



# La Rioja

EDUCACIÓN, CULTURA, DEPORTE Y JUVENTUD

## ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DE LA RIOJA

### PRUEBA DE CERTIFICACIÓN

#### INGLÉS



Datos del candidato	Calificación final
Apellidos:	
Nombre:	
Modalidad: <input type="checkbox"/> Oficial Presencial <input type="checkbox"/> Libre <input type="checkbox"/> That's English  <input type="checkbox"/> IES: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Apto <input type="checkbox"/> No Apto	
<b>Convocatoria</b> <b>MAYO 2022</b>	

### PRUEBA DE COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

INFORMACIÓN PARA EL CANDIDATO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Esta prueba consta de 3 ejercicios.</li><li>• Lea atentamente las instrucciones correspondientes a cada ejercicio.</li><li>• Cada respuesta correcta tiene un valor de 0.4 puntos.</li><li>• Debe registrar sus respuestas en <b>el lugar indicado para ello en bolígrafo azul o negro.</b></li><li>• <b>No escriba en los cuadros sombreados</b>, destinados a la calificación de la prueba.</li><li>• Escriba con letra clara y legible que no lleve a dobles interpretaciones.</li><li>• Las respuestas incorrectas <b>NO</b> penalizan.</li><li>• <b>Debe apagar su teléfono móvil</b> – que no podrá estar encima de la mesa – antes de que comience la prueba.</li><li>• <b>Duración de la prueba: 60 minutos.</b></li></ul>

## TEXT 1

Read the following text about the black colour and complete each blank with the best option from the box. Each word can be used only ONCE. There are **five extra words** that you will not need. *Item 0* is an example. Do not forget to write your answers in the boxes provided on the next page. (4 marks: 0.4 each)

AFTERLIFE	FADES	REACHES	SOIL
BARELY	HOWEVER	REVEAL	SOURCE
BREEDS	MISSES	SHADE	THRONE
EVENTUALLY	PARTY	SHADOW	<b><i>THROUGHOUT</i></b>

### BLACK

It has been associated with death and negativity (0) throughout history. But without black, you wouldn't be reading this.

Is black a colour? No, say scientists. In the visible spectrum, white reflects light and so is actually a presence of all colours. But black absorbs it, sucks it all in. True black is the absence of colour. Black is what happens when no light at all (1) \_\_\_\_\_ your eye. Except, of course, that we almost never see pure black. Unless you happen to have the misfortune to be gazing into a black hole, everything you perceive as black has some light, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ small, bouncing back at you.

For many cultures and societies, black and white have stood as opposites: white the positive, pure light, black its negative counterpart. From the Greeks, who sat the god of the underworld, Hades, on a black ebony (3) \_\_\_\_\_, to the Romans – death, in Roman poetry, was the *hora nigra*, or the black hour – black was not a friendly colour.

The association with death, with symbolic as well as literal darkness, with funerals and the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ is a common theme, from Nordic legends to European paintings, where the devil was often painted in deep black.

Most ancient cultures associated black with death. But while for the Greeks and Romans it was symbolically laden with all the worst things, for the ancient Egyptians this proved a more positive link. Black was the colour of the rich, alluvial (5) \_\_\_\_\_ watered by the Nile River that provided fertility and growth – the source of life itself.

In China, an inventor named Tien-Lcheu mixed soot from pinewood and lamp oils to create a dark pigment. In India, ink from burned bones, tar and other substances was used. But whatever its original (6) \_\_\_\_\_, without it, would anything be so legible? It is the extreme contrast between black ink and white that makes it clearest to read.

Black, surely, is the most flattering colour. Blue jeans might be iconic but black ones are so much more slimming – there is a reason why Chanel's little black dresses have proved so popular since the 1920s. It's also practical, rarely (7) \_\_\_\_\_ in modern fabrics and goes with everything – in fashion, black is not a negative but a neutral. In fact, it was the colour of choice for the chic and rich as far back as the 14th century, where rulers and courts began to wear the austere but elegant (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

Black was the top choice for a ship's cat and some fishermen's wives also kept black cats at home, for added luck. But why? After all, according to the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) there are 22 cat (9) \_\_\_\_\_ that can come with solid black coats so can they be that rare, and therefore special? It's a link back to ancient Egypt again – specifically to the cat goddess Bast. Egyptian households kept black cats in their households and looked after them in the hope of currying favour with the powerful goddess.

In 2014, a British company, Surrey NanoSystems, produced a material so black that it can (10) \_\_\_\_\_ be seen. This new material, named VantaBlack, absorbs all but 0.035% of visual light – a new world record for black. It is so dark, that it is impossible for the human eye to work out what it is actually seeing and shapes or folds in this material simply seem to disappear.

