



Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura  
Curso 2009-10

Asignatura: Lengua extranjera (inglés)

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: 1 hora y 30 minutos

El alumno deberá escoger una de las dos opciones, A o B, y responder en Inglés a todas las preguntas que se formulan en la opción elegida, sin mezclar preguntas de una y otra. En el caso de la primera pregunta (la redacción), deberá escribir tan sólo sobre uno de los dos temas propuestos.

Puntuación máxima del ejercicio: 10 puntos.

Puntuación máxima de cada pregunta: 1- = 4 puntos; 2- = 2 puntos; 3- = 2 puntos; 4- = 2 puntos.

Opción A

English In the World Today

Linguists estimate that there are about 5,000-6,000 different languages spoken in the world today. The imprecision in this estimate is largely due to the fact that some dialects are in the process of diverging and it is not clear whether they are already separate languages or not. If two people find each other's way of talking unintelligible, they are usually thought to be speaking different languages rather than dialects.

There are about 200 languages that have a million or more native speakers. Of these, Mandarin Chinese is the most common, being spoken by around 874,000,000 people as a native language. English is a distant third with approximately 341,000,000 native speakers.

English is far more worldwide in its distribution than all other spoken languages. It is an official language in 52 countries as well as many small colonies and territories. In addition, approximately one third of the people in the world understand English to some degree. It has become the most useful language to learn for international travel and diplomacy. In 2001, the 189 member countries in the United Nations were asked what language they wish to use for communication with embassies from other countries. More than 120 chose English, 40 selected French, and 20 wanted to use Spanish. Those who chose English included the former Soviet republics, Viet Nam, and most of the Arab world.

English is also the dominant language in science and electronic communication, particularly on the Internet. However, the percentage of Internet users who are not native English speakers is increasing rapidly, especially in Asia. In 2008, China estimated that there are now more people who have online access in their country than in the US, which had previously been the global leader in Internet access.

1. Write one of the following two compositions:
  - a. Do you think it is really necessary for everyone to be able to speak English today? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
  - b. Write a story of at least 80 words ending with this sentence: "This is why Mary decided he had to learn to speak English immediately". Remember that the 13 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write.
2. Answer the following two questions:
  - a. Does the writer think that more and more people use English for reasons related to technology? Explain your answer.
  - b. According to the text, is English the language with most native speakers in the world today? Explain your answer.
3. Imagine a friend of yours wants to stop studying English. Advise him/her not to do so and give him/her a good reason for it.
4. Grammatical transformation.
  - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice (do not omit any part of it):  
*Approximately one third of the people in the world understand English to some degree.*
  - b. Rewrite the following sentence in negative-interrogative (one sentence only):  
*English has become the most useful language to learn for international travel and diplomacy.*

## Opción 8

### Biodiversity

The year 2010 has been declared as the International Year of Biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, or on the entire Earth. It is often used as a measure of the health of biological systems. The biodiversity found on Earth today consists of many millions of distinct biological species. However, biodiversity is not distributed homogeneously on Earth. It is consistently richer in the tropics, where the number of animals and plants is enormous. On the other hand, it is less rich in polar regions where fewer species are found.

Biodiversity has always been subject to huge changes along time. Of all species that have existed on Earth, 99.9 percent are now extinct. Since life began on Earth, five major mass extinctions have led to large sudden drops in the biodiversity of species. The Phanerozoic eon (the last 540 million years) marked a rapid growth in biodiversity in the Cambrian explosion -a period during which nearly every class of multicellular organisms first appeared. The next 400-million-year period was distinguished by periodic, massive losses of biodiversity classified as mass extinction events. The most recent, the Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction event, occurred 65 million years ago, and has attracted more attention than all others because it killed the dinosaurs.

Today there is concern that the period since the emergence of humans is part of a huge reduction in biodiversity, caused primarily by the impact that humans are having on the environment, particularly the destruction of plant and animal habitats. The relevance of biodiversity to human health is becoming a major international issue, as scientific evidence is gathered on the global health implications of biodiversity loss.

