



Hay dos opciones de examen, A y B. Se debe optar por una de ellas, sin combinar preguntas de una y otra.

No se permiten diccionarios ni otros materiales didácticos.

OPCIÓN A

The works of nature and the works of man

We have all, even the scientists among us, been artists at some time. We all drew and painted as children, and probably had to do Art at school. One of the earliest lessons we learnt was that things made by other people are much easier to draw than the people who make them. A chair and a teacher have the same superficial complexity, but in our drawings the chair looked like a chair and the teacher resembled a sadly mutated gorilla. It may have been psychologically accurate, but we knew it wasn't up to the standards we set ourselves.

Part of the problem, besides our sensitivity to human form, is that there are two completely independent technologies at work. The human way of making things produces hard-edged shapes that are easy to draw; nature's way creates soft and flexible entities that make you wonder where to put your pencil. This problem does not affect the drawings Steven Vogel uses to explain his theories.

He is a biologist who specialises in biomechanics. His work is focused on the interactions between the two technologies we have defined above. In other words, he establishes a comparison between the two very different ways of turning the materials of our planet into machinery for survival.

Neither way is superior, he believes: they're just different and based on irrevocable decisions made a long way back. So, although we can often learn from nature, that is not an infallible method of improving our technology.

Vogel uses technology freely as a convenient metaphor for nature's ways of doing things. He sometimes even refers to "natural designs". But don't be fooled: His attitude is critical, not reverential. He does not think of nature as a designer. He does not support the idea that countless good designs have resulted from engineers imitating nature.

1. Comprehension exercises (2 points):

1.a – Things made by people are easier to draw than the people who did them (0.5 points):

- a. because human technology is too simple.
- b. because the things we make tend to present simpler, rigid shapes.
- c. because their levels of complexity are widely different.

1.b – Vogel claims that (0.5 points):

- a. the two technologies he discusses have been created by human beings.
- b. nature's way is superior to the human way of making things.
- c. nature is not a designer.



1.c – Engineers produce good designs if and only if they imitate nature. (Answer 'True' or 'False' AND write a sentence in the text supporting or contradicting this statement, 0.5 points).

-

1.d – Natural and human technologies never interact with each other. (Answer 'True' or 'False' AND write a sentence in the text supporting or contradicting this statement, 0.5 points).

-

2. Do the following grammar exercises according to the instructions given (2 points) :

2.a – Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one (0.5 points):

- The chair looked like a chair and the teacher resembled a sadly mutated gorilla.
- Whereas...

2.b – Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one (0.5 points):

- Vogel uses technology as a convenient metaphor for nature's ways of doing things.
- Technology...

2.c – Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one (0.5 points):

- Good designs result from engineers imitating nature.
- Engineers produce good designs when...

2.d – Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one. You must use the words "difficult" and "make" (0.5 points):

- Tables are easier to draw than the people who make them.
- People are...



3. Below you will find the definitions of six words occurring in the text. Choose only four of them and indicate the word each definition corresponds to. Write the word and then copy its definition (1 point):

1. to make a picture of something.
2. correct, exact, precise.
3. forms, contours.
4. irreversible, not able to be undone.
5. not liable to error, perfect.
6. innumerable, many.

4. Write a summary of the text of about 30 – 45 words using your own words. (2 points):

5. Write a composition of about 120 – 150 words on the following topic (3 points):

"A picture is worth a thousand words." Are images better than words?



OPCIÓN B

Who wants to be a millionaire?

In future years, if people remember anything about the TV game show *Who wants to be a millionaire?* they will probably remember the contestant's panicked phone calls to friends or relatives. Or they may have a weak memory of the moment when Carlos Sobera moved his left eyebrow in a very peculiar way. It was perhaps an attempt to express surprise. What people probably won't remember is that every week the show put face to face group intelligence and individual intelligence, and that every week, group intelligence won.

The show was very simple in terms of structure: a contestant was asked multiple-choice questions, which got successively more difficult, and if she answered fifteen questions in a row correctly, she walked away with €1 million.

