

Gobierno del Principado de Asturias

CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN Y CULTURA

ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

## PRUEBA ESPECÍFICA DE CERTIFICACIÓN DE NIVEL INTERMEDIO B2 DE INGLÉS JUNIO 2019

Comisión de Evaluación de la EOI de

## **COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS**

Puntuación total

Calificación

/20 puntos

/10 puntos

## Apellidos: \_\_\_\_\_ Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_ DNI/NIE:

### LEA LAS SIGUIENTES INSTRUCCIONES

A continuación va a realizar una prueba que contiene **tres ejercicios de comprensión de textos escritos.** Los ejercicios tienen la siguiente estructura: se presentan unos textos y se especifican unas tareas que deberá realizar en relación a dichos textos. Las tareas o preguntas serán del siguiente tipo:

• Pregunta de completar. Se presenta un texto con 10 huecos (numerados del 1 al 10) en los que faltan 10 palabras. Se proporcionan cuatro opciones para completar cada hueco del texto (A, B, C o D). Deberá elegir la opción correcta rodeando con un círculo la letra de su elección en la HOJA DE RESPUESTAS. Solo una de las tres opciones es correcta.

Ejemplo:

|                | $\sim$    |              |               |      |             |                | _              |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1              | A         | )            | В             | С    |             | D              |                |
| Si se confunde | ۍ<br>پلرو | ache la resp | ouesta equivo | cada | a y rodee l | a opción que o | crea verdadera |
| 1              | X         | )            | В             | (C   | )           | D              |                |
|                | 0         |              |               | 0    |             |                |                |

• Pregunta de relacionar. Se presentan una serie de preguntas que deberá relacionar con su respuesta correspondiente de entre las proporcionadas. En este caso deberá elegir la respuesta correcta y escribir la letra de su opción en la HOJA DE RESPUESTAS. Sólo hay una combinación correcta entre pregunta y respuesta. Eiemplo:

|                |                         |               | ~              |                              |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1              | Α                       | В             | (C)            |                              |
| Si se confunde | e <u>, t</u> ache la re | spuesta equiv | vocada y rodee | la opción que crea verdadera |
| 1              | ( A )                   | В             | (X)            |                              |

• Opción múltiple: preguntas o frases incompletas, seguidas de una serie de respuestas posibles o de frases que las completan. En este caso deberá elegir la respuesta correcta rodeando con un círculo la letra de su opción en la HOJA DE RESPUESTAS. Sólo una de las opciones es correcta.

| Ejemp | 00:      |                  | $\sim$ | <b>`</b>   |      |             |                             |
|-------|----------|------------------|--------|------------|------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1     |          | Α                | B      | )          | С    |             |                             |
| Si se | confunde | e, tache la resp | Jues   | sta equivo | cada | ı y rodee l | a opción que crea verdadera |
| 1     |          | Α                | XS)    |            | (C)  | )           |                             |
|       |          |                  |        |            | 0    |             |                             |

En total, deberá contestar **25 preguntas** para completar esta prueba. Antes de responder a las preguntas, lea atentamente las instrucciones de cada ejercicio.

Dispone de **50 minutos** para responder todas las preguntas de los ejercicios que componen la prueba.

Utilice únicamente **bolígrafo azul o negro** y asegúrese de que su **teléfono móvil** y **dispositivos electrónicos** estén **desconectados** durante toda la prueba.

Trabaje concentradamente, no hable ni se levante de la silla. Si tiene alguna duda, levante la mano y espere en silencio a que el/la profesor/ase acerque a su mesa. Espere a que le indiquen que PUEDE EMPEZAR.

| HUJA DE RESPUESTAS |         |    |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---------|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| EJERCICIO          | 0 1: Pl | NS | Espacio reservado para la<br>persona correctora |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 1       | Α  | В   | С | D |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 2       | Α  | В   | С | D |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 3       | Α  | В   | С | D |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 4       | Α  | В   | С | D |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 5       | Α  | В   | С | D |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 6       | Α  | В   | С | D |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 7       | Α  | В   | С | D |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 8       | Α  | В   | D |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 9       | Α  | В   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|                    | 10      | Α  | В   | С | D |  |  |  |  |  |

