



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Educació  
**Escoles Oficials d'Idiomes**

## **ANGLÈS**

Prova Mostra

### **LLEGIU ATENTAMENT AQUESTES INSTRUCCIONS**

Aquest quadernet conté les proves de:

**Comprensió escrita** ..... 50 minuts

**Comprensió oral** ..... 40 minuts

**Mediació escrita** ..... 40 minuts

Durada total aproximada ..... **130 minuts**

En acabar aquest quadernet, hi haurà un descans de 30 minuts i, a continuació, s'administrarà la prova d'Expressió i interacció escrita. S'assignarà dia i hora per a la prova d'Expressió i interacció oral i de Mediació oral.

#### **Important**

- Contesteu als **fulls de respostes**, no en aquest **quadernet**.
- Les anotacions que feu en aquest quadernet no es tindran en compte.
- Al final de la prova, heu de lliurar els **fulls de respostes**, amb totes les dades, i aquest **quadernet**.



**CERTIFICAT DE NIVELL B2**

**Task 1.**

Read the text and select T (True) or F (False) for each of the statements. Mark your answers with a cross (X) on your answer sheet.

T  X

## The Real Price of Gold

For thousands of years the desire to possess gold has driven people to extremes, fuelling wars and conquests, girding empires and currencies, levelling mountains and forests. Gold's unusual density and malleability along with its imperishable shine have made it one of the world's most coveted commodities, a transcendent symbol of beauty, wealth, and immortality.

Nowhere is the gold obsession more culturally entrenched than it is in India, which has been the world's runaway leader in gold demand for several decades. India produces very little gold of its own, but its citizens have hoarded up to 18,000 tons of the yellow metal.

India's fixation stems not simply from a love of extravagance or the rising prosperity of an emerging middle class. For Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians alike, gold plays a central role at nearly every turning point in life – most of all when a couple marries. There are some ten million weddings in India every year, and in all but a few, gold is crucial both to the spectacle and to the transaction between families and generations. Gold equals good fortune.

This manifests itself most palpably during the springtime festival of Akshaya Tritiya, considered the most auspicious day to buy gold on the Hindu calendar. The quantity of gold jewellery Indians purchase on this day so exceeds the amount bought on any other day of the year that it often nudges gold prices higher.

Throughout the year, though, the epicentre of gold consumption is Kerala, a state that claims just 3% of the country's population but 7 to 8% of its gold market. Local historians say it was the region's revolt against the Hindu caste system (before which the low-est castes were allowed to adorn themselves only with polished stones and bones), and the mass conversion to Christianity and Islam that followed, that turned gold into something more than commerce: a powerful symbol of independence and upward mobility.

Despite the long history, no era in Kerala has been hungrier for gold than the present. Among the upper classes and younger consumers in Delhi and Mumbai, gold may be starting to lose ground to more understated – and expensive – materials like platinum and diamonds. Dowries, though officially banned, dominate most wedding proceedings in India, and in Kerala, the largest portion of the dowry is usually gold.

As the price of the metal goes up, however, poor Indian families are having a harder time raising the gold they need for dowries. Though the dowry retains a social function – balancing the wealth between the families of bride and groom – the rising price of gold has only fuelled its abusive side. In the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu, the struggle to acquire gold has led to dowry-related domestic violence (usually when grooms' families beat the brides for bringing too little gold. Even in Kerala, the pressure is sometimes too much for the poor to take. Rajam Chidambaram, a 59-year-old widow living in a slum on the outskirts of Cochin, recently found a young man to marry her only daughter, age 27. The groom's family, however, demanded a dowry far out of her reach: 25 sovereigns, or 200 grams, of gold. Chidambaram, a cleaning woman, has only the two earrings she wears. "I had to agree to the groom's demand," Chidambaram says, wiping away tears. "If I refuse, my daughter will stay home forever."

In the end, local financiers advanced a loan for her daughter's dowry. Chidambaram may have averted the shame of an unmarried daughter, but she is now burdened with a debt that she may spend the rest of her life trying to repay.

