



La Rioja

EDUCACIÓN Y EMPLEO

ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DE LA RIOJA

PRUEBA DE CERTIFICACIÓN INGLÉS

MAYO 2024



Datos del candidato
Apellidos:
Nombre:

Calificación final

☐ Apto ☐ No Apto

PRUEBA DE COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

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

TEXT 1

Read the following text about tattoos 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 white boxes on the next page. (4 marks: 0.4 each)

APPARENTLY	FADING	LOOK	SLEEVE
BUMP	HANDS	OWNERSHIP	SPREADS
DIFFERENTLY	IMPOSSIBLE	PIERCING	WEIGHING
EXPECTED	INSTEAD	REDRAW	WISDOM

IS IT WRONG TO STEAL A TATTOO?

In 2014 my partner and I decided, after carefully (0) weighing the pros and cons, to be spontaneous and get tattoos. We were in London at the time. The tattoos would symbolise adventure. They were going to be a permanent reminder that we'd flown to London with no jobs – but plenty of optimism –.

My partner walked into a tattoo shop near Camden and picked out a small, minimalist sun from a laminated book. I jumped on Google (1) _____ and searched for something embarrassing and generic like “cool tattoos men”.

The third image that came up was a mountain design on some guy's forearm. Three peaks – the first a solid black pyramid, the second pale blue, and the third in greyscale, (2) _____ into the skin to indicate Himalayan perspective.

Later, I showed the picture to an intimidatingly cool tattoo artist in Shoreditch, who looked at it and said, “Yep, we can do that.” Two hours later I walked out with someone else's tattoo on my arm. A carbon copycat.

It took a short amount of time to (3) _____ into someone with my exact tattoo. Perhaps as little as 10 months. Within a few years I'd met another, a burger shop owner who didn't seem at all pleased when I rolled up my (4) _____, raised an eyebrow and said, “Google Images?”. In hindsight I should have waited until after he'd made my burger.

Extrapolating from my very small pool of human contacts, I calculate there must be hundreds, potentially thousands of people out there with this tattoo right now, like some sort of shadowy Freemason cult.

Strangers probably think we're the guardians of ancient, occult (5) _____, but all we have in common – apart from a peculiar arrangement of ink in our dermis – is an acute lack of originality.

“Look, it happens,” says Melbourne tattoo artist Avalon Todaro. “The second you put a tattoo on *Insta*, it's all over the web, and it's almost (6) _____ that it'll be copied somewhere. It happens every single day. But any reputable artist doesn't copy another artist's work.”

Avalon describes the process like this: tattoo artists or customers post their new ink online, often on *Instagram* where you can easily trace (7) _____ of the design. But eventually the tattoo bleeds on to sites like *Pinterest*, where it gets shared and reshared, then indexed by *Google Images*, where it lives forever with no real digital provenance.

The original artist is forgotten. People see the design, think it's cool, and take it to their local tattoo parlour. And so the tattoo (8) _____, like a virus, without the creator's knowledge.

Todaro says there's a fine line, so to speak, between theft and inspiration. “If a tattoo has been copied line for line, that's really disheartening, but there's nothing wrong with being inspired. People can show the design to their local tattooist, and either track down the original artist or (9) _____ the concept to make it unique.” She adds: “Ninety percent of the time, people are grateful that you're offering them something new, something special.”

Personally, I don't regret my tattoo, but I do regret the theft that brought it about. If I had my time again, I'd do things (10) _____. I'm a tattoo thief, and I'm not proud of it.



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

TEXT 2

Read the following text about the Nobel Banquet and choose the correct answer (a, b or c) according to the text. *Item 0* is an example. Write your answers in the white boxes on the right. (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)

THE NOBEL BANQUET

The Nobel Banquet, an annual celebration that recognizes the academic, cultural and scientific achievements of that year's respective Nobel Laureates, is a prestigious event held every December 10 that the general public will never get the honor to attend. Fortunately, that doesn't mean that the rest of us can't take part in some of the festivities experienced by Nobel Prize winners and their guests.