## **HOJA DE RESPUESTAS**

| EJERCICIO 2:<br>THREE CONFESSION | Espacio reservado para<br>persona correctora |   |   |   |  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
|                                  | 1  | Α | В | С |  |
|                                  | 2  | Α | В | С |  |
|                                  | 3  | Α | В | С |  |
|                                  | 4  | Α | В | С |  |
|                                  | 5  | Α | В | С |  |
|                                  | 6  | Α | В | С |  |
|                                  | 7  | Α | В | С |  |
|                                  | 8  | Α | В | С |  |
|                                  | 9  | Α | В | С |  |

| EJER | CICI | O 3: LEARI | NING TO I | DRIVE | Espacio reservado para la<br>persona correctora |
|------|------|------------|-----------|-------|---|
|      | 1    | Α          | В         | С     |   |
|      | 2    | Α          | В         | С     |   |
|      | 3    | Α          | В         | С     |   |
|      | 4    | Α          | В         | С     |   |
|      | 5    | Α          | В         | С     |   |
|      | 6    | Α          | В         | С     |   |

COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS. Prueba Específica de Certificación de Nivel Intermedio B2 de inglés. Convocatoria de junio 2019

## **PROTECT OUR PUFFINS**

Adapted from Yours

## Read the following text and choose one option (A-D) to fill the spaces as in example 0. Only <u>ONE</u> option is possible. <u>DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER</u> <u>ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.</u>

They're known as the "clowns of the sea" with their (0) .....colours and funny faces. But the decline of the puffin population is no laughing matter, as experts predict the UK could lose up to eight million puffins over the next 50 years. (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_many seabirds that call Britain home, puffins are facing a tough time as they come (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_ against changes to their habitat, new predator threats, (3) \_\_\_\_\_\_ of food and rising sea temperatures owing to climate changes, all of (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_ are causing their numbers to wane. In fact, puffins are now so rare they're on the red list of (5) \_\_\_\_\_\_ species and at much risk of dying (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_ as the African elephant, the polar bear and the lion.

Thankfully, (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_, help is at hand for these wonderful birds in the form of a special team of experts at the RSPB. Over the past few months, they've been out along Britain's coastline, and particularly in the beautiful Fair Isle, where they've been (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_ out a vital project to help puffin welfare. According to Dr. Ellie Owen, (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_ from the RSPB, 'as puffins spend most of their time at sea, we only see them for a short time while they're on the cliffs'. So what we decided to do was tracking the seabirds using tags to find out where they're going to feed. This means we can protect those places, while (10) \_\_\_\_\_\_ they have a better chance of feeding their chicks and the colony thriving".

| 0  | Α | <u>bright</u> | В | light       | С | gaudy         | D | tacky       |
|----|---|---------------|---|-------------|---|---------------|---|-------------|
| 1  | Α | Like          | В | Similarly   | С | Alike         | D | Likewise    |
| 2  | Α | off           | В | up          | С | out           | D | in          |
| 3  | Α | loss          | В | starvation  | С | lack          | D | decrease    |
| 4  | Α | that          | В | what        | С | which         | D | who         |
| 5  | Α | endangered    | в | threatening | С | extinct       | D | menace      |
| 6  | Α | off           | В | away        | С | out           | D | up          |
| 7  | Α | despite       | В | though      | С | however       | D | in spite of |
| 8  | Α | sorting       | В | bringing    | С | making        | D | carrying    |
| 9  | Α | spokesperson  | В | chairperson | С | middle person | D | delegate    |
| 10 | Α | ensuring      | В | assuring    | С | securing      | D | insuring    |

## THREE CONFESSIONS ABOUT WORK

Adapted from What I'm really thinking

## Read the following confessions three people make about their present occupations. Match sentences (1-9) with people (A-C) as in example 0. People (A-C) can be repeated <u>MORE</u> <u>THAN ONCE</u>.

### DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

Α.

Everyone told me to be careful. "Watch out: you're burning the candle at both ends". And I would wave them away dismissively. Of course I could cope. They hadn't seen anything yet. So I sailed on, hitting target after target, making my company more successful than it had ever been until suddenly I couldn't do it anymore. I felt physically sick in the presence of colleagues; I couldn't make decisions, take notes or sit in meetings. Thank goodness I had someone to support me through it all. My partner quietly gave me space to get well, encouraged me to see a psychotherapist and never judged. I traded my job for one with greatly reduced hours and on significantly less pay. I rediscovered the family I had always loved, but had forgotten how to be with. I learned to fail and not be ashamed of failing, and I learned to understand that I was nothing particularly special, except to my family and friends. And after all, who else matters?