Adapted from *National Geographic Magazine*, January 2009

1. People have been prepared to destroy our environment just to get gold.
2. Gold's colour has made it the most sought after metal in the world.
3. Although India doesn't produce much gold, it is most coveted there.
4. Gold is used to impress guests at weddings.
5. The price of gold in India may vary, reflecting cultural beliefs.
6. Kerala is reported to be number one in gold production in India.
7. Gold is no longer a symbol of which caste you belong to.
8. In large cities in India other cheaper metals are becoming more popular than gold.
9. There is increasing pressure to forbid the dowry tradition.
10. Gold has ceased to play its former dominant role in dowries.
11. Rajam Chidambaram was reluctant for her daughter to get married as she would have to give up her earrings.
12. A woman is reported to have fallen into lifelong financial difficulties in order to marry off her daughter.



**Task 2.**

Read the text and choose the correct option for each of the questions that follow. Mark the answers with a cross (X) on your answer sheet.

a   b   X

## University Challenge star Gail Trimble adapts to public eye

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 24 February 2009

University Challenge winner Gail Trimble was today getting used to being in the public eye, revealing that she had been approached by a lads' mag to take part in a "tasteful photoshoot".

Trimble, 26, who led her team from Corpus Christi, Oxford, to victory in the long-running TV quiz on BBC2 last night, said Nuts magazine had already been in touch. "Would you believe it, my brother received a Facebook message from Nuts yesterday morning saying 'can we have your sister's email address, we want her to do a tasteful shoot,'" the 26-year-old told BBC Breakfast. "So of course he sent them an answer saying: 'Seriously mate, would you give your sister's contact details to Nuts?'"

Corpus Christi triumphed over Manchester University to be crowned winners of the competition, achieving victory by 275 points to 190 in the 2009 University Challenge grand final. However, the win was Corpus Christi's closest of the contest and they only took the lead towards the end of the contest. At one stage Manchester University led 70-0 and later, after Corpus Christi had begun to rack up points, still had a

30-point lead with just a few minutes of the pre-recorded 30-minute show to go.

Much of the team's success up to the final has been down to Trimble, who had scored two-thirds of her team's 1,200 in earlier rounds. Her vast knowledge, likened to an

"intellectual blitzkrieg" by a rival contestant, stunned even host Jeremy Paxman. Last night's grand final win was more of a team effort, with Trimble even getting the odd answer wrong, such as when she buzzed to say "Pollyanna" when the correct answer was "Goody Two-Shoes".

Trimble also revealed today that she had previously had difficulty getting on to the college University Challenge team, making three or four attempts. "I've tried over the years with different teams for the college, but we never made it," she told the *Daily Mail*. She said she did not do any special revision for the quiz: "On the day we'd maybe flick through a couple of quiz books, but it was all pretty relaxed."

Trimble's success has elicited some hostile reaction on blogs – something she has put down to being female. "Suddenly there's this thing that involves being in the

public eye, and I find all this reaction to me, and I'm sure this wouldn't be the case if I wasn't a woman," she told the BBC. "It is nice when people are saying nice things about my appearance, and not nasty things, but it's sad that they feel it necessary to say things about my appearance at all."

Asked what she would do next, she said she was working on her doctorate in philosophy. "I'm coming towards the end of it, finishing within the next year, then an academic job, hopefully. That's what I want to do," Trimble added.

13. Which of the following is true?  
a) Gail often appears in the media.  
b) Gail became well-known when she started university.  
c) This is the first time Gail Trimble has been the centre of media attention.
14. *Nuts* magazine is considered to be...  
a) for men only.  
b) in good taste.  
c) popular with university students.
15. The quiz “University Challenge”...  
a) started up recently.  
b) is now in its second year.  
c) has been on for many years now.
16. What do we know about Corpus Christi college’s win?  
a) It was a landslide victory.  
b) It was a hard struggle.  
c) They were ahead from the very beginning.
17. What do we know about Gail Trimble’s participation?  
a) She was by far the most knowledgeable person on the team.  
b) She established herself as a key member of the team during the last few rounds of the competition.  
c) The subjects she knew about only came up in the final round.
18. What do we know about Gail Trimble and the Corpus Christi team?  
a) She has been in it since she started studying there.  
b) She hadn’t shown any interest before.  
c) She had been turned down several times.
19. Which of the following is true?  
a) Gail Trimble finds it flattering that comments have been made about her appearance.  
b) Gail has received rude comments from other women.  
c) Gail thinks she would have received less media attention if she had been less attractive.
20. What are Gail’s long-term plans?  
a) To do a doctorate.  
b) To teach at a University.  
c) To continue on the University Challenge team.