One of the ways in which the contestant could obtain assistance was by making the studio audience solve a question the answer of which she did not know. In fact, what the audience did was to vote, for which they used an electronic device with four buttons. The results were immediately known. This way, the contestant and everybody else could know how many people had chosen each one of the answers.

Everything we think we know about intelligence suggests that the smart individual would offer the most help. And, in fact, the "experts" did okay, offering the right answer –under pressure– almost 65 percent of the time. But they couldn't be compared to the audiences. Those random crowds of people with nothing better to do on a weekday afternoon than sit in a TV studio picked the right answer 91 percent of the time. However, as the experts and the audiences didn't always answer the same questions, it is possible, though not likely, that the audiences were asked easier questions.

1. Comprehension exercises (2 points):

1.a – Group intelligence (0.5 points):

- a. is never reliable.
- b. may offer better results than individual intelligence.
- c. depends on the presence of experts.

1.b – The author claims that (0.5 points):

- a. in the future people probably will not remember a significant fact about *Who wants to be a millionaire?*
- b. all game shows will have been forgotten.
- c. intelligent individuals do not like TV game shows.



1.c – *Who wants to be a millionaire ?* is one of the most complex game shows if we attend to its structure. (Answer 'True' or 'False' AND write a sentence in the text supporting or contradicting this statement, 0.5 points).

-

1.d – The audience is formed by experts that are carefully selected. (Answer 'True' or 'False' AND write a sentence in the text supporting or contradicting this statement, 0.5 points).

-

2. Do the following grammar exercises according to the instructions given (2 points) :

2.a – Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, (0.5 points):

- Everybody could know the number of people that had chosen the right answer.
- The number of people...

2.b – Turn the two sentences into one sentence beginning with 'as' (0.5 points):

- She answered fifteen questions in a row correctly. She won €1 million.
- As...

2.c – Rewrite the sentence so that the meaning remains the same. You must use the word "forgotten"(0.5 points):

- The contestant's panicked phone calls to friends or relatives will always be remembered.

-

2.d – Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one, You must include the expression "in order to" (0.5 points):

- The contestant got the prize by making the audience answer the question.
- The contestant made the audience...



3. Below you will find the definitions of six words occurring in the text. Choose only four of them and indicate the word each definition corresponds to. Write the word and then copy its definition (1 point):

1. members of the family.
2. not strong.
3. astonishment, amazement.
4. spectators.
5. clever, intelligent.
6. specialists, people who have extensive skill or knowledge in a particular field.

4. Write a summary of the text of about 30 – 45 words using your own words. (2 points):

5. Write a composition of about 120 – 150 words on the following topic (3 points):

Would you like to compete at a TV game show?



CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN

Observaciones

- 1) No se permiten diccionarios ni otros materiales didácticos.
- 2) Hay dos opciones de examen, A y B. Se debe optar por una de ellas, sin combinar preguntas de una y otra.

Criterios específicos de corrección

- A) **Pregunta 1.** Las cuatro cuestiones de esta sección evalúan la comprensión del texto. Se valorará con un máximo de 2 puntos (0,5 puntos por cuestión).
- B) **Pregunta 2.** Su objetivo es evaluar la competencia morfosintáctica del alumno. Se valorará con un máximo de 2 puntos (0,5 puntos por cuestión).
- C) **Pregunta 3.** Su objetivo es evaluar el dominio del léxico a través de la capacidad de deducir y recuperar el significado de las palabras en su contexto y, sobre todo, de encontrar en el texto las palabras cuyas definiciones se ofrecen. Se valorará con un máximo de 1 punto (0,25 puntos por cuestión):
- D) **Pregunta 4.** Esta parte del examen valora la capacidad de síntesis y de destacar la información y las ideas más importantes del texto. Se valorará con un máximo de 2 puntos.
- E) **Pregunta 5.** Se trata de una redacción. Se evaluará con un máximo de 3 puntos. Se valorarán especialmente los siguientes aspectos:
 1. La corrección ortográfica y morfosintáctica.
 2. La riqueza léxica.
 3. La claridad y eficacia en la presentación de ideas; la coherencia y cohesión del texto (conectores entre unidades sintácticas, organización del texto,...).

