



Universidad del País Vasco Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea

UNIBERTSITATERA SARTZEKO PROBAK

2011ko EKAINA

INGELESA

PRUEBAS DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD

JUNIO 2011

INGLÉS

Choose between option A and option B. Specify the option you have chosen.

Please, don't forget to write down your code on each of your answer sheets.

OPTION A

GENERATION Y - THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARDS LIFE AND WORK

The people who make up Generation Y are in their late teens or twenties, have grown up with new technology and can use it in their jobs much better than the older generation can.

The new generation can be described as ambitious and self-confident. Some older people think this even goes as far as being arrogant. They have high expectations and seek new challenges and are not afraid to raise questions if something is unclear.

Generation Y youths have a different attitude towards work. It means something different to them than it did to their parents or grandparents. They do not want to work as hard as their parents, grow up with a company and stay there for the rest of their lives. They expect to change jobs at least a few times.

These young people want jobs that are flexible, not always having to work from 9 to 5. They prefer working from their homes and taking a day or two off to spend with their family when the weather is fine. A study has found out Generation Y wants to spend 30% to 70% of their time at home.

They are not motivated by the worries that bothered their parents. Many do not think they will have their own house but will settle for a flat or an apartment, since they do not know if they are going to stay in the same place anyway.

As the previous generation is retiring, companies are seeking to get the best Generation Y workers they can get. Sometimes they must make concessions in order to lure them into a job. Some companies have already adapted to this new generation of laborers. They offer work from home, higher salaries, flexible working hours, and family leave to look after the kids

It is also a consumer generation, flooded with advertisement throughout their lives. They like to eat out, buy the newest technical gadgets and travel. Very often they find their bank account overdrawn and in heavy debt.



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OPTION B

SHANGAI IS NUMBER ONE IN WORLD EDUCATION RANKINGS

A global educational study called PISA (Program for International Assessment) tests over 500,000 pupils in over 70 countries every three years. The 2010 results showed that pupils in Shanghai are the world's best in Reading, Mathematics and Science. PISA studies 15-year-olds and their abilities in the three fields.

Why have Asian countries overtaken Europe and America in the tests? First, they put more focus on education. Children, parents and teachers know that a good education is the key to being successful. They are not tolerant when pupils fail.

Starting at a very early age China teaches its children that you can only succeed if you are better than the others. They are tested as soon as they come to school. Only the best can go to college and then get a good job. Examinations are held very often and lists of students rankings are posted on the walls of a school. Shanghai students study much harder than western pupils do and they spend less time on extra-curricular activities or sport. Teachers are also respected, paid well and highly motivated.

Critics of the Chinese school system say that it isn't good if Chinese teachers drill children for a test all the time. It does not prepare you for your future life. A study found out that almost half of Chinese businessmen say that students who come to them are not well prepared for the job they are about to take on.

Although there may be some disadvantages in the Chinese school system, Chinese pupils get an overall better education at a very young age. Subject teachers teach children from the start whereas in other countries one teacher teaches all subjects in the early grades.

Last but not least, we must not forget parents' influence: China's one child policy makes it easier for families to concentrate on their only child and give him or her the best education possible. Children spend a lot of time in school and learning with their parents at home.



OPTION A

I.- Answer questions 1-4 according to the information given in the text. **USE YOUR OWN WORDS. DO NOT COPY FROM THE TEXT** (4 marks)

1. Why do the people who belong to Generation Y often owe money to others?
2. How is these young people's attitude towards work different from that of their parents?
3. What do some companies give Generation Y youths in order to make them work for them?
4. Why do some older people consider the new generation's attitude as "arrogant"?

II.- Are these statements **True** or **False**? **Justify** your answers based on information from the text, rewriting the original sentences in your own words or quoting properly. (2 marks)

1. Generation Y value home and family life.
2. Staying in the same workplace throughout their lives is no longer what young people expect from a job.

III.- Find the words or expressions in the text that mean (1 mark)

1. stopping work after reaching a certain age
2. the sum of money that you have to pay back to someone
3. complete an amount or group
4. concerns, fears

IV.- Write a **composition** of about 130 words on **one** of these topics. Specify your option. (3 marks)

1. You belong to the generation described in the text. Do you feel identified with what you have just read?
2. 'Telecommuting' refers to workers doing their jobs from home for part of each week and communicating with their office using computer technology. Telecommuting is growing in many countries and is expected to be common for most office workers in the coming decades. How do you think society will be affected by the growth of telecommuting?



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OPTION B

I.- Answer questions 1-4 according to the information given in the text. **USE YOUR OWN WORDS. DO NOT COPY FROM THE TEXT** (4 marks)

1. Why can we state that Shanghai has a highly competitive educational system?
2. Why can Chinese parents contribute to their children's success at school in an easier way than parents from other nationalities?
3. What are the main disadvantages of the Chinese school system?
4. How are Shanghai and Western pupils different?

II.- Are these statements **True** or **False**? **Justify** your answers based on information from the text, rewriting the original sentences in your own words or quoting properly. (2 marks)

1. Chinese pupils are not tested in the early grades of school
2. PISA tests students in every field of education

III.- Find the words or expressions in the text that mean (1 mark)

1. to undertake or begin to handle
2. achieve what one aims or wants to
3. the centre of interest or activity
4. positions on a scale in relation to others

IV.- Write a **composition** of about 130 words on **one** of these topics. Specify your option. (3 marks)

1. According to your experience, how would you improve our educational system?
2. "A good education is the key to being successful". Discuss