1. Write one of the following two compositions:
  - a. Do you think humans should worry about the world's biodiversity? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
  - b. Write a story of at least 80 words beginning with this sentence: *"One day, Brian decided he had to do something for the preservation of biodiversity"*. Remember that the 14 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write.
2. Answer the following two questions:
  - a. Does the writer say that the number of animals and plants on Earth has always been the same? Explain your answer.
  - b. According to the text, have humans had any influence on recent changes in the world's biodiversity? Explain your answer.
3. Imagine you see someone starting a fire in a forest. Order him/her not to do so and give him/her a good reason for it.
4. Grammatical transformation.
  - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative-interrogative (one sentence only):  
*The relevance of biodiversity to human health is becoming a major international issue.*
  - b. Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words *She said*.  
*The Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction event occurred 65 million years ago and has attracted more attention than all others.*



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Puntuación máxima del ejercicio: 10 puntos.

Puntuación máxima de cada pregunta: 1ª = 4 puntos; 2ª = 2 puntos; 3ª = 2 puntos; 4ª = 2 puntos.

### Opción A

#### Unemployment in Europe

According to official figures, around twelve per cent of the working population of the European Union is unemployed. Eighteen million European citizens, five million of them under the age of twenty-five, are officially looking for work. Relevant research institutes around Europe inform that the number of unemployed is continuing to rise. It is estimated that, over the next two years, at least another half million people will join the ranks of the unemployed.

The rise in unemployment in Europe has caused huge social problems in recent years. The rupture of social cohesion, the marginalization of a large part of the labour force, and the fall in living standards for a significant number of European citizens have shaken the faith of Europeans in the European ideal of "Social Europe". In some countries the supporters of Economic and Monetary Union now constitute a minority.

The rise of unemployment confirms those who are sceptic about the way the "new Europe" is constructed and the way the Euro is established in particular. The aforementioned scepticism, based on the theory of an optimum currency area, focuses on the mediocrity of the treaties signed at Maastricht 1992 and Amsterdam 1997, where the emphasis is exclusively on "inflation targeting" and public deficit reduction rather than on growth and employment.

However, the majority of experts, instead of blaming economic policies implemented since 1992, attribute the European disease of unemployment -and lost production as a consequence- on factors such as technology, globalization, labour market rigidities, and the so-called generous European welfare states.

1. Write one of the following two compositions:
  - a. Do you think unemployment is the most worrying problem in Spain today? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
  - b. Write a story of at least 80 words beginning with this sentence: "*When Janet lost her job she became very sad at first*". Remember that the 11 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write.
2. Answer the following two questions:
  - a. Does the writer say that unemployment will soon stop growing in Europe? Explain your answer.
  - b. According to the text, do recent European agreements pay attention only to growth and job creation? Explain your answer.
3. Imagine a friend of yours does not want to look for a job. Advise him/her to do so and give him/her a good reason for it.
4. Grammatical transformation.
  - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative-interrogative (one sentence only):  
*The rise of unemployment has caused huge social problems.*
  - b. Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice (do not omit any part of it):  
*At least another half million people will soon join the ranks of the unemployed.*

## Opción 8

### Video games

Video games may be categorized into genres based on many factors such as method of game play, types of goals, art style and more. Because genres depend on content for definition, they have changed and evolved as newer styles of video games have come into existence. Advances in technology constantly encourage new life-like games and these, in turn, introduce new possibilities for players, like virtual pets or titles specifically designed for devices like Nintendo's *Wii Remote*.

One of the oldest and most popular genres is that of casual games. This name is given to games which are easy to access and have simple-to-understand rules. Casual games as a format existed long before the term appeared and include video games such as *Solitaire* or *Minesweeper*, which can commonly be found pre-installed with many versions of the Microsoft Windows operating system.

Serious games is another rather popular genre nowadays. These are games that are designed primarily to transmit information or a learning experience of some sort to the player. Serious games are games generally not made for simple entertainment. These games are often designed to be played by professionals as part of a specific job or for skill improvement. One early examples of this category is Microsoft's *Flight Simulator*, first published in 1982. Today, the popular virtual world of *Second Step* (Linden Labs) is currently used by several United States governmental departments (like the NASA) for research; by a number of universities (e.g., Ohio University, Michigan Institute of Technology) for educational and remote learning programs; and by business companies (e.g., IBM, Cisco Systems) for meetings and training.

