

PRUEBAS DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD PARA EL ALUMNADO DE BACHILLERATO  
133 INGLÉS. SEPTIEMBRE 2015

**Opción A**



**Book review**

I am going to be honest. I said I would read this book because I think I need to read more women authors and more foreign writers, just to get out of my comfort zone. But when I finally got it in my hands and read the synopsis, I was scared because it dealt with a lot of things I tend to *avoid* (1). What will I have in common with a pre-World War II seamstress<sup>1</sup> as she deals with love and intrigue in southern Europe? But being the dutiful guy I am, I took it to work to read during my time off —to, at least, make a start. That was a mistake, a big mistake, because... Bloody hell, this book *rocked* (2)!!!

I was distracted at work for the rest of the day and immediately *devoured* (3) this book as soon as I got home—all 600 pages of it. People like to talk about the skill of the writing as if that is what made a good book, but in reality it is voice and story, and the author has this in spades<sup>2</sup>. The story is very exciting and slowly *grabs* (4) you, so much that you do not notice how tightly it has trapped you. TTIB just flows beautifully as the pages go by.

The most vivid aspect for me was the society that the heroine had to operate in, pre-WWII Spain and Morocco. It was dedicated to seeing who was loyal to the cause, forcing people to choose sides in a “nobody wins” situation. But as in all unfair dominion situations, you begin to lose all trust in those around you, even those that are closest. When you can’t *trust* (5) anyone, you have no family, and that is the beginning of death for any society. Our heroine survived because in even the worst of situations she was always able to find someone to trust.

<sup>1</sup>Seamstress: *costurera*

<sup>2</sup>In spades: *muchísimo, de sobra*

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**PREGUNTAS (NO RESPONDER EN ESTA HOJA)**

READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. BE CAREFUL TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH QUESTION.

**1. Link each of the words/expressions below with a word/expression in the column (as numbered in the text).** Copy the correct pair of words on your answer sheet. [1 mark]

read quickly and eagerly | keep away from | capture | be excellent | believe

- (1) *avoid* and ...
- (2) *rock* and ...
- (3) *devour* and ...
- (4) *grab* and ...
- (5) *trust* and ...

## 2. Reading comprehension

**2.1. Choose the best option.** Copy the complete correct option on your answer sheet. [0.75 marks]

This reader...

- a) doubted that he should read this novel as it was written by a foreign female author.
- b) is not comfortable with scary novels written by female foreign writers.
- c) knew he would not like the book the moment it fell in his hands.
- d) not only liked this novel... He loved it!

**2.2. Choose the best option.** Copy the complete correct option on your answer sheet. [0.75 marks]

- a) What this reader enjoyed the most about this book was the writing technique rather than the story.
- b) This reader thinks what makes a book good is what it says, not how it is said.
- c) This reader found the story fascinating, but he disliked the geographical background.
- d) Even though she could not trust anyone, the heroine in TTIB managed to survive.

**3. Complete the sentences using information from the text.** Do not reproduce phrases from the text literally, unless this is unavoidable. [2 marks]

- a) The synopsis ...
- b) As the reader was ...
- c) A good book ...
- d) There was always ...

**4. Complete each gap with one or more adequate words.** Do not copy the complete text on your sheet, only letters (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) followed by the word(s) that you find suitable for the gap. [1.5 marks]

There are four parts to the book but all (a) \_\_\_ told from Sira's perspective. Sira is a humble seamstress in Madrid, helping in the shop (b) \_\_\_ her mother works. She learns skills, is promoted, meets a nice (c) \_\_\_, gets engaged and then runs off with another man (d) \_\_\_ is not a good man and abandons her. This part is setting the stage for what Sira does next (e) \_\_\_ explains her reasons for not wanting romantic involvement, and it also explains (f) \_\_\_ she ended up in Morocco.

**5. What is this novel about and where is the story set? Justify your answer WITH INFORMATION FROM THE TEXT BUT USING YOUR OWN WORDS.** (25-50 words) [2 marks]

**6. Have you read any book lately? Explain what it was about and why you liked it.** Please, use your own ideas and your own words. (25-50 words) [2 marks]

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**Opción B**

**English idioms and their origins**

The phrase “turn a blind eye”, which is often used to refer to a stubborn rejection to *acknowledge* (1) a particular reality, dates back to a legendary chapter in the career of the British naval hero Horatio Nelson. During 1801’s Battle of Copenhagen, Nelson’s ships had to fight against a large Danish-Norwegian fleet<sup>1</sup>. When his more cautious superior officer flagged for him to *withdraw* (2), the one-eyed Nelson supposedly brought his telescope to his bad eye and cheerfully proclaimed, “I really do not see the signal.” He went on to *score* (3) a decisive victory. Some historians have since dismissed Nelson’s famous joke as merely a battlefield myth, but the phrase “turn a blind eye” persists to this day.

The phrase “paint the town red” most likely owes its origin to one legendary night of drunkenness. In 1837, the Marquis of Waterford, a known heavy drinker and troublemaker, led a group of friends on a night of drinking through the English town of Melton Mowbray. The party culminated in vandalism after Waterford and his friends knocked flowerpots over, pulled off doorknockers and broke the windows of some of the town’s buildings. To *top* it all *off* (4), the group literally painted the doors of several homes and a swan statue with red paint. The marquis and his companions later compensated Melton for the damages, but their drunken escapade is likely the reason that “paint the town red” became synonymous for a wild night out. Still yet another theory suggests the phrase was actually *born* (5) out of the brothels<sup>2</sup> of the American West, and referred to men behaving as though their whole town were a red-light district<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Fleet: A large group of ships

<sup>2</sup>Brothel: a place where prostitutes work

<sup>3</sup>Redlight district: an area with a concentration of sex-related businesses

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READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. BE CAREFUL TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH QUESTION.