### В.

I get called in when parents fail to agree over their children: who they live with, who they visit. So off I go to visit the first parent. Sad story: treated very badly by the other parent, who is detestable and should never be allowed near the children again. Then I visit the other parent: another sad but completely incompatible story. I feel sorry for them both. It is down to me to attempt to unpick which parent is lying the most. Sometimes talking to the children helps me find out, but you can't ask them to dish the dirt on their parents, unless they volunteer it. I try to mediate a realistic compromise – but if they'd been prepared to compromise, it probably wouldn't have got to court in the first place. Sometimes my sympathies, and the evidence, come down clearly on one side. Mostly I file a report to the family court suggesting something that won't please either; but a court can't legislate that two grown adults must be nicer to each other. And I go home upset by how behaving badly after a separation is more supported than challenged by our friends and family.

### C.

People assume I get bored, but I enjoy the solitude. I like the hourly walks through the quiet corridors and listening to the rain on the windows while enjoying a cup of tea. I look forward to finishing a good book or watching the birds in the car park feeding on the muffins I put out yesterday. The tiredness is the hardest. Sometimes I have a good routine and my sleep is not

affected. Other times, I walk into doors, zombie-like, and occasionally I've been surprised to find that I've actually made it home. My husband tells me I should find a new job, and I have been applying for some since I began working here. It is the death knell for a CV: it says key holder, not stakeholder. It says, I live in the dark like a monster, or some kind of weirdo; no good with the sun. Though my job perpetuates my hatred of people, I am still compassionate towards those in need. I never think twice about letting someone in from the cold, or giving away a free room if it is a genuine cause. But if the intercom goes off at 2am and I see a couple who can barely stand, I'll more than likely say there are no vacancies even when it isn't, especially if I've just made a tea and I want to drink it peacefully.

### Which text speaks about ...

| 0 | dealing with children          | В |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | a dead-end job                 |   |
| 2 | a non people person            |   |
| 3 | being at the end of one's rope |   |
| 4 | being charitable               |   |
| 5 | losing one's fear              |   |
| 6 | inaccurate stories             |   |
| 7 | making tough decisions         |   |
| 8 | moving down the career ladder  |   |
| 9 | overworking                    |   |

## EJERCICIO 3

## **LEARNING TO DRIVE**

Adapted from The Guardian

Read this article about learning to drive. For questions (1-6) choose the correct option (A-C) as in example 0. Only <u>ONE</u> answer is possible.

### DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

Living in a city, I have never needed to drive. But now that I realise that eventually all nonbillionaire people from London will be shuttled off into outer space, where nobody can hear us scream "innit", I figure it is time to take control of my own destiny and start devising an escape. For that, driving is crucial.

I realise it is hardly climbing Everest. Many people drive and most people can learn. But I am learning to drive in London, the Mordor of motoring. I have looked into the dark heart of congestion and I still ride. Drivers look in shock as I join a busy ring road, my little secondhand Nissan Micra pootling along with its L plates. They laugh a donkey of a car among the fast cars

COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS. Prueba Específica de Certificación de Nivel Intermedio B2 de inglés. Convocatoria de junio 2019 and the black cabs. But my little donkey goes on, humbly. We take no notice of the white van men driving up close, pushing us to drive faster, faster, faster. No: I will not break the urban speed limit of 20mph.

It is not only road users; it is the pedestrians, too. Just months ago, after persuading my licence-holding partner to supervise my evening spin, I came across a group of hooded teens resting on their BMXs in the middle of the road. Beep! I moved closer, slowly. Beep! Beep! Eventually, reluctantly, they cleared a path. It was a tight squeeze, but I crawled through. As I passed, bang went a fist on the boot of the car. "Oi, you could have hurt us," a lad said. "You shouldn't even be in the road!" I shouted back. Continuing my pootle, I drove to the end of the road – mirror, signal, turn – and, starting down a new street, noticed something in my rear-view mirror. They were chasing me: four, maybe five of them, standing up on their pedals, hurtling towards me.

