



Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura Curso 2009-10

Asignatura: Lengua extranjera (inglés)

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: 1 hora y 30 minutos

El alumno deberá escoger una de las dos opciones, A o B, y responder **en inglés a todas las preguntas** que se formulan en la opción elegida, sin mezclar preguntas de una y otra. **En el caso de la primera pregunta (la redacción), deberá escribir tan sólo sobre uno de los dos temas propuestos.**

Puntuación máxima del ejercicio: 10 puntos.

Puntuación máxima de cada pregunta: 1ª = 4 puntos; 2ª = 2 puntos; 3ª = 2 puntos; 4ª = 2 puntos.

Opción A

English in the World Today

Linguists estimate that there are about 5,000-6,000 different languages spoken in the world today. The imprecision in this estimate is largely due to the fact that some dialects are in the process of diverging and it is not clear whether they are already separate languages or not. If two people find each other's way of talking unintelligible, they are usually thought to be speaking different languages rather than dialects.

There are about 200 languages that have a million or more native speakers. Of these, Mandarin Chinese is the most common, being spoken by around 874,000,000 people as a native language. English is a distant third with approximately 341,000,000 native speakers.

English is far more worldwide in its distribution than all other spoken languages. It is an official language in 52 countries as well as many small colonies and territories. In addition, approximately one third of the people in the world understand English to some degree. It has become the most useful language to learn for international travel and diplomacy. In 2001, the 189 member countries in the United Nations were asked what language they wish to use for communication with embassies from other countries. More than 120 chose English, 40 selected French, and 20 wanted to use Spanish. Those who chose English included the former Soviet republics, Viet Nam, and most of the Arab world.

English is also the dominant language in science and electronic communication, particularly on the Internet. However, the percentage of Internet users who are not native English speakers is increasing rapidly, especially in Asia. In 2008, China estimated that there are now more people who have online access in their country than in the US, which had previously been the global leader in Internet access.

1. Write **one of the following two** compositions:
 - a. Do you think it is really necessary for everyone to be able to speak English today? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
 - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **ending with this sentence**: "*This is why Mark decided he had to learn to speak English immediately*". Remember that **the 13 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
2. Answer the following **two** questions:
 - a. Does the writer think that more and more people use English for reasons related to technology? Explain your answer.
 - b. According to the text, is English the language with most native speakers in the world today? Explain your answer.
3. Imagine a friend of yours wants to stop studying English. Advise him/her not to do so and give him/her a good reason for it.
4. Grammatical transformation.
 - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice (do not omit any part of it):
Approximately one third of the people in the world understand English to some degree.
 - b. Rewrite the following sentence in negative-interrogative (one sentence only):
English has become the most useful language to learn for international travel and diplomacy.

Opción B

Biodiversity

The year 2010 has been declared as the International Year of Biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, or on the entire Earth. It is often used as a measure of the health of biological systems. The biodiversity found on Earth today consists of many millions of distinct biological species. However, biodiversity is not distributed homogeneously on Earth. It is consistently richer in the tropics, where the number of animals and plants is enormous. On the other hand, it is less rich in polar regions where fewer species are found.

Biodiversity has always been subject to huge changes along time. Of all species that have existed on Earth, 99.9 percent are now extinct. Since life began on Earth, five major mass extinctions have led to large sudden drops in the biodiversity of species. The Phanerozoic eon (the last 540 million years) marked a rapid growth in biodiversity in the Cambrian explosion —a period during which nearly every class of multicellular organisms first appeared. The next 400-million-year period was distinguished by periodic, massive losses of biodiversity classified as mass extinction events. The most recent, the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction event, occurred 65 million years ago, and has attracted more attention than all others because it killed the dinosaurs.

Today there is concern that the period since the emergence of humans is part of a huge reduction in biodiversity, caused primarily by the impact that humans are having on the environment, particularly the destruction of plant and animal habitats. The relevance of biodiversity to human health is becoming a major international issue, as scientific evidence is gathered on the global health implications of biodiversity loss.

1. Write **one of the following two** compositions:
 - a. Do you think humans should worry about the world's biodiversity? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
 - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with** this sentence: "*One day, Brian decided he had to do something for the preservation of biodiversity*". Remember that **the 14 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
2. Answer the following **two** questions:
 - a. Does the writer say that the number of animals and plants on Earth has always been the same? Explain your answer.
 - b. According to the text, have humans had any influence on recent changes in the world's biodiversity? Explain your answer.
3. Imagine you see someone starting a fire in a forest. Order him/her not to do so and give him/her a good reason for it.
4. Grammatical transformation.
 - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative-interrogative (one sentence only):
The relevance of biodiversity to human health is becoming a major international issue.
 - b. Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words *She said*:
The Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction event occurred 65 million years ago and has attracted more attention than all others.