



# Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura

## Curso 2011-12

Asignatura: Inglés

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: 1h. 30 min.

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.**

### Opción A

#### Spanish Weather

It comes as little surprise that the main attraction of Spain for most foreigners is its excellent weather. Spain is the sunniest country in Europe and the climate on the Costa Blanca has been described by the World Health Organisation as one of the healthiest in the world. Spain's Mediterranean coast, from the Costa Blanca to the Costa del Sol, enjoys an average of 320 days sunshine each year. When northern Europe is frozen you can almost guarantee that the south of Spain will be bathed in sunshine. In general, May and October are considered the best months for tourism as they are generally dry and not too hot in most regions.

The price to pay for all those hot, dry days is a shortage of rainfall in many areas. In summer 1995 the reservoirs in central, southern and eastern Spain were almost empty after four years of severe drought, during which water was rationed for millions of people. However, the drought totally disappeared in the winter of 1995/96, when torrential rain caused widespread flooding throughout Spain. The following winter was the wettest on record and many areas in the south of the country experienced two months of almost constant torrential rainfall. Storm damage cost 900 million euros in the province of Malaga alone and many roads were closed due to rockfalls, landslides and collapsed bridges.

Continental Spain experiences three climatic zones: Atlantic, Continental and Mediterranean. Besides, some areas, particularly the Balearic and Canary Islands, also have their own distinct micro-climates. In coastal areas there can be huge variations in the weather simply by travelling a few kilometres inland and up into the mountains. On some islands such as Majorca, rainfall varies from 300-400 mm in the south to over 1,200 mm in the north.

- Write a composition about **one of the following topics** (maximum 4 points):
  - Do you think that the weather in Extremadura can be attractive for tourists? Why or why not? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
  - Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with** this sentence: "*That was going to be the hottest month of July in Lewis's life*". Remember that **the 13 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write.**
- Answer the following **two** questions:
  - Does the writer say that the weather changes little near the coasts of Spain? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
  - According to the text, is the weather in Spain generally better than in other countries around us? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
- Imagine that your friend Jenny, from England, is thinking about spending her summer holidays in Spain. Advise her to do so and give her a good reason for it (maximum 2 points).
- Grammatical transformation.
  - Rewrite the following sentence in the active voice (maximum 1 point):

*The climate on the Costa Blanca has been described by the World Health Organisation as one of the healthiest in the world.*
  - Rewrite the following sentence in the negative form of the past perfect tense (maximum 1 point):

*The drought totally disappeared in the winter of 1995/96.*

## Opción B

### Origami

*Origami* ("papiroflexia" in Spanish) is the Japanese name for the traditional art of paper folding, which started around the XVII century and was popularized outside of Japan in the mid-1900s. The goal of this art is to transform a sheet of paper into a finished sculpture through folding and sculpting techniques. Cutting the paper or using glue are not permitted.

There is much speculation about the origin of origami. While Japan seems to have had the most extensive tradition, there is evidence of an independent tradition of paper folding in China, as well as in Germany, Italy and Spain, among other places. However, because of the problems associated with preserving origami figures, there is very little direct evidence of its age or origins, apart from references in books.

In present-day China, traditional funerals include burning folded paper, most often representations of gold nuggets (*yuanbao*). It is not known when this practice started, but it seems to have become popular during the Sung Dynasty in the IX and X centuries. Chinese paper folding has typically been of objects like dishes, hats or boats, rather than animals or flowers.

The earliest evidence of paper folding in Europe is a picture of a small paper boat in a 1490 book. Paper folding in the west probably originated with the Moors much earlier, but it is not known whether it was an independent discovery or knowledge of origami came along the silk route.

In Japan, the earliest reference to a paper model is in a short poem by Ihara Saikaku in 1680 which describes paper butterflies in a dream. Origami butterflies were used during the celebration of Shinto weddings to represent the bride and groom. Samurai warriors used to exchange gifts adorned with *noshi*, a sort of good luck token made of folded pieces of paper.

1. Write a composition about **one of the following two topics** (maximum 4 points):
  - a. Do you think that origami is a form of art or just a simple hobby? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
  - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with** this sentence: "*Jim had always wanted to learn to make paper birds*". Remember that **the 10 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 many ancient origami figures have been preserved up to this day? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
  - b. According to the text, is paper folding an exclusively Japanese form of art? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
3. Imagine that your friend Sally is interested in learning to make origami figures. Advise her to do so and give her a good reason for it (maximum 2 points).
4. Grammatical transformation.
  - a. Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words *She said* (maximum 1 point):

*Paper folding in the west probably originated with the Moors much earlier, but it is not known whether it was an independent discovery or knowledge of origami came along the silk route.*
  - b. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative interrogative form. **Write only one sentence** (maximum 1 point):

*Chinese paper folding has typically been of objects like dishes, hats or boats.*