who express contentment, which is very surprising considering that **income** per head in the United States has multiplied by three since the end of the Second World War," he adds.

Text adapted from *Catalonia Today*

shift: canvi / cambio

growth: creixement / crecimiento

depletion: reducció, esgotament / reducción, agotamiento

to halt: aturar / detener

to plunder: abusar / abusar

income: ingressos / ingresos

Part 1: Reading comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.

[0.5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

		Espai per al corrector/a		
		Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	According to the text, the health of the planet depends on... ☐ people eating better quality food. ☐ people eating more slowly. ☐ people consuming less than at present. ☐ people consuming less meat.	☐	☐	☐
2.	“Degrowth” is a new... ☐ way to study economics. ☐ way to create artificial needs. ☐ attitude concerning population growth. ☐ attitude concerning consumerism.	☐	☐	☐
3.	Our economic model is based on... ☐ surviving strategies. ☐ permanent growth. ☐ a few moral questions. ☐ the equal distribution of resources.	☐	☐	☐
4.	According to the text, the resources of the planet... ☐ might not be enough in the near future. ☐ are enough for 80 % of its population. ☐ are in the hands of 80 % of its population. ☐ might not be in good condition very soon.	☐	☐	☐
5.	Santiago Vilanova believes that... ☐ an international symposium should be organised in Barcelona every year. ☐ well-being cannot be considered a sustainable objective for humanity. ☐ the accumulation of wealth has to be excluded from political programmes. ☐ the well-being of people is not necessarily related to having more resources.	☐	☐	☐
6.	People in “degrowth” organisations think that... ☐ progress is linked to growth. ☐ progress is slower than growth. ☐ progress does not depend only on growth. ☐ progress is faster than growth.	☐	☐	☐
7.	“Degrowth” supporters are... ☐ always in favour of utopian ideals. ☐ usually good at practical things. ☐ always in favour of consumer goods. ☐ usually against working many hours.	☐	☐	☐
8.	According to Carlos Taibo, more Americans say that they are... ☐ less happy now despite being richer. ☐ happier now than in the past decades. ☐ unhappy since the end of the Second World War. ☐ happy because of their growing income.	☐	☐	☐
		Correctes	Incorrectes	No contestades
Recompte de les respostes		☐	☐	☐
Nota de comprensió escrita				

Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words.

[4 points]

1. “We’ll be happier if we work fewer hours and have more free time, we’ll socialise more and we can do without piles of consumer goods that we have no need for.” Consider this statement mentioned in the text. Write a short essay stating your opinion against or in favour of that affirmation.
2. Write a letter to the editor of *Catalonia Today* expressing your views about this article and the concept of *degrowth*.

Grammar	
Vocabulary	
Text	
Maturity	
Total	
Nota redacció	

Part 3: Listening comprehension

A JOURNALIST IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

In the following interview you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

Pulitzer Prize: un premi periodístic molt important / un premio periodístico muy importante

slaughterhouse: escorxador / matadero

obituary: esquela

numbness: insensibilitat / insensibilidad

feedback: reacció, resposta / reacción, respuesta

stand up: afrontar / hacer frente a

outlook: perspectiva

Ready?

Now read the questions on the next page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

Charlie LeDuff, 34, is a reporter for *The New York Times*. He started his journalism career at age 29, after earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in journalism from the University of California. Part Native American, LeDuff was one of several reporters who worked at *The New York Times* series that was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in April 2001. He spent one month working at a pork slaughterhouse in North Carolina.

Text adapted from <JournalismJob.com> (March 31, 2001)

[Now listen to the interview.]

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct.

[0.25 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.08 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

Look at number 0 as an example.

0. Charlie earned a master's degree in journalism.
 - ☒ from the University of California.
 - ☐ from the University of Michigan.
 - ☐ in North Carolina.
 - ☐ when he was 29.
1. Charlie wrote his first article in...
 - ☐ *The New York Times*.
 - ☐ the *Alaska Fisherman's Journal*.
 - ☐ the local paper.
 - ☐ the high school paper.
2. Why did Charlie decide to become a journalist?
 - ☐ Because some friends convinced him.
 - ☐ Because he thought it would be cool.
 - ☐ To make his parents proud.
 - ☐ Because of the good salary.
3. Charlie LeDuff picked the North Carolina slaughterhouse for his history because...
 - ☐ it's the biggest in the world.
 - ☐ it's in North Carolina.
 - ☐ his editor told him to pick it.
 - ☐ of the different races that worked there.
4. When he applied for the job at the slaughterhouse, Charlie was...
 - ☐ both scared and excited.
 - ☐ excited to write about something important.
 - ☐ excited because he was working for *The Times*.
 - ☐ interested in the kind of work done there.
5. What surprised Charlie most about his work in the slaughterhouse was that...
 - ☐ the workers had a 15-minute break every hour.
 - ☐ all the workers worked as mechanics.
 - ☐ the workers were so numb and that there were so many Mexicans.
 - ☐ there were not many Mexican workers.
6. When Charlie wrote his articles, the feedback he got was...
 - ☐ positive.
 - ☐ negative.
 - ☐ both positive and negative.
 - ☐ non-existent.
7. Winning the Pulitzer Prize...
 - ☐ is important to Charlie.
 - ☐ is not important to Charlie, but it is to other people.
 - ☐ would be funny, according to Charlie.
 - ☐ is not important to anyone.
8. Charlie thinks that being part Native American...
 - ☐ affects his work as a journalist because it is part of who he is.
 - ☐ does not affect his work as a journalist.
 - ☐ makes him more honest.
 - ☐ affects his work as a journalist only when he lives in New York.

Espai per al corrector/a		
Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐
Correctes	Incorrectes	No contestades

Etiqueta del corrector/a

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Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a