It's time to become a grownup, whatever that is. Accelerating, I lost them, but a stop at the traffic lights meant they were soon coming closer. "Please don't stall, please don't stall," I begged, internally. I accelerated again, losing them once more. Have you any idea how hard it is to outrun a group of BMXers in a 20mph one-way system in an L-plated Micra? I wanted to go right, towards home, but the one-way system sent me left. It was like they knew. I turned right as soon as I could and there they were, in front of me, waiting. It was a moment of truth. We eyed each other, wondering who would move next and how, but when a car started reversing out of a drive I used it for cover and made my getaway. After all, adulthood is about taking the high road, even if you can only go along it at 20 mph.

### 0 The author writes about...

- A London
- B learning to drive
- **C** moving around London
- 1 The author ...
- **A** is planning to live elsewhere
- B wishes to move out of London
- **C** feels is the right time to learn how to drive

### 2 Which of the sentences applies to the author?

- A Driving on certain roads is a real hazard
- **B** Driving is much harder than she expected
- **C** She has got used to driving on certain roads

#### Consejería de Educación y Cultura

- 3 Other drivers ...
- A drive faster than allowed
- B shout abuse at her for driving an old car
- C look down on her for driving her small car

### 4 Which of these sentences is true?

- A She could drive unaccompanied
- **B** Her driving companion is authorised to drive
- **C** She drove around without a licensed companion

### 5 The group of teenagers...

- A did not let her pass
- **B** tried to assault her car
- **C** managed to catch up with her car

### 6 The driver managed to ...

- A run away
- **B** get the highway
- C hide somewhere

COORDINACIÓN: Servicio de Evaluación Educativa.

EDITA: Consejería de Educación y Cultura. Dirección General de Ordenación Académica e Innovación Educativa.

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ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

## PRUEBA ESPECÍFICA DE CERTIFICACIÓN DE NIVEL INTERMEDIO B2 DE INGLÉS. JUNIO 2019

## COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

# MODELO DE CORRECCIÓN

## HOJA DE RESPUESTAS EJERCICIO 1: PROTECT OUR PUFFINS

|    |          |          |          |   | Espacio reservado para la<br>persona correctora |
|----|----------|----------|----------|---|---|
| 1  | <u>A</u> | В        | С        | D |   |
| 2  | Α        | В        | <u>C</u> | D |   |
| 3  | Α        | В        | <u>C</u> | D |   |
| 4  | Α        | В        | <u>C</u> | D |   |
| 5  | <u>A</u> | В        | С        | D |   |
| 6  | Α        | В        | <u>C</u> | D |   |
| 7  | Α        | <u>B</u> | С        | D |   |
| 8  | Α        | В        | С        | D |   |
| 9  | <u>A</u> | В        | С        | D |   |
| 10 | <u>A</u> | В        | С        | D |   |

## EJERCICIO 2: THREE CONFESSIONS ABOUT WORK

|   |          |   |          | Espacio reservado<br>para la persona<br>correctora |
|---|----------|---|----------|--|
| 1 | Α        | В | <u>C</u> |  |
| 2 | Α        | В | <u>C</u> |  |
| 3 | A        | В | С        |  |
| 4 | Α        | В | <u>C</u> |  |
| 5 | A        | В | С        |  |
| 6 | Α        | B | С        |  |
| 7 | Α        | B | С        |  |
| 8 | A        | В | С        |  |
| 9 | <u>A</u> | В | С        |  |

## **EJERCICIO 3: LEARNING TO DRIVE**

|   |          |   |          | Espacio reservado para<br>la persona correctora |
|---|----------|---|----------|---|
| 1 | Α        | В | <u>C</u> |   |
| 2 | Α        | В | C        |   |
| 3 | Α        | В | C        |   |
| 4 | Α        | В | С        |   |
| 5 | Α        | В | <u>C</u> |   |
| 6 | <u>A</u> | В | С        |   |

MODELO DE CORRECCIÓN. COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS.- Prueba Específica de Certificación de Nivel Intermedio B2 de Inglés. Convocatoria de junio 2019

## PROTECT OUR PUFFINS

Adapted from Yours

## Read the following text and choose one option (A-D) to fill the spaces as in example 0. Only <u>ONE</u> option is possible. <u>DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO</u> <u>THE ANSWER SHEET.</u>

They're known as the "clowns of the sea" with their (0) .....colours and funny faces. But the decline of the puffin population is no laughing matter, as experts predict the UK could lose up to eight million puffins over the next 50 years. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ many seabirds that call Britain home, puffins are facing a tough time as they come (2) \_\_\_\_\_ against changes to their habitat, new predator threats, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of food and rising sea temperatures owing to climate changes, all of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ are causing their numbers to wane. In fact, puffins are now so rare they're on the red list of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ species and at much risk of dying (6) \_\_\_\_\_ as the African elephant, the polar bear and the lion.