MARK

/4

ANSWERS		
0	THROUGHOUT	✓
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

## TEXT 2

Read the following text about polar bears, and choose the correct answer (a, b or c) according to the text. *Item 0* is an example. Do not forget to write your answers in the white boxes on the right. (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)

### THE TOWN THAT POLAR BEARS BUILT

Churchill, Manitoba, a town at the mercy of the Northern winds off Canada's Hudson Bay, might be just another dot on the map if not for its seasonal residents of the four-legged variety.

But like clockwork every fall, hundreds of polar bears trundle through town on their way to the freezing bay, where they will hunt for seals after the ice packs enough to support their weight. The animals have been associated with Churchill since at least 1619, when Norwegian explorer Jens Munk and his crew recorded making a meal of one while they wintered in the area. "It was of good taste and did not disagree with us," Munk wrote in his journal.

Over the years, the animals' presence has earned the town the distinction of "Polar Bear Capital of the World." In Smithsonian Channel's new series, "Polar Bear Town," Dennis Compayre and Kelsey Eliasson take viewers on a journey to meet the marine mammals that call the area home.

Compayre, a native of Churchill, has been taking photographers and filmmakers to see his bears for more than three decades now. Though he's become known as "the bear man," his relationship with the animals wasn't always so close. In fact, as a boy, polar bears absolutely terrified him. "We all have our bogeymen, and, of course, ours were polar bears," Compayre tells Smithsonian.com. "There was always a polar bear in the back of your mind somewhere, we played ball, we did everything else that other kids did, but there was always the specter of the polar bear around the next corner, around the next house."

Today, Churchill's bear population exceeds its human population – which is just 813. When Compayre was growing up, the town was 7,000-people strong and most of its residents were associated in one way or another with the joint Canada-United States military fort located five miles east of the town that ultimately shuttered in 1980.

Back then, there was no such thing as an organized tour group to see the bears. "The only tourists we got came up in the summertime, these weird guys with hats, bird watchers, and then we had the people come up to see the whales and the historic sites – but the bear tours, there was never a bear tour to speak of before Len," says Compayre.

Len is Len Smith, a local mechanic and a friend of Compayre, who built the first buggy to see the bears in 1979 at the request of Dan Gervitz – a man that had approached Smith to devise a form of transportation that would allow him to take groups safely out to Cape Churchill to see the bears. Smith's solution was "Buggy 1" and when he finished it, he asked Compayre to drive it. He agreed to serve as both driver and guide.

Those first buggies weren't perfect by any means. As Compayre puts it: "They're just cold, miserable pieces of machinery that broke down more often than not." When the business first started, visitors on the tour would be lucky if they saw 10 bears, at the most. "The bears were a bit nervous about us; they'd never seen us before. It was new ground for both of us, but it evolved after that," he says. Now on his tour, people can expect to see 20 or even 30 polar bears.

Today, some 10,000 tourists descend on the town for six weeks in autumn to see them every year. But the reasons they come are different than when Compayre first started. "Now things have changed, because the word is out that this Western Hudson Bay population of bears, Churchill Bears, are going to be the first population of polar bears to become extinct. So, I think now when the tourists come up, they all have a little bit of a lump in their throats because they're looking at a beautiful bear, but they're also looking at a doomed bear. Unfortunately, that's becoming part of the whole promotional aspect of the tours as well: 'Come and see the bears before it's too late.' "



0. Churchill

- a. **is a windy Canadian town.**
- b. *is known for its mild weather.*
- c. *often appears on Canadian maps.*

①

A



1. The bears come to the area of Churchill to

- a. be fed.
- b. live with other species.
- c. search for food.

①

2. Norwegian explorer Jens Munk

- a. also worked as a journalist.
- b. enjoyed the flavour of bear meat.
- c. recorded polar bears hunting methods.

②

3. After its bear occupation, Churchill has

- a. appeared on television.
- b. become the region's capital city.
- c. received a worldwide award.

③

4. "The bear man"

- a. hasn't always been keen on polar bears.
- b. moved to Churchill in his childhood.
- c. used to scare polar bears away.

④

5. Churchill's

- a. bears have always been the town's biggest attraction.
- b. population used to be much larger.
- c. residents serve in the army.

⑤

6. "Buggy 1" was built

- a. because Compayre asked his friend to do so.
- b. so that local drivers could be tour guides too.
- c. to make polar bear watching experiences safer.

⑥

7. When the first buggy tours started,

- a. the bears seemed threatening.
- b. these vehicles were not very reliable.
- c. tourists felt lucky to tour the bears' territory.