**1. Link each of the words/expressions below with a word/expression in the column (as numbered in the text).** Copy the correct pair of words on your answer sheet. [1 mark]

achieve | make worse | accept | stop, not to go on | originate

- (1) *acknowledge* and ...
- (2) *withdraw* and ...
- (3) *score* and ...
- (4) *top off* and ...
- (5) *born* and ...

## 2. Reading comprehension

**2.1. Choose the best option.** Copy the complete correct option on your answer sheet. [0.75 marks]

- a) Historians have evidence that Nelson did not say "I really cannot see the signal" before the battle.
- b) Nelson defeated the Danish-Norwegian fleet thanks to his more cautious superior officer.
- c) To "turn a blind eye" means to behave as if you did not see or not notice something.
- d) In the battlefield, Nelson stubbornly rejected to do what his superior officer asked him to do.

**2.2. Choose the best option.** Copy the complete correct option on your answer sheet. [0.75 marks]

- a) The Americans do not accept the British origin of the expression "to paint the town red."
- b) American West brothels were located in red-light districts and decorated in red tones.
- c) Waterford and his colleagues spoiled private and public property with red paint.
- d) It was not the first time that Waterford and his colleagues vandalized an English town.

**3. Complete the sentences using information from the text.** Do not reproduce phrases from the text literally, unless this is unavoidable. [2 marks]

- a) The 1<sup>st</sup> idiom, ...
- b) The 2<sup>nd</sup> idiom, ...
- c) Nelson said that ...
- d) The doors of several homes ...

**4. Complete each gap with one or more adequate words.** Do not copy the complete text on your sheet, only letters (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) followed by the word(s) that you find suitable for the gap. [1.5 marks]

There are several tales about the origin of "the third degree," a saying used for long or arduous interrogations. (a) \_\_\_ theory argues the phrase relates to the various degrees of murder in the criminal code; (b) \_\_\_ another theory attributes it to Thomas F. Byrnes, a 19<sup>th</sup>c. NYC policeman (c) \_\_\_ used the joke "Third Degree Byrnes" when describing his inflexible questioning style. In truth, though, (d) \_\_\_ saying is most likely derived from the Freemasons, a centuries-old fraternal organization (e) \_\_\_ members experience rigorous questioning before becoming "third degree" members, (f) \_\_\_ "master masons."

**5. What does "to paint the town red" mean? Justify your answer WITH INFORMATION FROM THE TEXT BUT USING YOUR OWN WORDS.** (25-50 words) [2 marks]

**6. Have you ever "painted your town red"? Justify your answer saying what you did, with whom, when, how, the consequences it had, etc.).** Please, use your own ideas and your own words. (25-50 words) [2 marks]


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read quickly and eagerly | keep away from | capture | be excellent | believe

- (1) *avoid* and ... **KEEP AWAY FROM**
- (2) *rock* and ... **BE EXCELLENT**
- (3) *devour* and ... **READ QUICKLY AND EAGERLY**
- (4) *grab* and ... **CAPTURE**
- (5) *trust* and ... **BELIEVE**

## 2. Reading comprehension

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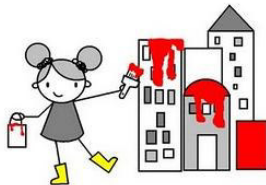
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obtain | make worse | accept | stop, not to go on | originate

- (1) *acknowledge* and ... **ACCEPT**
- (2) *withdraw* and ... **STOP, NOT TO GO ON**
- (3) *score* and ... **OBTAIN**
- (4) *top it off* and ... **MAKE WORSE**
- (5) *be born* and ... **ORIGINATE**

## 2. Reading comprehension

**2.1. Choose the best option.** Copy the complete correct option on your answer sheet. [0.75 marks]

- a) Historians have evidence that Nelson did not say "I really cannot see the signal" before the battle.
- b) Nelson defeated the Danish-Norwegian fleet thanks to his more cautious superior officer.
- c) To "turn a blind eye" means to behave as if you did not see or not notice something.**
- d) Before the battle, Nelson had already decided not to listen to his superior's orders.

**2.2. Choose the best option.** Copy the complete correct option on your answer sheet. [0.75 marks]

- a) The Americans do not accept the British origin of the expression "to paint the town red."
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There are several tales about the origin of "the third degree," a saying used for long or arduous interrogations. (a) **ONE** theory argues that the phrase relates to the various degrees of murder in the criminal code; (b) **YET/BUT** another theory attributes it to Thomas F. Byrnes, a 19<sup>th</sup>c. NYC policeman (c) **WHO** used the joke "Third Degree Byrnes" when describing his inflexible questioning style. In truth, though, (d) **THE/THIS** saying is most likely derived from the Freemasons, a centuries-old fraternal organization (e) **WHOSE** members experience rigorous questioning before becoming "third degree" members, (f) **OR/THAT IS/I.E.**, "master masons."

**5. What does "to paint the town red" mean? Justify your answer WITH INFORMATION FROM THE TEXT BUT USING YOUR OWN WORDS.** (25-50 words) [2 marks]

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