

LENGUA EXTRANJERA (inglés)

CURSO 2011-2012

Instrucciones:

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a) Duración: 1 h.30m. b) No se permite el uso de diccionario. c) La puntuación de las preguntas está indicada en las mismas. d) Los alumnos deberán realizar completa una de las dos opciones A o B, sin poder mezclar las respuestas.

#### OPTION A

#### "The headless horseman"

One cold winter night, Peter Dutchman left the tavern in Tarrytown and started walking home in the forest nearby. His path led next to the old Sleepy Hollow cemetery, where a headless German soldier was buried. At midnight, he arrived at the cemetery. It was a dark night with no moon, and the only light came from his lantern.

Peter was nervous about passing the graveyard, remembering the rumours of a galloping ghost that he had heard at the tavern. Suddenly, he saw a light rising from the ground in the cemetery. He stopped scared. Before his surprised eyes, a white mist appeared from a grave, like a large horse carrying a headless rider.

Peter let out a terrible scream as the horse jumped toward him at full gallop. He started running as fast as he could towards the bridge, since he knew that ghosts and evil spirits did not like to cross running water. But he fell, rolling off the road. The rider passed him fast, and the man got a second look at the headless ghost. It was wearing a German commander's uniform. Peter waited for an hour to go back home, and there he told his wife about the ghost.

The next day, the story was all over Tarrytown. The villagers were divided in their opinions. Some thought that the ghost must be travelling the roads at night looking for its head. Others claimed that the German officer rose from the grave to lead the German soldiers to the battle near Chatterton Hill, not knowing that the place had already been taken by the British.

And today he continues riding along the roads on dark nights.

## **I\* COMPREHENSION** (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. How did Peter Dutchman feel at the cemetery? Why?
- 2. How did the ghost make its appearance?
- 3. Could the ghost have succeeded in the battle he wanted to fight? Why?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. Peter and his wife live in Tarrytown.
- 5. Ghosts are said to dislike running water.
- II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)
- 6. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "go on" (verb).
- 7. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "arrive" (verb).
- 8. FIND IN THE TEXT A WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "To say that something is true."
- 9. COMPLETE THE SERIES WITH ANOTHER WORD FROM THE SAME SEMANTIC GROUP: scared, terrified, alarmed.
- 10. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: One day I \_\_\_\_\_give up my car and start going by bus. (ought / needn't / should)
- 11. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE PRONOUN. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: TV networks usually put on horror movies. Most teenagers like them.
- 12. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: I met a strange man at my friend's door.
- 13. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL SENTENCE: If my car was stolen,

## III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Tell a story, tale or legend that you know. Give it a title.













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#### **OPTION B**

### "Seeking therapy for anger"

Mary knew she had a problem when she found herself screaming at her university professor. He had caught her having an aggressive argument with a classmate and, after several complaints from other students, spoke to her about it.

"All my life I've had a temper," she admits. "I got into fights at school and university, and would lose control over little things." When the tutor said Mary would have to look for professional help or leave the course, she went to see the university counsellor. It was a decisive moment for Mary, who had arrived in the UK at the age of 10 while trying to recover from her sister's death.

"It changed my life," she says. "Suddenly I was speaking about things I had never talked about, such as how I was bullied at school when I first came to the UK because I couldn't speak English and how I had watched my sister die months before. My mother sent me back to school that day. We never spoke about it again. Now, if I get angry, I can talk about it."

Many are not so fortunate. "We suspect that anger in our society is reaching dramatic levels, but there's very little help available," says the director of the British Association of Anger Management. Last January, his association, which operates several clinics across the UK, received an unprecedented number of reservations for its courses, despite January traditionally being its quietest month. "This could mean more people are seeking for help; nowadays, domestic violence is increasing—eight women on average are killed every month—and workplace stress is also rising. Everybody knows that where there is stress, there is also anger," he says.

