

THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF AGATHA CHRISTIE

The *Guinness Book of World Records* lists her as the best-selling novelist of all time. She is outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare, but what Agatha Christie is perhaps best remembered for is her mysterious disappearance in 1926. Shortly after 9.30 p.m. on Friday, 3 December 1926, Agatha Christie climbed into her car and drove off into the night. She would not be seen again for eleven days. The police located her car the next morning. It was found abandoned on a steep slope at Newlands Corner near Guildford but there was no sign of Agatha Christie herself. 5

Her disappearance would spark one of the largest manhunts ever mounted. More than one thousand policemen were assigned to the case, along with hundreds of civilians. For the first time, aeroplanes were also involved in the search. As the first day of investigations progressed into the second and third – and there was still no sign of her – speculation began to mount. Near the abandoned car was a natural spring known as the Silent Pool, where two young children were reputed to have died. Some journalists ventured to suggest that the novelist had deliberately drowned herself. Some said the incident was nothing more than a publicity stunt, a clever trick to promote her new book. Others hinted at a far more sinister turn of events. There were rumours that she'd been murdered by her husband, Archie Christie, who was unfaithful to her and, in fact, was known to have a mistress. 10 15

By the second week of the search, the news had spread around the world. It even made the front page of the *New York Times*. Yet her body was nowhere to be found and suicide seemed unlikely, for her professional life had never looked so optimistic. Not until 14 December, fully eleven days after she had disappeared, was Agatha Christie finally located. She was found safe in a hotel in Harrogate, but in circumstances so strange that they raised more questions than they solved. Bizarrely, she had used the name of Theresa Neele, her husband's mistress. Christie, herself, was unable to provide any clues to what had happened. She said she remembered nothing and never spoke about her disappearance. 20 25

1. Answer this question about the text. Use your own words whenever possible (2 points).

a. What speculations about Agatha Christie's disappearance are described in the text?

2. Read the following statements, decide whether they are true or false and justify your answer by quoting evidence from the text (2 points, 0, 50 each).

- a. Agatha Christie has sold as many books as Shakespeare.
- b. It didn't take long for the police to locate her car.
- c. When Agatha disappeared, her fame was starting to decline.
- d. Agatha used the name of one of her characters in the hotel.

3. Find in the text the word or group of words which match these definitions (1 point, 0, 20 each).

- a. Possibly, maybe (Paragraph 1).
- b. Cause to start. Set off, trigger (Paragraph 2).
- c. Organized search for a person (Paragraph 2).
- e. Unharmed (Paragraph 3).

4. Complete the text using the correct words from the box below. There are 2 words that you won't need (2 points, 0, 25 each).

The solution to the (a) _____ of all Agatha Christie mysteries may be at hand. (b) _____ lay behind her 11-day disappearance in 1926? Biographer Andrew Norman believes he has a satisfactory answer. In his study of the (c) _____ life, published this autumn, Norman uses medical case studies to show (d) _____ the writer was in the grip of a rare but increasingly acknowledged mental condition known (e) _____ a "fugue state"; a period of amnesia induced by stress. The mystery, (f) _____ has puzzled (g) _____ the police and Christie fans for 80 years, began on the evening of Friday, 3 December. Around 9.45pm, without warning, Christie drove away from the house, (h) _____ first gone upstairs to kiss her sleeping daughter, Rosalind.

DARKEST	DARKER	WRITER'S	WRITER	HAVING
WHAT	WHICH	THAT	AS	BOTH

5. Write a composition of about 150 words on ONE of the following topics (3 points).

- a. You would like to become a writer. Write a composition explaining why and what kind of books you would like to write.
- b. A good friend of yours disappeared last year. Explain what happened.

Realizar una de las dos opciones propuestas (A o B)

Bi aukeretatik bat hartu behar duzu (A edo B)

OPCIÓN B/ B AUKERA

FASE GENERAL/FASE OROKORRA

**MADE TO FAIL AND BREAK
HOW OFTEN DO YOU REPLACE YOUR THINGS?**

The term “planned obsolescence” refers to the practice of designing products to fail, break or simply become useless after a set time period. Why? To make us buy more. If products lasted for years we wouldn’t have to replace them and manufacturers wouldn’t make as much money. Take for example a washing machine. While modern technology would allow manufacturers to design a washing machine that can last for over 20 years, it is designed, on purpose, to last only 4 or 5. Two years after purchase the washing machine will only need minor inexpensive repairs. However, between 4 to 5 years, the vitals parts begin to wear out and a replacement machine is required.

This also applies to technological gadgets. If you’ve replaced a computer lately – or a cell phone, or a camera, or a television – you should know that the latest model won’t last as long as the one it replaced. What is more, planned obsolescence also includes more subtle strategies to make us replace things even if they still work. For instance, a mobile phone may have USB connections that fit current products, such as head phones and computers, but the manufacturers will soon launch new phones and gadgets that connect using different sizes of USB connections. The ‘old’ USB connections will make the product obsolete and the customer will need a new phone, even though there is nothing wrong with their existing phone.

