



Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura Curso 2014-15

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

Ancient Olympic Games

According to historical records, the first ancient Olympic Games can be traced back to 776 BC. They were dedicated to the Olympian gods and took place on the ancient plains of Olympia. They continued for nearly twelve centuries, until Emperor Theodosius decreed in 393 A.D. that all "pagan cults" be prohibited.

The Olympic Games were closely linked to the religious festivals of the cult of Zeus, but were not an integral part of a rite. In fact, they had a secular character and aimed to show the physical qualities and evolution of the performances of young people, as well as encouraging good relations between the cities of Greece.

The Olympic victor received his first awards immediately after the competition. The winner's name was first announced by a herald, and then a judge placed a palm branch in his hands, while the spectators threw flowers at him. Red ribbons were tied on his head and hands as a mark of victory.

The official award ceremony normally took place on the last day of the Games, at the elevated vestibule of the temple of Zeus. In a loud voice, the herald announced the name of the Olympic winner, his father's name, and his homeland. Then, the judge placed the sacred olive tree wreath on the winner's head.

All free male Greek citizens could participate in the ancient Olympic Games, regardless of their social status. Married women were not allowed to participate in, or to watch, the Games. However, unmarried women could attend the competition, and the priestess of Demeter, goddess of fertility, was given a privileged position next to the Stadium altar. Kyniska, daughter of King Archidamos of Sparta, was the first woman to be listed as an Olympic victor in Antiquity. Her chariot won in the four-horse chariot race in the 96th and 97th Olympiads. She managed to break with tradition because, in the equestrian events, the victory wreath was won by the owner of the horse, not by the rider.

1. Write a composition about **one of the following topics** (maximum 4 points):
 - a. Do you think that women should be allowed to participate in all sports competitions? Why or why not? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
 - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with this sentence**: "*Richard had always wanted to become a famous athlete*". Remember that **the 9 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 ancient Olympic Games were an exclusively religious event? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
 - b. According to the text, could all women be present at the ancient Olympic Games? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
3. Imagine your son or daughter does not do any sports. Advise him/her to do so and give him/her a good reason for it (maximum 2 points).
4. Grammatical transformation.
 - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice. **Do not omit any part of it** (maximum 1 point):
A judge placed a palm branch in his hands, while the spectators threw flowers at him.
 - b. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative form of the past perfect tense (maximum 1 point):
Married women were not allowed to participate in the Games.

Opción B

The Social Security System in Spain

The Spanish social security system is much like the British one. In both, you pay your contributions every month, and that entitles you to a pension, unemployment benefit, sick pay, maternity pay and free healthcare. The amount of the pension and benefits that you receive depends on the level of contributions you have been paying.

Once you take any job in Spain, your employer is required to register you in the Social Security system and to deduct any contributions payable by you from your wages. If you are not Spanish, you will first need to register for a Foreigners' Identification Number. You should be a little careful too: some small businesses pay all their workers cash in hand and those workers will not be eligible for Social Security benefits, including health care. Other employers may register you, but claim you are working less than you are, and so they will save some money in contributions. In this situation you will have a right to receive free health care, but if you become unemployed or have to take sick leave, your benefits will be lower.

If you are self-employed, you will have to go to the local Social Security office and fill in all the paperwork yourself. By the way, if you are not familiar with Spanish bureaucracy, it is probably advisable to get a "gestor" (an official agent, somehow similar to a lawyer) to do this for you. The minimum monthly contribution for self-employed workers in Spain is currently 225€ per month.

If you have been employed in Spain for at least six months and you lose your job, you will generally be entitled to Spanish unemployment benefit. If you are employed or self-employed, you will also be entitled to sick pay, maternity pay and, when you retire, a pension. All benefits are paid at variable rates depending on the level of your previous contributions.

1. Write a composition about **one of the following topics** (maximum 4 points):
 - a. Do you think that the national Social Security system is necessary in Spain? Explain your answer in at least 80 words.
 - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with** this sentence: "*John had never paid any contribution to the Social Security before*". Remember that **the 11 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 everybody in Spain receives the same payment when they retire? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
 - b. According to the text, do working women in Spain receive any benefits when they get pregnant? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
3. Imagine you work for the Spanish Ministry of Finance. One day, you meet an English person who works in Spain but does not pay any contribution. Order him/her to do so and give him/her a good reason for it (maximum 2 points).
4. Grammatical transformation.
 - a. Rewrite the following sentence as a third type (impossible) conditional (maximum 1 point):
If you are self-employed, you will have to go to the local Social Security office.
 - b. Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words *They said* (maximum 1 point):
The amount of the pension that you receive depends on the contributions you have been paying.