### I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. What was the first difficulty Mary had to face after moving to the UK?
- 2. How did therapy change Mary's life?
- 3. Why are more and more people seeking therapy for anger?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. She decided to look for therapy because she felt she had a serious problem.
- 5. There is a close connection between stress and anger.

## II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "quarrel, dispute, verbal fight."
- 7. GIVE ONE SYNONYM FOR fortunate (adjective) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT (line 12).
- 8. GIVE AN ADJECTIVE WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "help" (noun).
- 9. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT PREPOSITION: John has been married \_\_\_\_\_ his wife for 20 years. (of / on / at / to)
- 10. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: Mary's tutor spoke to her after several students \_\_\_\_\_ (complain) about her.
- 11. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE: I was bullied at school when I first came to the UK.
- 12. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: "All my life I've had a temper and I got into fights at school and university," Mary said.
- 13. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORD: Eight students on average are bullied a week.

### III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Do you think school life is stressful? Explain.













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#### OPTION A

#### "Lie to me"

Traditionally, lie detection has been done by using the polygraph, first developed in 1921. Now a team of British scientists from the universities of Bradford and Aberystwyth have developed a new computerized system for lie detection through a heat camera. This new device monitors small changes in facial expressions even in real time.

This new approach is based on years of research into how we all unconsciously, involuntarily reveal our emotions in slight changes of expression and through the flow of blood to our skin. Emotions can be detected in eye, nose and lip movements, in dilated pupils and even in the way people swallow or breathe. And these are just the visible signs seen by the camera. The thermal sensor can also detect signs which are very difficult to notice, such as changes in blood vessels around our eyes.

Researchers say the system could be a powerful help for security services at airports, helping experienced immigration officers as they conduct their security interviews. The results can then be tested against the verdicts of these officers.

A preliminary study involving 40 volunteers found the system to be 70% precise in identifying liars. However, researchers believe it will eventually be able to detect around 90% of those who are lying, which is similar to the performance of the polygraph, but they also admit that these tests can never be 100% correct. What they detect are emotions, such as distress, fear or distrust, and not the act of lying itself. Fear can sometimes be the fear of not being believed rather than the fear of being caught.

# I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. How does the new lie detection system work?
- 2. What would be a practical application for this new system?
- 3. Why can't a lie detection system be 100% correct?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. With the new system interviews will no longer be needed.
- 5. The polygraph is not as reliable as the new computerized system.

# II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "unconsciously" (adverb).
- 7. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "panic" (noun).
- 8. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "an expressed conclusion, judgment or opinion."
- FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: I can't think of an answer. I give \_\_\_\_\_ (over / up / out / on)
- TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE: Scientists have developed a new computerized system for lie detection.
- 11. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: By the time the police arrested Jack, he \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) nearly £ 2,000 from his boss.
- 12. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: Ann was terribly sorry about her mistakes.
- 13. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: 
  'Lie to Me' was a TV series about a team of specialists. They found out the truth by analyzing body language.

# III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

What's the biggest lie or fantasy you have ever been told?













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#### **OPTION B**

"What is the mystery behind the Mona Lisa?"

Every year, six million visitors from all around the world travel to the Louvre museum in Paris to stare in wonder at Leonardo da Vinci's famous portrait, the *Mona Lisa*. The portrait took da Vinci four years to complete.

Many questions have been raised over the years regarding the true identity of the lady in the portrait. The Italians call her *La Gioconda*, which means "the light-hearted woman." One popular theory suggests that the lady is the Duchess of Milan. Da Vinci was the family painter for eleven years. Other researchers have said that the painting could represent a lover of Giuliano de Medici's. A more recent survey concludes that the *Mona Lisa* is the feminine version of da Vinci himself. Despite the above theories, it is widely accepted that the portrait shows Lisa Gherardini, the third wife of a wealthy Florentine silk merchant named Francesco del Giocondo.

Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile has been the source of inspiration for many and a cause of desperation in others. When discussing the mystery behind the smile, art experts often refer to a painting technique called *sfumato*, which was developed by da Vinci. In Italian, *sfumato* means "vanished" or "smoky," implying that the portrait is ambiguous, leaving its interpretation to the viewers' imagination.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* was stolen from the Louvre museum. Two years later the painting was recovered in Italy. A man called Vincenzo Perugia was arrested as he tried to sell the work to the Uffizi Gallery. He admitted to the theft, explaining he didn't believe that a painting by such an important Italian artist should be kept in France.

## I\* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Who seems to be the lady in Leonardo's painting according to most scholars?
- 2. Why is the lady's smile mysterious?
- 3. Why did the thief steal the painting?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT. OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. Da Vinci's Mona Lisa is unfinished.
- 5. Perugia didn't confess to stealing the portrait.

## II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "music" (noun).
- 7. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "To look at someone or something fixedly with wide-open eyes."
- 8. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT PREPOSITION: My friend is very bad drawing
- 9. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: They broke \_\_\_\_\_the house and took all the money and jewels they found. out / into / up / across.
- 10. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: She asked him: "Did you go to the museum yesterday?"
- 11. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: If you had seen that spider, you \_\_\_\_\_ (run away) as well.
- 12. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: This is the story of a man. His wife is losing her memory.
- 13. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: *Mona Lisa* is the feminine version of Da Vinci himself. *Mona Lisa* is said ...

## III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Describe one of the school trips you have been on. What interesting things did you see or do?









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## OPTION A "The way of St. James: a unique experience"

My backpack weighed 14kg at the airport. Three days later, after throwing away many *essential* items, it was just 10kg, which was still too heavy. As well as the excess from my backpack I lost 8kg, which was a pleasant surprise when I returned home.

I was hiking the Way of St. James, an ancient pilgrimage route dating back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The main route is a path across the north of Spain to Santiago, 760 km long. The official *Camino* hostels are amazingly cheap (usually about €4); however, to stay in one you must have a pilgrim passport. Tolerance is an essential condition for hostel living so I wondered if I would sleep but, as was the case on most nights, sleep came easily and quickly.

There are beautiful old churches in every little village, and incredible cathedrals in each city. I had wanted time to contemplate life, but the mental noise quickly evaporates while walking, and the need to always be thinking disappears. Most of us had started alone, and then walked along the way with the pilgrims we met, who provided the greatest entertainment. We developed a camaraderie that does not normally happen on holiday, or even in life. I can't help smiling when I remember an Italian girl who had a little cat's bell on her pack that drove me crazy as we went along quiet desolate paths.

I walked on the *Camino* for four amazing weeks. Four weeks without mobiles ringing, without television, without newspapers and without background radio noise. I would repeat without blinking.

I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Describe briefly two characteristics of accommodation along the Way of St. James.
- 2. Why couldn't the author contemplate life as much as she or he had wanted?
- 3. What things didn't the writer miss along the journey?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. There is only one route to walk the Way of St. James.
- 5. One of the girls the writer met carried a pet with her.

II * USE OF ENGLISH	(3 points; quest	ons 6-9, 0.25 points	s each; 10-13	0.5 points each)
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- 6. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "noiseless" (adjective).
- 7. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "A person who travels to a holy place as an act of religious love" (noun).
- 8. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT PREPOSITION: I've always dreamt \_\_\_\_\_ walking along the Way of St. James. (at / of / with / for)
- 9. WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING?: Track / landscape / way / path
- 10. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: The party was so noisy that I couldn't sleep. It was such
- 11. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: Most pilgrims walked with the people they met.
- 12. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE: The passport can be collected from the pilgrim's office.
- 13. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: I wasn't used \_\_\_\_\_ next to strangers. (to sleeping / to sleeping)

# III\* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Could you live for four weeks without television, the Internet, video games or your mobile? Explain.