⑦

8. In this area,

- a. a good bear watching tour should last six weeks.
- b. polar bears may soon disappear.
- c. tourists are often impressed by the bears' beauty.

⑧

## TEXT 3

Read the following text about the Brits and the weather, and decide which of the options (A - J) is the most appropriate to fill in each gap. Each option can be used only ONCE. There are **two extra options** which do not match any gaps. *Item 0* is an example. Do not forget to write your answers in the white boxes on the next page. (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)

### WHY DO BRITS TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER SO MUCH?

More than nine in 10 Brits have talked about the weather in the last six hours. But is this unusual – and if so, is it their culture or the climate that makes them so obsessed?

According to recent research, 94% of British respondents admit to having conversed about the weather in the past six hours, while 38% say they have in the past 60 minutes. This means (0) B, at least a third of the population is either talking about the weather, has already done so or is about to do so.

So why do the British do it? Is there something about the nation's weather (1) \_\_\_\_\_? And do any other nationalities share this peculiar conversational trait?

Several features of Britain's geography make the weather the way it is: mild, changeable, and famously unpredictable. Britain's position at the edge of the Atlantic places it at the end of a storm track. Then there is the Gulf Stream, which makes the British climate milder than it should be, given its northern latitude, and the fact that the UK is made up of islands, (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Water in the atmosphere makes the weather particularly unpredictable.

The variability means residents never know quite what to expect. Snow in summer? T-shirts in winter? Recently, the hottest-ever November day was recorded in mid-Wales, with temperatures hitting a balmy 22.4C. "It's much more unpredictable than the climate of many countries," says Trevor Harley, (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

Today, almost all aspects of the weather are up for debate, although there are two major themes. One is speculation about – and a desire for – severe weather, such as a traditional white Christmas – never mind the fact the UK has only experienced a widespread Christmas snow four times in the past 51 years.

The other theme is nostalgia for the weather of the past. "In my memory, every summer's day in the 60s was hot and sunny with unbroken sunshine. In fact, this could only have been a few days in a few months; summers in the 60s were unusually cool and unsettled," Harley says.

Many of the day-to-day conversations British people initiate about the weather, however, are more mundane. Comments like "cold, isn't it?" (4) \_\_\_\_\_; a grunt of agreement will suffice. In some situations, weather talk is an icebreaker. In others it's used to fill awkward silences, or divert the conversation away from uncomfortable topics. Often, it's an excuse for a good old grumble, which can be a bonding experience in itself, but we can also use weather speak to gauge other people's moods. Depending on their response to your weather greeting, (5) \_\_\_\_\_, or is feeling grumpy and negative.

But there are certain unwritten rules that the British follow when conducting these weather-related conversations. Firstly, the topic will almost always be introduced as a form of question, even if only in the intonation (e.g., "Raining again?"). Secondly, the person answering must agree. (6) \_\_\_\_\_. "If someone says: 'Cold, isn't it?' and you say: 'Well actually, no,' the person would be a bit taken aback, and feel that that was a discourteous thing to say."

Of course, these kinds of purely social conversations also occur in other cultures. The Swiss and Finns, though, are not quite as obsessed. In Finland, for example, you can bond with people simply by sitting and drinking with them; you don't even have to talk much. When you do this in the depth of winter – where Helsinki has underground tunnels (7) \_\_\_\_\_ – what weather is there to talk about? Everyone knows it's only going to be ice and snow for up to four, five or sometimes six months, so why talk about it?

In Britain, on the other hand, we can be wrapped up against the elements on Saturday; picnicking in shorts and T-shirt on Sunday; and battling torrential rain on Monday. That's just the way it is here.

A. a code that has evolved to help us overcome human inhibitions

B. ~~at almost any moment in this country~~

C. choosing a safe and personally unobtrusive topic

D. don't even particularly demand a full response

E. failing to agree is quite a serious breach of etiquette

F. meaning there is a lot of moisture in the air

G. so the shops can still operate even in deep snow

H. that makes it worthy of discussion

I. who runs a website devoted to the British weather

J. you can tell if someone is in the mood for a chat

①	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
<b>B</b>							
✓							



# KEY

## COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

B2

MAYO 2022

### TEXT 1: BLACK (4 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	THROUGHOUT
1	REACHES
2	HOWEVER
3	THRONE
4	AFTERLIFE
5	SOIL
6	SOURCE
7	FADES
8	SHADE
9	BREEDS
10	BARELY

### TEXT 2: THE TOWN THAT POLAR BEARS BUILT (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	A
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	C
7	B
8	B

### TEXT 3: WHY DO BRITS TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER? (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	B
1	H
2	F
3	I
4	D
5	J
6	E
7	G