1. Write one of the following two compositions:
  - a. What do you think about the popularity of video games today? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
  - b. Write a story of at least 80 words ending with this sentence: "*As a result, Peter decided not to play any video games again in his life*". Remember that the 15 words in this sentence cannot be counted. In the 80 words you must write.
2. Answer the following two questions:
  - a. Does the writer say that video games never change or evolve? Explain your answer.
  - b. According to the text, are all video games played just for fun? Explain your answer.
3. Imagine your younger brother/sister is always playing video games and never does his homework. Order him/herto change his/her attitude and give him/her a good reason for it.
4. Grammatical transformation.
  - a. Rewrite the following sentence in negative-interrogative (one sentence only):  
*Advances in technology constantly encourage new life-like games.*
  - b. Rewrite the following sentence in the present perfect tense:  
*These games are often designed to be played by professionals.*



## Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura Curso 2008-09

Asignatura: Inglés

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: Una hora y treinta minutos

El alumno deberá responder a todas las preguntas que se formulan, excepto en el caso de la primera pregunta (la redacción), donde deberá elegir entre la opción A y la opción B. Las respuestas a todos los ejercicios deberán ser realizadas en inglés.

Puntuación máxima del ejercicio: 10 puntos.

Puntuación máxima de cada pregunta: 1<sup>a</sup> = 3 puntos; 2<sup>a</sup> = 2 puntos; 3<sup>a</sup> = 1,5 puntos; 4<sup>a</sup> = 1,5 puntos; 5<sup>a</sup> = 2 puntos).

### EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN SPAIN

Immigration became part of the Spanish government's agenda in 1985 and since the mid-1990s it has become a matter of vital importance to political elites. The great increase in the number of foreign residents in the last years and the recent polemical debate about the reform of the immigration law are perhaps the main reasons why immigration is one of the most controversial issues among rulers and in the mass media today, and the second most important national issue for Spaniards right after terrorism.

Spanish people have been familiar with migration for a long time now. However, Spain's experience with migration has radically changed along the 20th century. Spaniards have evolved from traditionally being the ones who left their homeland to being the ones who received immigrants from other countries. Thus, in the first place, between the beginning of the century and the 1970s, about six million Spanish workers left their country. During the first half of the century, a vast majority of Spanish emigrants chose to go to the Americas. From the 1950s to the mid-1970s, however, the North of Europe became their favourite destination. In the second place, in the 1980s and 1990s, Spain evolved from its traditional role as a sending country and became a receiving country for foreign workers. Most of these came from Northern Africa and Latin America.

In fact, the process of Spain's development into a country of immigration was part of a larger international phenomenon. In the late 1980s, due to the economic crisis, several Mediterranean countries of Europe such as Spain, Portugal, and Italy, became receiving countries. This change was caused by several reasons, like the closing of the borders of traditional receiving countries (Germany, Switzerland, and France, for example), or the disappearance of authoritarian regimes such as Franco's. The admission of Greece, Portugal and Spain into the European Community had also great importance in this change.

- Write a composition on one of the following topics:
  - Should immigration be prohibited in Spain today? Give your opinion in no less than 80 words.
  - Write a story of at least 80 words ending with the words: "This is the reason why Larry decided to emigrate to a different country".
- Answer the following two questions:
  - Does the writer say that Spanish politicians are worried about immigration nowadays? Explain your answer.
  - According to the text, has Spain always been a receiving country for immigrants? Explain your answer.
- Imagine a foreign friend of yours is considering the possibility of migrating to Spain. Advise him/her to do so and give him/her a good reason for it.
- Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words "She said":  
*Spanish people have been familiar with migration for a long time now*
  - Rewrite the following sentence in negative-interrogative:  
*Most of these came from Northern Africa and Latin America*
- Find two words in the text containing vowels or groups of vowels that are pronounced in the same way as *~* in *light*, *in* *car*, and *i* in *fine*. You must underline the part of the word that contains the sound.

a



## Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura Curso 2006-07

Asignatura: INGLÉS

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: 1 hora y 30 minutos\_

El alumno deberá responder en inglés a las cinco preguntas que se formulan. (Puntuación máxima del ejercicio: 10 puntos. Puntuación máxima de cada pregunta: la pregunta = 4 puntos; 2ª = 1,5 puntos; 3ª = 1,5 puntos; 4ª = 1 punto; 5ª = 2 puntos).