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#### **OPTION B**

## "Steve Jobs' commencement speech at Stanford University"

Truth be told, this is the closest I've ever got to a college graduation. Actually, when I was seventeen I went to such an expensive college that all of my working-class parents' savings were being spent on my college tuition. After six months I decided to stop taking the classes that didn't interest me and began attending the ones that looked far more interesting. It wasn't all romantic. I didn't have a dorm room, so I slept on the floor in friends' rooms and I returned Coke bottles for the five-cent deposits to buy food with.

About a year ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. Having lived through it, I can now say this to you: no one wants to die, even people who want to go to Heaven don't want to die to get there, and yet, death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because death is very likely the single best invention of life. It's life's change agent; it clears out the old to make way for the new. Right now, the new is you. But someday, not too long from now, you will gradually become the old and be cleared away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it's quite true. Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma, which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions silence your own inner voice, heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

## I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Did Steve Jobs belong to a rich family? Explain.
- 2. What was Steve Jobs' decision after having attended classes for six months?
- 3. Why is death necessary according to Jobs?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. According to Jobs, students have as much time as they want to make their dreams come true.
- 5. Jobs advises students to rely on their own opinions.

# II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "in fact".
- 7. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "long" (adjective).
- 8. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "a returnable sum of money to cover any possible loss or damage."
- FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT PREPOSITION: Steve Jobs was good \_\_\_\_\_computer studies (to / at / with / in)
- 10. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: "Steve, be careful with that knife," Linda said.
- 11. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING AN APPROPRIATE LINKER (DO NOT USE *AND*, *BUT* OR *BECAUSE*). MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: **Our time is limited. We can do wonderful things.**
- 12. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: Steve Jobs died on October 5th, 2011.
- 13. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: I can't buy the new iPad. I don't have enough money. If I

# III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

What are the advantages and disadvantages of going to university?













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#### **OPTION A**

## "Immigrants"

My great-grandfather was born in Ireland in 1842. His father was a fisherman who died at sea. That's all I know about this period of his life. When he was nineteen, he and his older brother made their way to the United States. I often think about what he left behind in Ireland during the country's worst famine; I am sure that there was poverty all around them. If his family survived, there is no historical record. It must have been a hard journey across the ocean leaving his mother, brothers and sisters, perhaps forever. It is the tears of the immigrants that made the green fields of the USA.

My Irish ancestor somehow managed to work long and hard enough to buy a small farm in rural Indiana. He married a girl in Illinois, eventually raising ten children. He became active in rural township politics and proudly became an American citizen. Furthermore, four of his children graduated at High School, which was a success for the time. However, there were many difficult times in these new surroundings, such as poor crops, freezing winters and droughts. Through it all, he and his family survived life's difficulties.

I don't know if he ever returned to Ireland or what became of his brother. His is just one of a million stories of immigrants who came to America following the dream of a better way of life. I am grateful that he made the journey.

### I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Why did the writer's ancestors have to leave their home country?
- 2. What does the narrator mean by saying "it is the tears of the immigrants that made the green fields of the USA"?
- 3. How did the protagonist's life get better in the USA? Mention two facts.

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. The writer knows a lot about her great-grandfather's family in Ireland.
- 5. Life in the USA was easy for the writer's ancestor.
- II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)
- 6. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "Shortage of food in a certain area."
- 7. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "moreover" (adverb).
- 8. GIVE AN ADJECTIVE WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "death" (noun).
- 9. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: I'll \_\_\_\_\_ you the money if you pay me back soon. (lend / borrow / rent / spend)
- 10. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB: I could have passed the test if you \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) me sooner.
- 11. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: Have you met the girl? She's going out with Ted.
- 12. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: She has been waiting for Mark all day.
- 13. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING AN APPROPIATE LINKER (DO NOT USE AND, BUT, OR BECAUSE). MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: It's snowing. She wants to go for a walk.

