

ASIGNATURA / IRAKASGAIA: Inglés/Ingelesa

Elija una de las dos opciones propuestas, A o B / Hautatu proposatutako aukera bat, A edo B

Opción/A Aukera

NIKOLA TESLA

Tesla was a Serbian scientist and inventor who achieved fame and fortune in the 1880s for figuring out how to make alternating current work on a grand scale. His rivalry with Edison—called the Battle of the Currents because Edison had bet on direct current (DC) and Tesla on alternative current (AC)—was legendary. Tesla sailed to America in 1884 to work for Edison but after less than a year in Edison's labs, Tesla quit after having an argument over pay. A decade later, Tesla's AC equipment powered an unprecedented display of electric light at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. He had won the battle. At the time, no one could predict that fifty years later, the 86-year-old Serbian émigré would die in obscurity at a New York hotel, penniless, unmarried, childless and bereft of friends. Meanwhile, Edison was lionized for generations as one of America's greatest inventors.

Now, Tesla has been rediscovered by technophiles, including Google Inc. co-founder Larry Page, who frequently cites him as an early inspiration. In addition to this, Tesla also attracts the attention of artists. The author of *"Tesla Girls"*, a 1984 popular song, said *"I can't imagine writing a song about Edison...too boringly rich, entrepreneurial and successful! Tesla, on the contrary, is a romantic 'failure' figure"*. Director Terry Gilliam also described Tesla in a recent documentary film as *"more of an artist than a scientist in some strange way"*.

Meanwhile, many significant Edison inventions are becoming more and more useless. The European Union has banned old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs, another Edison innovation. The EU is urging consumers to replace them with more-efficient fluorescent lights descended from those Tesla favored. Plus, recent portrayals of Edison have highlighted his darker side. One example of this, Tesla's followers explain, was how Edison's aggressive campaign to discredit the new current took the macabre form of a series of animal electrocutions using AC. Stray dogs and cats were the most easily obtained but Edison got his big chance when the Luna Park Zoo at Coney Island decided that Topsy, a cranky female elephant who had squashed three employees in three years, should die. Edison's staff deliberately electrocuted Topsy and profited from a popular film of the killing.

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

- How is Tesla considered nowadays?
- What happened to Topsy?

2. Read the following statements, decide whether they are true or false and justify your answer by quoting evidence from the text (1 point, 0, 50 each).

- Tesla stopped working for Edison due to a disagreement about his salary.
- In 1893 Tesla's career looked very promising.

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

- Finally understanding something after a lot of thought (Paragraph 1)
- Having no money (Paragraph 1).
- Mentions as an example of something (Paragraph 2).
- Outdated (Paragraph 3).
- Trying to persuade (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).

When you think of the theory of evolution by natural selection, Charles (a) _____ name comes to mind. However, (b) _____ British biologist working at the same time (c) _____ Darwin came up with the theory independently: Alfred Russel Wallace. It wasn't (d) _____ after Wallace had published a paper on his theory in 1858 that Darwin published his famous treatise "On the Origin of Species" (1959), (e) _____ became one of the world's (f) _____ influential scientific books. (g) _____ Darwin and Wallace drew their inspiration from the ideas of economics expert Thomas Malthus, (h) _____ wrote that the growth of human populations is limited by famine and disease.

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5. Write a composition of around 150-200 words on ONE of the following topics (4 points).

- Imagine you made a scientific discovery or invention that changed the world. Explain what it was and the consequences it had on people's lives.
- Are scientific discoveries always good for us? Give your opinion.

TEENAGE MOTHER

It was Friday morning and I was in my science class, just like a typical kid in a typical high school science room. I'm sure you can picture it, the usual charts and posters on the walls and the teacher asking if we'd done our homework. Then, the loudspeaker on the wall squawked: "Jamie Rush, report to the nursery!" It was another reminder that, no, I wasn't a normal high school kid. I was a teenage mother attending an alternative school with built-in day care. I excused myself from class and hurried to the nursery, where the attendant met me at the door. "You forgot to leave your son's diapers!" she told me, scowling. Such moments (and there were lots of them that year) made me realize how out of place I felt in high school after my son was born.

I managed to graduate last June and have been working as a clerk in a local toy store ever since. Still, I can't ignore the fact that my life is really weird compared to the lives of most kids my age. I don't have much of a social life. I can hardly meet my old friends and when I do, I can't relate to them anymore: the things they talk about, the clothes they wear, the parties, it all seems so frivolous now! I still have my Eminem posters in my room, but instead of staying up late listening to music or talking on the phone, I go to bed at 8:30 so I can get up at 6 a.m. with my son, Tyler.

Everything changed for me in tenth grade. I was 15 and I found out I was pregnant. When I told my mother she was shattered, but she wasn't mad at me. Since then, my parents have been great. My mom babysits when I'm at work. She's terrific with him, almost too good. Some nights, I'll put him down, and he'll fuss non-stop. I'll do everything possible to get him to stop crying... and then my mom comes along and calms him down in half a second. I have to admit it: that makes me feel bad. For my dad, the whole situation has been tough. He wasn't planning on living with a baby again and he often gets tired but he's completely supportive in every way. As for my relationship with my son's father, it pretty much ended when I told him I was going to have the baby. He's stayed out of the picture and I think it's best that way. I don't know what will happen in the future. Right now, I don't want to think about it.

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

- a. What situation makes Jamie feel bad about her mom?
- b. What's the role of Tyler's father? How does Jamie feel about this?

2. Read the following statements, decide whether they are true or false and justify your answer by quoting evidence from the text (1 point, 0, 50 each).

- a. Jamie works in a store because she failed to graduate.
- b. Jamie doesn't see her old friends anymore.

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

- a. Imagine. (Paragraph 1)
- b. Officially and regularly going to a place. (Paragraph 1)
- c. Strange. (Paragraph 2)
- d. Extremely upset. (Paragraph 3)
- e. Difficult to endure or deal with. (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).

What image do you think (a) _____ when you hear the words "teen parent"? Chances are you are visualizing a teen girl. (b) _____, people interchangeably use "teen parent" to mean "teen mom" because teenage fathers are overlooked and depicted (c) _____ reckless and neglectful. (d) _____, many teen fathers want to be involved with their (e) _____ life and studies show that when they are empowered and supported, just as their female counterparts (f) _____, they are capable of making healthy and positive choices. I recently read a story of a young male teen who cares (g) _____ his child without the support of the teen mother. His story is similar to any other teenage parent: he has little to no free time, money is always tight and he simply misses (h) _____ a kid.

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5. Write a composition of around 150-200 words on ONE of the following topics (4 points).

- a. You are a student and have a baby. Write a letter of enquiry to the Social Services of your community asking what help they can offer you to continue your studies and take care of your baby at the same time.
- b. Imagine that a friend of yours had a baby at the age of 15. Your friend is now 30. Tell his or her story.