### Dangerous driving

How many times have you driven to work in the morning and, either on a dual carriageway or parked at traffic lights, looked at the car next to you, only to be confronted by the sight of somebody with a mobile phone glued to his or her ear? It is a sight that is now becoming increasingly common as more people than ever before have mobile phones and people drive to work rather than use the public transportation system. However, a recent study at the Transport Research Laboratory sponsored by insurer Direct Line has provided new evidence that driving and using a mobile phone may be more dangerous than driving while under the influence of alcohol. The research showed that on average the reactions of the driver were nearly 50% slower than when driving normally, and that even using a hands-free kit did not completely eliminate the distraction caused by having a telephone conversation whilst driving. Using a hand held mobile phone and driving is illegal in many countries, including the UK., and those caught in this country are usually prosecuted for dangerous or careless driving. Some MP's, -however, believe that it should be treated as a separate offence and are currently trying to push a bill through parliament banning the use of hand-held mobile phones when driving. But it is not just the Nokia-wielding maniacs that give me cause for concern. A friend of mine e-mailed me this morning to tell me about a woman he saw driving at around 100mph in a BMW with her face close to the rear view mirror as she applied her makeup. Also, the number of times I've seen a sales rep sitting in his company car either shaving or reading the paper just amazes me.

1. Do you think that young people in Spain should be able to learn to drive before the age of eighteen, as in other countries? Give your opinion in about 80-100 words.
2. According to the text, why is using a mobile phone when driving dangerous?
3. Imagine a friend of yours has been drinking alcohol. Tell him/her not to drive and give him/her a reason for not doing so.
4. Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech): He asked:

*How many times have you driven to work in the morning?*

5. Find two words in the text containing **schwa** vowels or groups of vowels which are pronounced in the same way as i in driven, eo in p~le, and in m-<sup>a</sup>y. Underline the part of the word that contains the sound.



## Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura Curso 2008-09

Asignatura: Inglés

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: Una hora y treinta minutos

El alumno deberá responder a todas las preguntas que se formulan, **excepto en el caso de la primera pregunta** (la redacción), donde deberá elegir entre la opción A y la opción B. Las respuestas a todos los ejercicios deberán ser realizadas en inglés.

Puntuación máxima del ejercicio: 10 puntos.

Puntuación máxima de cada pregunta: 1ª = 3 puntos; 2ª = 2 puntos; 3ª = 1,5 puntos; 4ª = 1,5 puntos; 5ª = 2 puntos).

### SCHOOL UNIFORMS

School uniforms are common in primary and secondary schools in many nations. Traditionally, school uniforms have been simple and professional. Boys' uniforms often consist of dark trousers, a light-coloured shirt, and a tie; girls' uniforms vary greatly between countries and schooling systems, but typically consist of a dress or a blouse worn either with a skirt or with culottes. Some controversy exists about whether all students should wear exactly the same uniform: some schools permit female students to choose between skirts or trousers but still require male students to wear trousers. The use of a blazer or jacket for both girls and boys is also quite common, especially in cold weather.

In the United Kingdom and Ireland, the majority of state secondary schools adopt a uniform so that their students feel comfortable and all similar. In most British primary and secondary schools, pupils must wear uniforms, but further education colleges and some school sixth-forms (for ages over sixteen years) do not usually have a uniform.

School uniforms are also the victims of modernisation. Over the last ten years, for example, a tendency towards wearing school polo shirts (as well as more casual styles of trousers, such as plain, dark-coloured jeans, or even shorts), has become popular in schools in the United Kingdom, particularly in London. This can be seen as a way to modernise the uniform and to make it more affordable to families who do not have enough money to buy expensive uniforms. Equally, temperatures in classrooms have changed over the last fifty years in the United Kingdom due to environmental reasons and to the introduction of central heating systems. This has, in most schools, made older, thicker uniforms highly impractical, especially in the summer months. As a result, many schools have decided to adopt more temperate uniforms.

1. Write a composition on **one** of the following topics:
  - a. Do you think wearing a uniform should be obligatory in all schools? Give your opinion in no less than 80 words.
  - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with** the words: *Elizabeth had never liked the idea of wearing a uniform at school, but she had to wear one in her new school.*
2. Answer the following **two** questions:
  - a. Does the writer think that uniforms are used for religious reasons in Great Britain? Explain your answer.
  - b. According to the text, has the weather had any influence on school uniforms in Britain over the last decades? Explain your answer.
3. Imagine your friend's uniform is dirty. Tell him to clean it and give him/her a good reason for it.
4.
  - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice:  
*In most British primary and secondary schools, pupils must wear uniforms*
  - b. Rewrite the following sentence in negative-interrogative:  
*Temperatures in classrooms have changed over the last fifty years in the United Kingdom*
5. Find **two** words in the text containing vowels or groups of vowels that are pronounced in the same way as a in hat, ee in need, and a in face. **You must underline** the part of the word that contains the sound.