### III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Would you live in a foreign country? Explain why.













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#### **OPTION B**

### "The hardest language"

People often ask which is the most difficult language to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. Regarding first languages, the differences are unimportant, as people learn their mother tongue naturally. So the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a second language. Some people seem to learn languages without any effort, while others find it very difficult. Besides, people learn languages that they need to use professionally much faster than languages that have no direct use in their everyday life.

Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system and by the fact that the pronunciation of Chinese appears to be very difficult for many foreign learners. For example, Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, find learning Chinese writing less difficult than speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet. So, generally, people seem to think that languages which are related to our first language are easier because learning a completely different writing system is a huge challenge. However, it can be argued that this is not the only factor making learning one language more difficult than learning another. In fact, quite surprisingly, British diplomats and other embassy staff have found Hungarian to be the most problematic language. So, in the end, it doesn't seem possible to say that there is one language which is the hardest language in the world.

## I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Why is learning a second language different from learning our mother tongue?
- 2. Is motivation relevant to learning a second language? Why?
- 3. Why is Chinese easier to learn for Japanese speakers?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. Most people believe that learning a different way of writing is hard.
- 5. Everybody agrees that Hungarian is the hardest language.
- II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)
- 6. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "appear" (verb).
- 7. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "important" (adjective).
- 8. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "Conventional marks, signs or symbols used in writing."
- 9. WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING?: Look into / investigate / look after / inspect.
- 10. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: Tom learnt Spanish when he was a child.
- 11. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE: She has always been considered as a beautiful person by her partners.
- 12. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL SENTENCE: If I had more money\_\_\_
- 13. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: **He is looking forward to \_\_\_\_\_** (read) your letter.

## III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Do you think learning other languages is important nowadays? Why?













LENGUA EXTRANJERA (inglés)

CURSO 2011-2012

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a) Duración: 1 h.30m. b) No se permite el uso de diccionario. c) La puntuación de las preguntas está indicada en las mismas. d) Los alumnos deberán realizar completa una de las dos opciones A o B, sin poder mezclar las respuestas.

#### **OPTION A**

"Afternoon tea: a very British tradition"

Tea, the most quintessential of English drinks, is a relative latecomer to Britain. Although the custom of drinking tea dates back to the third millennium BC in China, it was not until the mid 17th century that tea first appeared in England.

It is said that Queen Catherine started the British on drinking tea when she brought some as part of her wedding gifts in 1662. Initially, tea drinking was only for the wealthy classes due to high shipping costs and import duties. The lower classes still drank beer with their breakfast.

Afternoon tea was introduced in England by Anna, the seventh Duchess of Bedford, in the year 1840. The Duchess would become hungry around four o'clock in the afternoon. The evening meal was generally served late, at eight o'clock, thus leaving a long period of time between lunch and dinner. The Duchess asked for a tray of tea, cake and bread and butter (some time earlier, the Earl of Sandwich had had the idea of putting a filling between two slices of bread) to be brought to her room. This became a habit of hers and she began inviting her friends to join her.

This pause for tea became a fashionable social event. During the 1880s upper-class and society women would change into long dress, hat and gloves for their afternoon tea, which was usually served in the drawing room between four and five o'clock.

In the average suburban home today, afternoon tea is likely to be just a biscuit or small cake and a mug of tea, usually produced using a teabag. Sacrilege!

## I\* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Who could drink tea in the mid 17th century? Why?
- 2. For what reason did the Duchess of Bedford introduce the habit of afternoon tea?
- 3. Why did the pause for tea become a fashionable social event in the 1880s?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. The habit of drinking tea originated in China.
- 5. According to the writer, today's afternoon tea has lost the charm of the past.