**Task 3.**

Match the 10 statements to the descriptions of 8 ski runs. Each statement corresponds to only one text, so you will need to use two of the texts more than once. Mark your answers with a cross (X) on your answer sheet.

A B  D E F G H

21. This run is complicated to follow.
22. Here other skiers dangerously get in your way.
23. Here you can treat yourself to some refreshment to celebrate the end of a good day.
24. This run has a lot of curves.
25. This run is a particular favourite with professionals.
26. On this run you can be physically affected due to the height.
27. On this run, both pistes converge on the same place.
28. This run offers the option of taking a more difficult run halfway down.
29. This run is well signposted.
30. This run is recommended for brave, skilled skiers.

## Ski runs: a guide to the world's toughest

Overdid it on the mince pies this Christmas? If so, there's nothing better than a good long ski run. Peter Hardy selects eight of the toughest in the world.

### A. The Champagne Run, Vaujany, France

This is not for the faint-hearted and is best-suited to experienced skiers. You cover a distance of at least 12km and drop 2,230 vertical metres. By the time you cross the blue piste at the top of Vaujany's own ski area your thighs will be screaming – but incredibly you've got another 1,000 vertical metres still to go. In heavy, wet snow conditions this last section can prove the downfall of even the fittest.

### B. Ventina, Cervinia, Italy

It's a clearly-marked, easy trail – well, it would be easy if you allowed yourself a stop or two or three. When taken at speed you get the sensation that you've fallen into a computer ski game with beginner skiers and stationary snowboarders forming hazards as you whiz by them along the way. Doing it once is hard. Iron men and women do consecutive laps.

### C. Peak-to-Creek, Whistler, British Columbia

Skirt the top of Whistler Bowl and head off down the shoulder of the mountain. It's a blue intermediate run all the way, but if your legs can bear it you can spice it up with a serious stretch of black (difficult) by turning left halfway down on to Home Run. If that's still not enough extreme entertainment, you can cut down Dusty's Descent or Big Timber.

**D. Revelstoke, British Columbia**

There's a choice. Beginners can take the serpentine Last Spike logging trail that coils around the front face. But for the real thigh-burner you take one of the fall-line runs. Devil's Club is slightly more difficult, but my favourite is Pitch Black. When we got to the bottom my companion said he'd put in more turns there than in the whole of last winter.

**E. Grande Motte, Tignes, France**

Strong skiers take the main downhill training run from top. The Glacier run is less demanding and both meet up lower down. Just follow the piste. Exhaustion here is exacerbated by high altitude. You need to consciously remember to breathe on every turn.

**F. OK, Val d'Isère, France**

If you have secret dreams of being a World Cup downhiller, this is where to fulfil them. OK, still a FIS race course, stands for Oreiller/Killy, two local Olympic champions. Competitors at next month's Ski World Championships will use the OK for training. The race will be on the wicked Face de Belvedere down a course built for the 1992 Olympics. OK starts with a couple of steep pitches that you are not advised to take straight, followed by a long schuss and some more technical stretches. In good snow conditions and when not prepared for racing, none of it is difficult. The only enemies are scraped icy patches on the lower slopes.

**G. Küblis and Serneus, Davos, Switzerland**

This is a wonderful last run of the day, ending with a hard-earned drink in a wayside pub while you wait for the homeward train. From the top of the Gipfel you wind around the back of the Schwarzhorn and on down to Schifer where the route divides – skier's left to Küblis, right for Serneus.

**H. La Saulire-St Bon, Courchevel, France**

Take the classic route from the top which starts steep for a few turns and then eases off to a pleasant gradient all the way. Carry on down to 1850, leaving the lift stations on your right, go under the bridge, and cut left onto the Brigues run. Shortly before Le Praz drop off to the right onto the St Bon piste. The main problem, apart from the legs, is finding your way without stopping to consult the map – find a local willing to guide you.