

INGLÉS

OPCIÓN A

Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

The Guinness World Records lists some very surprising activities among its records. One of the stranger ones has to be blindfolded waterskiing. This activity involves someone waterskiing while blindfolded. The skier cannot see the route or water over which they are skiing. The record also involves skiing over open sea. Conditions on the open sea are much more challenging than on a lake. This makes blindfolded waterskiing a truly difficult sport that only the bravest and most experienced waterskiers dare to do.

Now a British blind waterskier, Steve Thiele, has set a new world record in an effort to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Thiele is 100% blind and waterskiing is his favourite sport. Mr Thiele has been blind since falling from a tree when he was eight and damaging his optic nerve. In the past, Thiele waterskied without a blindfold and most spectators found it hard to believe he was blind. However, for the world record, Thiele needed to wear a full blindfold to qualify for the event as Guinness World Records do not distinguish between able-bodied persons and disabled persons.

Talking of his record-breaking stunt, Thiele said: "It's great to get a world record and I am very happy to have completed the challenge". But, he adds, "It must have been weird to watch a blind person wear a blindfold." Thiele broke the existing blindfolded waterskiing record by a big margin. He waterskied around the island of Anglesey in North Wales. The total distance was 38.4km and the time one hour. The previous record was for a distance of 32km. However, the currents around Anglesey are very strong and dangerous. So this Guinness record was set in some of the most difficult open sea waterskiing conditions in the world.

Questions

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points, using your own words whenever possible (maximum 50 words, 1 point).

2. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here. (0.25 x 4 = 1 point)

- a) requiring full use of your abilities or resources, difficult.
- b) collect.
- c) peculiar; odd.
- d) a measure, quantity, or degree of difference.

3. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. (2 points: 0.5 points each)

a) Blindfolded waterskiing is a difficult sport and only the bravest and most experienced waterskiers dare to do it.

Blindfolded waterskiing , a difficult sport.

b) The skier cannot see the route or water over which they are skiing.

The skier isn't

c) Steve Thiele has set a new world record in an effort to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

A new world record ...

d) Thiele said: "It's great to get a world record and I am very happy to have completed the challenge"
Thiele said that...

4. Answer the following questions in your own words. (2 points: 1 point each)

- a) Why does he say "It must have been weird to watch a blind person wear a blindfold."?
- b) What factors made this particular waterskiing record especially notable?

5. Some famous athletes earn millions of dollars every year. Do you think these people deserve such high salaries? Use specific reasons and examples to support your opinion. (Approximately 120 words; 3 points).

INGLÉS

OPCIÓN B

Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully. Answer all the questions in English.

She was glad of the lake. Its soft, dark water helped to soothe and quiet her mind. It took her away from the noisy, stressful world of the cat-walk and let her lie untroubled at its side, listening only to the gentle lapping of its waves. She felt at peace. Alone. Unhindered and free. Free to do nothing but watch and listen and dream.

London, Paris, New York - names, only names. Names that had once meant excitement, then boredom, then frustration, then slavery. Names that had brought her to the edge of a breakdown and left her doubting her own sanity.

But here everything was at peace. The lake, the trees, the cottage. And she was at one with them. Here she could stay for the rest of her life. Here she would be happy to die.

Across the sun hurried a darkening filter of cloud; the advance guard of a larger and even graver army. The ripples on the water, chased by a freshening wind, pushed their way anxiously from the far side of the lake until they almost bounced at her feet. Way above her a solitary rook cawed its way home - a lonely, troubled sound. And in the East there was thunder.

Quickly she gathered her things together and made for the cottage. But already the rain flecked the water behind her and pattered on the leaves as she raced beneath the trees. Soaked and breathless, she ran for the cottage door, and, as she opened it, the storm burst.

And there in the kitchen, skinny, cadaverous and unwelcome, stood a man.

'Hello!'

It was an odd way to greet a complete stranger who had invaded her home, but it was all she could think of to say.

Cat-walk = pasarela; rook= corvo/ cuervo; unhindered= libre, sen estorbos/ sin estorbos

Questions

1. Write a summary of the text in English, including the most important points, using your own words whenever possible (maximum 50 words, 1 point).
2. Find words or phrases in the text that correspond in meaning to the words and definitions given here (1 point; 0.25 each).
 - a) to calm, pacify
 - b) small waves
 - c) the noise one hears when there is a storm
 - d) strange
3. Complete the second sentence of each pair so that it has the same meaning as the first one. (2 points; 0.5 point each)
 - a) Its soft, dark water soothed her mind
Her mind
 - b) She felt at peace. Unhindered and free.
Not only did she
 - c) Quickly she gathered her things together and made for the cottage.
After
 - d) And there in the kitchen, skinny, cadaverous and unwelcome, stood a man.
A man, who stood in the kitchen.
4. Answer the following questions in your own words. (2 points; 1 point each)
 - a) Why does the protagonist need the peace of the lake and the cottage?
 - b) What do you think the author means when s/he talks about "the advance guard of a larger and even graver army"?
5. Continue the story. Who was the mysterious man? What is going to happen? (Approximately 120 words; 3 points).

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6. LISTENING TEST (1 point)

In this interview with Leonard Cohen, Singer and writer, you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

Failure : fracaso

Source : fonte / fuente

Regret: lamentar

Life-long: para toda a vida / para toda la vida

praise: eloxio / elogio

criticism: crítica

Here is the beginning of the interview.

Interviewer: I'm thinking about you and your last year. You've just returned from India, and you played New York, and I know you are in L.A. and you've been on tour almost a year now. Does this house that you've had for 35 years represent something of a haven, a retreat for you?

Leonard Cohen: I think that everybody's house does, but yes, it does. I'm very happy to come back here.

Here is an example of a question:

0. What's the singer's attitude towards his house?

He likes his house very much.

He's only there in winter.

He likes it on special occasions.

The correct answer is: He likes his house very much

Ready? Now read the rest of the questions and alternative answers before listening to the interview.

(2-minute pause)

Now listen to the rest of the interview. You will hear it three times. Write the correct answer in your exam notebook (cuadernillo). Write the complete answer, not just a letter. You must not write more than one answer for each question.

(Tapescript)

Now you will hear the text again

(Tapescript)

Now you will hear the text for the last time.

(Tapescript)

That is the end of the Listening Test. Write your answers in your examination notebook (cuadernillo) if you have not already done so. Then you can go on with the rest of the examination.

INGLÉS

QUESTIONS

1. **When Leonard Cohen began his musical career,**
He was very young
He was nearly forty
He was in his thirties.
2. **Before he became a musician,**
He worked in a library.
He wrote books
He played the guitar for fun
3. **He became a musician**
Because he wanted to experience something new
To make money
Because he wanted to travel
4. **What has got to do with success and failure?**
Luck
Freedom
Experience
5. **How can you get to all kinds of listeners?**
With money
By working hard and being unpretentious
By having a good band
6. **What are most of his songs about?**
Women
Childhood memories
Books
7. **Does he miss aspects of his past life?**
No, and he prefers not to remember.
Yes, he is always talking about it.
Sometimes, he doesn't care much.
8. **Does he live a pretentious life?**
Yes, he lives in luxury.
No, he likes to live a simple life.
Yes, he tries to hide it.
9. **What does he compare life to?**
A book
A play
A concert
10. **Being so old,**
He's ready for criticism
He's ready for praise
He's ready for both praise and criticism