## II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6. GIVE ONE OPPOSITE FOR "wealthy" (adjective) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT (line 5).
- 7. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "an amount, standard, or level considered as usual or ordinary."
- 8. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT PREPOSITION. English people are very fond \_\_\_\_\_ drinking tea.
- 9. WHICH WORD IS NOT AN ADVERB?: Often / usually / friendly / rapidly
- 10. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE: Tea is grown in India.
- 11. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: **Tea first appeared in England in the 17th century.**
- 12. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: Anna was the seventh Duchess of Bedford. She introduced traditional afternoon tea.
- 13. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: I can't drink this tea. It's too cold. This tea isn't \_\_\_\_\_

#### III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Some British and American traditions have become popular in Spain nowadays. Discuss.













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## OPTION B "We can thank the human brain for keeping our race alive all these years"

Humans are pretty amazing animals. Not only have we managed to survive in various forms for millions of years, but we have grown into a population of nearly 7 billion, distributed virtually all over the planet. And we've done it despite the fact that, compared with much of the rest of the animal kingdom, we are fairly fragile creatures. We are not particularly strong; we do not do very well without a regular supply of food and water; and we are vulnerable to a lot of infectious diseases.

We have been able to succeed, for the most part, perhaps because of our highly developed brain and its ability to develop ingenious solutions to life-threatening challenges. Modern humans have come to depend on a multitude of inventions in order to survive and one of the most important is antibiotics, a discovery of the twentieth century which has changed our lives.

For most of human history, almost everyone on the planet ran the risk of dying in epidemics of bacterial diseases. One such disease, the "Black Death," killed an estimated 200 million people in the 14th century alone. However, in the late 1920s, a London physician named Dr. Alexander Fleming noticed that mould (a greenish microorganism that grows with humidity and heat) which had contaminated a Petri dish prevented the growth of a pathogen he was studying. One of his students, Dr. Cecil Paine, eventually became the first clinician to demonstrate the effectiveness of penicillin, a drug derived from mould, against bacterial disease in human patients. Since then, the use of penicillin and other antibiotics has dramatically reduced the number of deaths from certain once-common diseases.

# I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Why are human beings more special than the rest of animals?
- 2. What advantage of the brain is mentioned in the text?
- 3. How has the use of antibiotics affected human history?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. Over 200 million people died in the 14th century because of bacterial diseases.
- 5. Fleming discovered that penicillin could be used to fight bacterial diseases in humans.
- II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)
- 6. FIND IN THE TEXT A SYNONYM FOR "danger" (noun).
- 7. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "develop" (verb).
- 8. WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING? Unwell / ill / sick / weak.
- 9. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "someone skilled in medicine."
- 10. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: It is possible that your little brother hid your phone. Your little brother may....
- 11. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: Fleming was a physician. He discovered that mould prevented the growth of bacteria.
- 12. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS. My friends suggested \_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema.
- 13. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE: We believe that antibiotics were discovered by Fleming at the beginning of the 20th century.

## III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Do animals contribute to make our lives easier or better? Explain.













LENGUA EXTRANJERA (inglés)

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#### **OPTION A**

### "Will the eBook finally replace paper?"

Should we declare the traditional book as an "endangered species"? Current trends show that although the printed book is a part of our culture, the eBook's popularity is growing and it may become the format of choice for most people in the near future. Publishers and book-sellers are reporting that eBook sales are increasing by as much as four or five times over the last year.

Industry analysts are predicting this trend to continue. Steve Ballmer even thinks that the electronic format will completely replace paper publications in about 10 years. "There will be no newspapers or magazines that are delivered in paper form. Everything will get delivered in an electronic form," says Ballmer.

This growing popularity of digital format is understandable. The eBook has many advantages over its paper counterpart: it's easy to carry and accessible from anywhere—if you use any online storage service, you can access your eBook copy from anywhere where you have a computer and Internet connection available. Finding a phrase in an eBook is easier than in a paper book. The environmentally friendly eBook reduces the usage of ink and paper, which saves trees. They cost less to produce and are therefore cheaper than paper books, in some cases 50% cheaper. This is one of the reasons why many schools are adopting eBooks for their students. Another reason is that students are very mobile and it's easier to store books in a laptop than carry them around.

