



Junta de Andalucía  
Consejería de Educación y Deporte

## Pruebas Específicas de Certificación 2019/2020

### Comprensión de Textos Escritos

#### NIVEL B2 | INGLÉS

Apellidos: .....

Nombre: .....

Alumno/a OFICIAL del grupo: .....

Indica el nombre de tu profesor/a-tutor/a: .....

Alumno/a LIBRE.

#### INSTRUCCIONES

- Duración máxima: 75 minutos.
- Este prueba consta de tres tareas:
  - En la Tarea 1 tendrás que identificar las ideas generales del texto.
  - En la Tarea 2 tendrás que entender las ideas principales del texto.
  - En la Tarea 3 tendrás que comprender los detalles importantes de un texto.
- En cada tarea obtendrás: 1 punto por cada respuesta correcta; 0 puntos por cada respuesta incorrecta o no dada.
- Solo se admitirán respuestas escritas con bolígrafo azul o negro.
- Por favor, no escribas en los espacios sombreados destinados a la calificación de las tareas.

PUNTUACIÓN

/ 26

NOTA FINAL

/ 10

CALIFICACIÓN

Superado

No Superado

## TASK 1

Read the following text about the benefits of travelling abroad and answer the questions on page 6.

### REASONS TO TRAVEL ABROAD WHEN YOU ARE YOUNG

[ 0 ] \_\_\_\_\_

When you are young you are still finding yourself and preparing for your school and career. The skills and experience you gain from traveling abroad can give you life-long personal benefits as well as a leg up in the professional world.

[ 1 ] \_\_\_\_\_

As young people most of us have a pretty established routine. At home with mom and dad, in a community that has known you for probably a good part of your life. You have your established, friends, activities, hangouts and possibly jobs. We become used to these daily roles and the idea of breaking out from them can be scary and difficult.

The problem is, you learn the most in unfamiliar situations. In our daily routines, you know how to act and respond to people and your surroundings. Being in a new place, with different people, who hold different values and go about life differently (or not so differently you may find) strips all that familiarity away.

It can be distressing, but once you figure out that you can connect with people despite differences, and you can navigate foreign environments, you become a smarter, more competent individual.

[ 2 ] \_\_\_\_\_

As you conquer the obstacles of figuring out how to use public transit in a foreign country, or asking for simple things in a grocery store, you are improving your ability to adapt in foreign situations. I remember moving to a country where I spoke little to none of the language.

When I returned home, I moved across the country to a state where I had no family, friends or connections. The prospect of that move may have intimidated me before living abroad, but then I thought to myself, 'Well, if I can do it abroad in a completely foreign system, I will be just fine in a place where I at least share the language.'

You realize that you CAN do things, despite the obstacles and suddenly the obstacles seem less obstructive and more like welcomed challenges.

[ 3 ] \_\_\_\_\_

In our globalizing world, it is not enough to say "people from X country are like this." It is important to look for underlying values that may explain a certain behavior in order to practice it. A good example is the Spanish siesta and lunch in the middle of the working day. Many people don't realize that

historically Spaniards value family face time. Eating together as a family is more important to them than maximizing work time.

Being aware of values and norms can also help us understand international issues and conflicts, or even relate to the norms of a foreign business partner. It is vital to be able to shift perspectives and see where someone else is coming from.

**[ 4 ]** \_\_\_\_\_

Whether you like it or not, with the internet and social media, we are globalizing quickly. It is not unlikely that you would end up with a job that has you travel for business or take part in conference calls with international business partners. In our globalizing world it is important to be culturally sensitive and it can't hurt to know a foreign language.

In the business world, having lived abroad can give you a competitive edge. Use the confidence and cultural sensitivity that traveling helps you develop and help it make you successful.

**[ 5 ]** \_\_\_\_\_

I would argue that in the globalizing world it really can only benefit you to speak another language. It goes without saying that it opens up a whole new world of people you can now connect with and understand that you would never have gotten the chance to get to know had you never learned how to. Living abroad is really the best way to do this since you are forced to challenge and practice your skills on a daily basis.

**[ 6 ]** \_\_\_\_\_

I have studied and worked abroad and made some incredibly valuable connections. If you are interested in working internationally or even just having a couch to stay on in a country that you love, never underestimate this possibility.

One thing I have learned abroad is that people are generally very friendly and love to talk about their home and culture. This is not always the case, but more than often it is. Making friendships abroad can make this big world seem a little smaller and help you feel more connected wherever you go.

*Source: <https://greenhearttravel.org>*

## TASK 2

Read the following article in which 5 elderly people talk about their experience as the world's oldest top athletes and answer the questions on page 7.