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|----|---|---------------|---|-------------|---|---------------|---|-------------|
| 1  | Α | Like          | В | Similarly   | С | Alike         | D | Likewise    |
| 2  | Α | off           | В | up          | С | out           | D | in          |
| 3  | Α | loss          | В | starvation  | С | lack          | D | decrease    |
| 4  | Α | that          | В | what        | С | which         | D | who         |
| 5  | Α | endangered    | В | threatening | С | extinct       | D | menace      |
| 6  | Α | off           | В | away        | С | out           | D | up          |
| 7  | Α | despite       | В | though      | С | however       | D | in spite of |
| 8  | Α | sorting       | В | bringing    | С | making        | D | carrying    |
| 9  | Α | spokesperson  | В | chairperson | С | middle person | D | delegate    |
| 10 | Α | ensuring      | В | assuring    | С | securing      | D | insuring    |

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## THREE CONFESSIONS ABOUT WORK

Adapted from What I'm really thinking

Read the following confessions three people make about their present occupations. Match sentences (1-9) with people (A-C) as in example 0. People (A-C) can be repeated <u>more than once.</u>

DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

### Which text speaks about ...

| 0 | dealing with children          | В |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | a dead-end job                 |   |
| 2 | a non people person            |   |
| 3 | being at the end of one's rope |   |
| 4 | being charitable               |   |
| 5 | losing one's fear              |   |
| 6 | inaccurate stories             |   |
| 7 | making tough decisions         |   |
| 8 | moving down the career ladder  |   |
| 9 | overworking                    |   |

## EJERCICIO 3

## LEARNING TO DRIVE

Adapted from The Guardian

Read this article about learning to drive. For questions (1-6) choose the correct option (A-C) as in example 0. Only <u>ONE</u> answer is possible.

### DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

- 0 The author writes about...
- A London
- B learning to drive
- **C** moving around London
- 1 The author ...
- A is planning to live elsewhere
- B wishes to move out of London
- **C** feels is the right time to learn how to drive

- 2 Which of the sentences applies to the author?
- A Driving on certain roads is a real hazard
- B Driving is much harder than she expected
- **C** She has got used to driving on certain roads

#### 3 Other drivers ...

- A drive faster than allowed
- **B** shout abuse at her for driving an old car
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### 5 The group of teenagers...

- A did not let her pass
- B tried to assault her car
- **C** managed to catch up with her car
- 6 The driver managed to ...
- A run away
- B get the highway
- C hide somewhere

## **EJERCICIO 2**

### THREE CONFESSIONS ABOUT WORK

Adapted from What I'm really thinking

Read the following confessions three people make about their present occupations. Match sentences (1-8) with people (A-C). People (A-C) can be repeated <u>more than once.</u> <u>DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.</u>

А

Everyone told me to be careful. <u>(3A) "Watch out: you're burning the candle at both</u> <u>ends"</u>. And I would wave them away dismissively. Of course, I could cope. They hadn't seen anything yet. So I sailed on, hitting target after target, making my company more successful than it had ever been until suddenly I couldn't do it anymore. <u>(9A) I felt physically sick in the presence</u> <u>of colleagues; I couldn't make decisions, take notes or sit in meetings.</u> Thank goodness I had someone to support me through it all. My partner quietly gave me space to get well, encouraged *MODELO DE CORRECCIÓN. COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS.- Prueba Específica de Certificación de Nivel Intermedio B2 de Inglés. Convocatoria de junio 2019*  me to see a psychotherapist and never judged. <u>(8A) I traded my job for one with greatly</u> <u>reduced hours and on significantly less pay</u>. I rediscovered the family I had always loved, but had forgotten how to be with. <u>(5A) I learned to fail and not be ashamed of failing</u>, and I learned to understand that I was nothing particularly special, except to my family and friends. And after all, who else matters?