But even the most ardent eBook fan does not expect paper books to become obsolete: "They'll co-exist and we'll hopefully see publishers offering combined packages, so customers can get the best of both worlds," says Steve.

### I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Why do publishers believe that eBooks are replacing traditional books?
- 2. How do eBooks help to preserve the environment?
- 3. Can you mention two reasons why schools are choosing eBooks rather than conventional books?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. People can always access their eBooks.
- 5. According to the author, some eBook fans even expect paper books to disappear completely.

### II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "no longer produced or used; out of date".
- 7. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "tendency" (noun).
- 8. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "deliver "(verb).
- 9. GIVE AN OPPOSITE FOR "save" (verb) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT (LINE 12).
- 10. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE: Many schools are adopting eBooks.
- 11. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING AN APPROPRIATE LINKER (DO NOT USE AND, BUT OR BECAUSE). MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: eBooks are quite cheap. People still buy traditional books.
- 12. USE THE WORDS IN THE BOXES TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL SENTENCE.USE ALL AND ONLY THE WORDS IN THE BOXES WITHOUT CHANGING THEIR FORM.

printed she	her	got	book	yesterday	new

13. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: She used to let me \_\_\_\_\_one of her books every month (borrowing / borrow / to borrow).

## III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Do you like reading or watching movies? What kind of stories do you prefer?













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## OPTION B "Domino's plans to be the first fast food chain on the moon"

Despite the fact that man has stopped going to the moon, Domino's Pizza Japan has plans to be the first to establish a pizza store on the satellite offering visitors a full restaurant and delivery service.

Domino's Japan's president, wearing a full spacesuit with a lovely Domino's patch, announced detailed plans for a moon location with an estimated budget of \$21 billion. "In the future, we anticipate there will be many people living on the moon, astronauts who are working there and regular citizens," he said. The plan involves 15 rocket trips to the moon to carry approximately 70 tons of construction material and pizza ovens. To save on enormous expenses, Domino's will use mineral deposits on the moon to get the necessary building materials. "We started thinking about this project last year, although we have not yet determined when the restaurant might open," added the president.

There are also plans for a Honda-designed moon scooter to deliver to future moon suburbs. Domino's has not confirmed if their "30 minutes or it's free" delivery policy will apply. This announcement comes along with Domino's Japan's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and looks like a marketing strategy. The media speculate this is a grand design to attract attention inspired by Pizza Hut's successful pizza delivery to the international space station in 2001.

So if Domino's Pizza successfully executes all their plans for a moon branch, maybe you can get them to deliver to you and your friends on a space tour of the upper atmosphere.

## I \* COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1. Who would be Domino's moon customers and where could they enjoy their pizzas?
- 2. What do they intend to do in order to keep costs down?
- 3. What seems to be Domino's real intention according to the media?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4. It will take the company a year to develop their plan.
- 5. Domino's would be the first company to deliver pizzas in space.

### II \* USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE WORD THAT HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "sum of money assigned to a particular purpose or period of time" (noun).
- 7. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: You look \_\_\_\_\_\_ your brother (into / up / like / forward).
- 8. GIVE A SYNONYM FOR "enormous" (adjective) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT (LINE 6).
- 9. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "apply" (verb).
- 10. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: They should \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) us something at yesterday's meeting.
- 11. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: The rockets will transport <u>70</u> tons of equipment to the moon.
- 12. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: Their story hasn't been believed. Nobody \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 13. USE THE WORDS IN THE BOXES TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL SENTENCE. USE ALL AND ONLY THE WORDS IN THE BOXES WITHOUT CHANGING THEIR FORM:

tuna yesterday we delivered our had pizza

### III \* PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Advantages and disadvantages of eating fast food. Discuss.