### AGE IS NO BARRIER: MEET THE WORLD'S OLDEST TOP ATHLETES

Richard Godwin catches up with five pensioners, aged up to 108, who thrive on extreme exercise

#### A) Edwina Brocklesby: triathlete, 76, Kingston-upon-Thames

I didn't do any exercise at all until I was 50. One day, I went to see an old friend who was running a marathon. I thought that would be fun to do. I came back and told my husband and he laughed and said I wouldn't even be able to run as far as Northampton, which was about three miles from where we lived at the time. It's good to have a challenge like that!

Then my husband died when I was 52. By then I had a small group of running friends and they were brilliantly supportive. I trained as a counsellor myself, but I found running better than counselling for dealing with grief. For one, you always feel better after you've been for a run as the endorphins kick in. But I think what is more important is the social element. You're with people who support you and value you. You can talk if you want to, or you can be silent if you want to.

#### B) Eddy Diget: personal trainer, 74, Milton Keynes

I've always trained. People have become more educated about being fit over the years, especially the over-50s and over-60s. But younger people in particular are looking for a quick fix. The personal trainers are all 10mg of this, 10mg of that. It's become too complicated. You see the same people come into the gym every day, doing the same exercises. It's so they don't have to think about it. But the more you change it, the more results you'll get.

#### C) Gwyn Haslock: surfer, 73, Truro

My family always used to go to the sea when I was growing up. We all started surfing in the 1950s. I started properly surfing in 1965. I sprained my wrist once, but I've never had any bad accident. I know my limits and now I wear my helmet. I want to enjoy it.

I've been retired for eight years now. When I was working, I couldn't go surfing in the week so much, but now I can go whenever I like, which is good as it gets busy at weekends. I like playing tennis, too. I do a bit of fencing. Gardening. There's lots of things to do.

#### D) Ida Keeling: sprinter, 104, Harlem, New York

I was 67 when I started running. I had lost my two sons to drug-related violence. It was so quick. It just broke me. I was very depressed. My daughter Cheryl came by one day and saw I was down in the dumps. That isn't usually who I am. She wanted to take me out for a mini run and since I was already so down I said: "All right, go ahead." And it did good for me. It kept me moving. I could feel myself getting stronger and feeling more free. It helped me immensely. And I'm still running now.

Now I'm 104, I'm not so fast. But I go whatever distance I can and if I start a race, I finish it. When I don't get out, I stay right here and work out in my room. I'm as healthy as a 25-year-old, my doctor says. I have no intention of slowing down. Age ain't got nothing to do with it. When you really want to do something for yourself, go and do it. And if you fail, try, try, try again.

### **E) Fauja Singh: marathon runner, 108, Redbridge**

I was born in a village in India in 1911. I had a happy childhood and I was nurtured because I was weak. I couldn't walk until I was five. I wanted to be sporty, but until then, I lacked the strength.

I didn't really run competitively until I arrived in England 20 years ago. When I attempted to run a marathon for the first time at 89, the reactions were mixed. Some were excited to see if I could do it and wished me well, others doubted I could do it.

Training was easy: I just followed the instructions of my coach without question. If it was a training run, he never let me be exhausted as he said it is good to train but not so good to strain. When it came to the race, I was simply awestruck by the support from the crowds along the route.

*Source: www.theguardian.com*

## TASK 3

**Read the following newspaper article about Madeline Miller, an American writer, and answer the questions on pages 8 and 9.**

### ***CIRCE* AUTHOR MADELINE MILLER: 'WE DON'T GIVE WOMEN THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS MEN TO FAIL'**

For her first book, the best-selling, Orange Prize-winning author Madeline Miller told the story of Achilles' gay lover, Patroclus, in *The Song of Achilles*. In her second, *Circe*, she turned the man-killing, pig-conjuring witch from Homer's *Odyssey* into a heroine worthy of her own epic.

With her third, Miller will pluck from obscurity a pair of minor characters in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The duo – "one man, one woman" – will give the American a way to do what she loves best, "imagining the text from other people's perspective". But given she took 17 years to write her first two novels, don't hold your breath for her take to be released any time soon. "I'm a very slow writer," she admits, over herbal tea. "I accept it. It takes me a long time to feel I really understand all the characters."

As with *Circe*, Miller says she is attracted by the "family dynamics" in the play and the potential to create stars out of unlikely protagonists.

Miller, who is slight, earnest and surprisingly modest given her international success, has spent the morning at a girls' secondary school talking about Greek myths. The teenagers' "strong feminist reaction" against the sexism of many of the original texts sounds like Miller's own early take on Homer.

“There were all these sexist stereotypes. I remember being so frustrated by the flatness of Circe’s portrait and how she goes from being a powerful goddess, who turns men into pigs, to kneeling at Odysseus’s feet. It was so much to do with anxiety about women’s power, and how women have to be tamed,” she says.

It took directing a play for the former classics teacher to realise she could tell her own version of pretty much any story she liked.

“I could talk back to Homer and change the original.” A mini-series for TV is in the works, though Miller is trying not to get carried away by the prospect.

