



Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura

Curso 2016-2017

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

The story of the Fourth of July

American Independence Day is celebrated on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a date that today represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as a sovereign nation. However, July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Congress decided to declare independence: they did that on July 2, 1776. It wasn't the day the American Revolution started: that had happened in April 1775. It wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence: that was in June 1776. It wasn't the day when the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain: that didn't happen until November 1776. And it wasn't the date it was signed: that was August 2, 1776.

So what happened on July 4, 1776? On that day, the Congress approved the final text of the Declaration of Independence. They had been working on it for some days after the initial text was submitted on July 2, and finally agreed on all the changes they considered necessary.

July 4, 1776, became then the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence and on the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (this copy is now kept at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It is also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

For the first few decades after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it on any date at all. It was too new, and too many other important things were happening in the young nation. Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, the Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognise several holidays, including Christmas.

1. Write a composition on **one of the following topics** (maximum 3 points):
 - a. What do you think about celebrating historical events in Spain, such as Labour Day (May 1st) or Constitution Day (December 6th)? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
 - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with** this sentence: "*Last year, we planned a nice celebration for Extremadura Day*". Remember that **these 10 words cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
2. Answer the following two questions:
 - a. Does the writer say that England was notified about the Declaration of Independence exactly on July 4, 1776? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
 - b. According to the text, did July 4 become a national holiday in the United States in the XIX century? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
3. Find in the text words having a similar meaning to the following words. Give **only one synonym** for each word (maximum 0.5 points per word):
 - a. *origin, beginning*
 - b. *elegant, beautiful*
 - c. *distributed*
4. Read the following short dialogue:

Sheila: You know, I think I'm going to spend a couple of weeks in the United States some time soon. I've always wanted to see New York.
Frank: Really? That's a great idea! When are you planning to go?
Sheila: Next summer. Probably in the first week of July.

Now imagine that you are Frank. **Use just two or three sentences** to advise Sheila to enjoy the Fourth of July celebrations in New York and to give her a good reason to do so (maximum 1 point).
5. Grammatical transformation.
 - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative form of the future simple tense (maximum 1 point):
It was too new, and too many other important things were happening in the young nation.
 - b. Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words *He said* (maximum 1.5 points):
We think of July 4, 1776, as a date that today represents the Declaration of Independence.

Opción B

Why should I learn a foreign language?

Learning a foreign language takes time and dedication. Here are some reasons that may help to convince you to take the plunge, if such persuasion is needed. Some reasons are practical and others sentimental, but whatever your reasons, having a clear idea of why you're learning a language can help to motivate you in your studies.

Emigration: Nowadays, when you move to a different country, learning the local language will help you to communicate and integrate with the local community. Even if many of the local people speak your language—for example, if your native language is English and you move to Sweden—it's still worth your while learning the local language. If you do so, you will demonstrate your interest in the new country.

Family and friends: If your partner, in-laws, relatives or friends speak a different language, learning that language will help you to communicate with them. It can also give you a better understanding of their culture and way of thinking.

Work: If your work involves regular contact with speakers of foreign languages, being able to talk to them in their own languages will be quite useful. It may also help you to make better sales and to negotiate and secure contracts. Knowledge of foreign languages may also increase your chances of finding a new job, getting a promotion, or going on business trips.

Travel and tourism: Many English speakers seem to believe that wherever they go on holiday they can get by speaking their own language only, so there's no point for them in learning any other languages. They believe that, if people don't understand you, all you have to do is speak slowly and turn up the volume. You can roughly get away with this, as long as you stay in popular tourist resorts where you can usually find someone who speaks English. However, if you want to venture beyond such places in order to get to know the locals, to read signs, menus, etc, knowing the local language is necessary.

1. Write a composition on **one of the following topics** (maximum 4 points):
 - a. Do you think it is necessary to learn a foreign language nowadays? Explain your answer in at least 80 words.
 - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with this sentence**: "*Caroline could not speak a word of Spanish until she met Antonio*". Remember that **the 12 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
2. Answer the following two questions:
 - a. According to the text, is it a good idea to speak the language of the places you travel to? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
 - b. Does the author say that the ability to speak a foreign language is a recommendable thing for professionals? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
3. Find in the text words having a similar meaning to the following words. Give **only one synonym** for each word (maximum 0.5 points per word):
 - a. *encouragement*
 - b. *includes, implicates*
 - c. *holiday centres*
4. Read the following short dialogue:

[At an international company in Badajoz]
Boss: Come to my office, please. I need you to type a very important letter to a Portuguese company in Lisbon.
Employee: I am very sorry, sir, but I cannot speak any Portuguese at all!

Now imagine that you are the boss. **Use just two or three sentences** to order your employee to learn some Portuguese in the next year and to give him/her a good reason to do so (maximum 1 point).
5. Grammatical transformation.
 - a. Rewrite the following sentence as a third type (impossible) conditional sentence (maximum 1 point):

If your relatives or friends speak a different language, learning that language will help you to communicate with them.
 - b. Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words *She said* (maximum 1.5 points):

When you move to a different country nowadays, learning the local language will help you to communicate and integrate with the local community.