Giles Slade, author of the book “Made to break”, explains how our embrace of technology and insatiable appetite for the new have converged with planned obsolescence: “My son has a perfectly good MP3 player, but he wants an iPod because it’s the coolest thing to have. On the contrary, my father still has his 30-year-old radio and is ready to repair it as many times as necessary before getting a new one”. Americans own more than 2 billion digital devices and get rid of hundreds of millions of computers, cell phones, televisions, and other such equipment each year. What do we do with the millions of tons of electronic waste? In Slade’s opinion, in the near future it is precisely this overwhelming problem of waste of all kinds what will compel American manufacturers to modify industrial practices and embrace durability again.

1. Answer these questions about the text. Use your own words whenever possible (2 points, 1 each).

- What’s the purpose of planned obsolescence?
- Why do customers need a new phone even if there is nothing wrong with their existing phone?

2. Read the following statements, decide whether they are true or false and justify your answer by quoting evidence from the text (2 points, 0, 50 each).

- Manufacturers could design washing machines that lasted longer.
- More recent technological gadgets will probably last longer than older ones.
- Slade’s father doesn’t want to repair his radio.
- Slade thinks that nothing will stop planned obsolescence.

3. Find in the text the word or group of words which match these definitions (1 point, 0, 20 each).

- Intentionally (Paragraph 1).
- Cheap (Paragraph 1).
- Recently (Paragraph 2).
- Introduce a new product to the public for the first time (Paragraph 2).
- Do away with something that you no longer want (Paragraph 3).

4. Complete the text using the correct words from the box below. There are 2 words that you won’t need (2 points, 0, 25 each).

I recently moved to France, lost my phone and found (a) _____ cut off from the world of social media for about a week. I was (b) _____ to relax and enjoy real life activities but I found it really hard. I am old (c) _____ to travel alone but too young to enjoy things (d) _____ I have easy access to WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, etc. This experience has led me to question (e) _____ our modern day reliance on technology is becoming unhealthy. I regularly see groups of people in restaurants, paying more attention to their phones (f) _____ to one (g) _____. Are we beginning to choose the company of technology over the company of (h) _____ human beings?

MYSELF	UNLESS	TOLD	THAN	OTHER
HIM	ANOTHER	WHETHER	ENOUGH	WITHOUT

5. Write a composition of about 150 words on ONE of the following topics (3 points).

- Think of an object that you have had for over 5 years. Describe it, explain when you got it, what you have done with it, etc.
- Write a composition explaining your ideas about the constant need to buy new technological gadgets.

PRUEBA DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD 2016

ASIGNATURA: INGLÉS

CRITERIOS DE CORRECCIÓN:

Apartado 1. Preguntas de comprensión e interpretación del texto.

a) Preguntas de comprensión y expresión. Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos. Se pretende medir las capacidades de comprensión de las ideas principales del texto y la expresión escrita. Se otorgará 1 punto por la comprensión y 1 punto por la corrección lingüística. Deberá evitarse copiar frases literales del texto.

b) Preguntas de comprensión. Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos. Se medirá exclusivamente la capacidad de comprensión de las ideas globales o aspectos más específicos del texto por medio de la identificación y reproducción de partes pertinentes del mismo, selección de la opción correcta, etc.

Apartado 2. Léxico.

Puntuación máxima: 1 punto. Las diferentes preguntas propuestas irán orientadas a comprobar la capacidad de comprensión del vocabulario del texto.

Apartado 3. Gramática.

Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos. Las preguntas de este apartado medirán la capacidad de utilización correcta de las estructuras morfosintácticas.

Apartado 4. Redacción

Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos. Este apartado pretende medir la capacidad de transmitir un mensaje eficazmente, con corrección y coherencia. Se tendrá en cuenta la riqueza léxica y morfosintáctica utilizadas en la exposición. Igualmente se valorará la creatividad y la madurez demostrada.

Se calificará en función de los siguientes criterios específicos:

Contenido y presentación (1 punto)

- Citar y responder a lo que propone el título.
- Que sea una respuesta personal, elaborada en el examen, no un discurso prefabricado y memorizado o una mera repetición de las ideas o frases del texto.
- No se valorará la información irrelevante, tanto en cuanto al contenido como al léxico (exceso de fórmulas de relleno, frases memorizadas fuera de lugar, etc.)
- Clara organización y secuenciación de ideas, tanto a nivel de párrafo como a nivel textual.
- Se valorará la creatividad donde corresponda.
- Longitud: Deberá tenerse en cuenta la extensión exigida. Se quitará puntuación cuando la respuesta sea demasiado corta o demasiado larga.

Lengua: Forma y corrección (2 puntos)

- Corrección morfosintáctica: concordancias; morfología, uso de conectores, riqueza oracional (estructuras subordinadas); puntuación, etc.
- Variedad y adecuación léxica: tono y registro adecuado al tema elegido; ortografía; riqueza léxica, evitar calcos lingüísticos del castellano o euskera, evitar copiar el vocabulario del texto, etc.

***NOTA:** En cada prueba se especificará al final de cada sección de cada uno de los apartados la puntuación que se le adjudica.

****NOTA:** En caso de que la calificación final no sea un número múltiplo de 0,25 el profesor deberá redondear la nota al múltiplo de 0,25 más cercano.