Feminist retellings of the classics are somewhat in vogue. Pat Barker’s first new novel in two decades, *The Silence of the Girls*, looks at Homer’s *Iliad*, from the point of view of the enslaved Trojan queen. And 2017 saw the first English translation of *The Odyssey* by a woman, Emily Wilson.

She also points out that writers have been retelling myths for centuries. See Shakespeare.

As well as giving Circe that voice, Miller wanted to show that “women – even goddesses – can make mistakes”. “We don’t really give women the same opportunities [as men] to fail. It’s OK for a life to be messy.”

She also wanted to give motherhood – especially the messiest parts, such as childbirth – “the scope it deserves”, noting, “Traditionally female things have been shut out of epics, so it was very important for me to have scenes of childbirth and child-rearing.”

She wanted to portray the “pain and struggles of being a parent; the exhaustion, the joy, the anxiety” as normal.

“It’s hard work,” says Miller, 40, who has two daughters under five. “It should be honoured as such.”

Miller is equally open about what it takes to write with two children underfoot, keen to dispel the “stereotype that the best way to be a writer is not to have children’.”

She relies on a “really good support network”: namely, her partner and parents, who live close to her in Philadelphia. She writes early in the day, breaking to exercise before returning to wrestle with her words. “Progress, for me, is often deleting things,” she notes.

It’s tough, she adds, because “being emotionally present for your children and emotionally present for your book uses the same muscle”. She paraphrases Ann Patchett, “who says, ‘some days are for writing and some days are for living’”. Fleshing out her take on *The Tempest* might require rather more of the former than the latter.

Source: <https://inews.co.uk/culture>



### TASK 1

Read the text about the benefits of travelling abroad on pages 1 and 2 and match each extract (1-6) with its heading (A-I), as in the example (0). There are two extra headings which you do not need to use. You will get 1 point per correct answer.

	ANSWER	
A. Be Immersed In a Foreign Language		
B. Infinite Opportunities To Network		
C. Traveling Abroad Is Important For Young People	0	✓
D. Traveling Builds Confidence		
E. You Can Adapt To Globalization		
F. You'll Understand the Values of Other Cultures		
G. You'll Develop Your Knowledge Of History		
H. You'll Get Out Of Your Comfort Zone		
I. You'll Learn About Foreign Gastronomy		

MARK / 6

## TASK 2

Read the article on pages 3 and 4 in which 5 elderly people talk about their experience as the world's oldest top athletes. For questions 1-10, choose from speaker A, B, C, D or E. The people may be chosen more than once. Write your answers in the appropriate box. The first one (0) is an example. You will get 1 point per correct answer..

Which speaker (A, B, C, D or E)...

ANSWER

0. was advised not to train to exhaustion?.	<i>E</i>	✓
1. believes variation makes training more effective?		
2. criticizes the urge to expect to get fit quickly?		
3. does occasionally train at home?		
4. enjoys better health now than when they were young?		
5. keeps active by doing many other activities?		
6. mentions perseverance as their defining force?		
7. takes measures to ensure accidents and injuries are prevented?		
8. values being in contact with others the most?		
9. was encouraged to do sports by a relative?		
10. was impressed by the support of strangers?		

MARK / 10





### TASK 3

Read the newspaper article about Madeline Miller, an American writer, on pages 4 and 5. Choose the best option (a, b or c) to complete the following sentences. Write your answers in the boxes. Number 0 is given as an example. You will get 1 point per correct answer.

	ANSWER	
<b>0. The Song of Achilles is ...</b> A. Circe's second episode. B. her first book. C. her second book.	<b>B</b>	✓
<b>1. Her next book is expected to be published ...</b> A. fairly soon. B. in seven years. C. in the distant future.		
<b>2. She likes to use characters who are seen as ..... heroes.</b> A. credible B. improbable C. weak		
<b>3. She is described as ...</b> A. playful. B. surprising. C. thin.		
<b>4. Circe's portrait in <i>the Odyssey</i> disappointed her because of the character's ...</b> A. appearance. B. hair. C. monotony.		
<b>5. Miller used to be a ...</b> A. classics teacher. B. play director. C. storyteller.		
<b>6. Retellings of stories ..... are becoming increasingly popular.</b> A. by female translators. B. by Shakespeare's followers. C. from women's perspectives.		
<b>7. Miller suggests that, compared to men, women ...</b> A. are believed to be more successful. B. should be allowed to be more successful. C. should be allowed to be more unsuccessful.		
<b>8. She likes to write about motherhood in order to ...</b> A. portray its beauty. B. recognize its efforts. C. show its epic qualities.		



**9. She believes that ...**

- A. it's better for a writer to be childless.
- B. it's better to rely on your family for support.
- C. the idea of childless writers being better is false.

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**10. She thinks that being a mother and a writer is at the same time is ...**

- A. convenient.
- B. hard.
- C. easy.

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MARK   / 10