### В

I get called in when parents fail to agree over their children: who they live with, who they visit. So off I go to visit the first parent. (6B) Sad story: treated very badly by the other parent, who is detestable and should never be allowed near the children again. Then I visit the other parent: another sad but completely incompatible story. I feel sorry for them both. (7B) It is down to me to attempt to unpick which parent is lying the most. Sometimes talking to the children helps me find out, but you can't ask them to dish the dirt on their parents, unless they volunteer it. I try to mediate a realistic compromise – but if they'd been prepared to compromise, it probably wouldn't have got to court in the first place. Sometimes my sympathies, and the evidence, come down clearly on one side. Mostly (7B) I file a report to the family court suggesting something that won't please either; but a court can't legislate that two grown adults must be nicer to each other. And I go home upset by how behaving badly after a separation is more supported than challenged by our friends and family.

### C.

People assume I get bored, but (2C) I enjoy the solitude. I like the hourly walks through the quiet corridors and listening to the rain on the windows while enjoying a cup of tea. I look forward to finishing a good book or watching the birds in the car park feeding on the muffins I put out yesterday. The tiredness is the hardest. Sometimes I have a good routine and my sleep is not affected. Other times, I walk into doors, zombie-like, and occasionally I've been surprised to find that I've actually made it home. (1C) My husband tells me I should find a new job, and I have been applying for some since I began working here. It is the death knell for a CV: it says key holder, not stakeholder. It says, I live in the dark like a monster, or some kind of weirdo; no good with the sun. Though my job perpetuates my hatred of people, (4C) I am still compassionate towards those in need. I never think twice about letting someone in from the cold, or giving away a free room if it is a genuine cause. But if the intercom goes off at 2am and I see a couple who can barely stand, I'll more than likely say there are no vacancies even when it isn't, especially if I've just made a tea and I want to drink it peacefully.

## **LEARNING TO DRIVE**

#### Adapted from The Guardian

Living in a city, I have never needed to drive. But now that I realise that eventually all nonbillionaire people from London will be shuttled off into outer space, where nobody can hear us scream "innit, <u>(1C) I figure it is time to take control of my own destiny and start devising an</u> <u>escape. For that, driving is crucial.</u>

I realise it is hardly climbing Everest. Many people drive and most people can learn. But I am learning to drive in London, the Mordor of motoring. (2C) I have looked into the dark heart of congestion and I still ride. Drivers look in shock as I join a busy ring road, my little secondhand Nissan Micra pootling along with its L plates. (3C) They laugh, a donkey of a car among the fast cars and the black cabs. But my little donkey goes on, humbly. We take no notice of the white van men driving up close, pushing us to drive faster, faster, faster. No: I will not break the urban speed limit of 20 mph.

It is not only road users; it is the pedestrians, too. Just months ago, (4B) after persuading my licence-holding partner to supervise my evening spin, I came across a group of hooded teens resting on their BMXs in the middle of the road. Beep! I moved closer, slowly. Beep! Beep! Eventually, reluctantly, they cleared a path. It was a tight squeeze, but I crawled through. As I passed, bang went a fist on the boot of the car. "Oi, you could have hurt us," a lad said. "You shouldn't even be in the road!" I shouted back. Continuing my pootle, I drove to the end of the road – mirror, signal, turn – and, starting down a new street, noticed something in my rear-view mirror. They were chasing me: four, maybe five of them, standing up on their pedals, hurtling towards me.

It's time to become a grownup, whatever that is. Accelerating, I lost them, but a stop at the traffic lights meant they were soon coming closer. "Please don't stall, please don't stall," I begged, internally. I accelerated again, losing them once more. Have you any idea how hard it is to outrun a group of BMXers in a 20mph one-way system in an L-plated Micra? I wanted to go right, towards home, but the one-way system sent me left. It was like they knew. (5C) I turned right as soon as I could and there they were, in front of me, waiting. It was a moment of truth. We eyed each other, wondering who would move next and how, (6A) but when a car started reversing out of a drive I used it for cover and made my getaway. After all, adulthood is about taking the high road, even if you can only go along it at 20 mph.