For the past 15 years, *Stadshuskällaren*, or City Hall Cellars — a Swedish restaurant in the basement of Stockholm's towering City Hall — has been serving every single menu served during the Nobel Banquet from 1922 to today. (The banquet itself is held inside City Hall's Blue Hall.) And with a reservation, diners can feast on the same multi-course menus as previous prize winners, from Sir Alexander Fleming, who won in 1945, to Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1964 to Mother Teresa in 1979. (They dined on reindeer, foie gras and veal, respectively.)

"The Nobel Banquet is a celebration that's known worldwide, so we thought it would be a good idea to let everyone have the opportunity to enjoy the menus and taste what it's like," says Maria Stridh, co-owner of *Stadshuskällaren*. "It's a fun thing to do. Often people will select a certain year that's important to them, such as the year that they were born or the year when someone from their country won the prize."

While Stridh says that no one particular year proves to be more popular amongst diners than another, she does confirm that there's often an uptick in requests to sample the menu from the previous year's Nobel Banquet. "Some of the earliest menus available have dishes that might not be quite so popular with guests today, like turtle soup," she says. "And some of the menus from the 1960s had chicken as an entrée, which is no longer considered a special occasion dish these days."

But despite the choice of ingredients, the team of chefs responsible for recreating the dishes are adamant about ensuring that they're as close in taste and appearance as they were the first time they were served. To make the experience as authentic as possible, the restaurant serves meals using gold-rimmed porcelain that are the same as the sets used during the banquet. Each meal can also come with wine pairings that are as close in flavor as those served for that specific year. "Some of the wines served over the years would be too expensive to serve today," she says, "so we try to find ones with the same character and grapes that are suitable flavor pairings to the food."

While replicating the meals can often prove challenging — for menus that are older than the previous year, Stridh requests that guests give the restaurant at least a week's notice before their reservation to ensure that the kitchen can gather all of the necessary ingredients. Because the restaurant also serves a regular dinner menu each night, there are two kitchens that handle meal service, one of which focuses on meals of the historic banquet menu. The kitchen accommodates any menu that was created for a banquet held between 1922 and today. (If you want to enjoy the same meal Albert Einstein did during his win, you're out of luck, since he received the prize in 1921.) Stridh estimates that 2,000 diners come to the restaurant each year to sample a meal off the historic menu selection. While single diners can partake in the most recent menu, she says that for older menus, parties must contain at least 10 people, and that in the past, the restaurant has accommodated parties of up to 80. The price for a multi-course meal varies depending on the year, but the 2018 menu, which is the most affordable option, is about 1,795 krona (approximately \$200).

Creating a new menu each year for the banquet is an undertaking in and of itself. The task takes about a year of preparation and involves a team of consulting chefs who work closely with Stridh and her staff along with members of the Nobel Foundation. Chef Fredrik Eriksson has been working with the Nobel Foundation for the last 15 years to design the menus for the Nobel Banquet. The process is extensive and involves multiple revisions and several formal tastings. Not only does he and his team have to create a multi-course meal that will serve more than 1,000 guests during a single meal service, but he also has to take into consideration dietary restrictions and the availability of ingredients, since the kitchen designs the menu during the spring but has to keep in mind what produce will be available during the colder months when the banquet takes place.

0. *It is impossible for ordinary citizens to*

- a. *be a Nobel prize candidate.*
- b. *go to the Nobel Banquet.***
- c. *meet the Nobel Prize winners.*

①

B

✓

1. *Stadshuskällaren*

- a. has a blue room where the Nobel Banquet is held.
- b. has taken care of the Nobel Banquet since 1992.
- c. is located below the ground level of a public building.

①

2. *It is common for Stadshuskällaren diners to*

- a. choose a year with a special meaning for them.
- b. go there on a special date or occasion.
- c. order exotic meat and foie gras dishes.

②

3. *Maria Stridh believes that*

- a. chicken should not be served as an entrée.
- b. food trends have changed over the years.
- c. some old menus are more popular than others.

③

4. *In order to avoid a higher price for the meal, the*

- a. choice of products is made by a group of local chefs.
- b. original plates from the Nobel Banquet are reused.
- c. wine may vary from the one on the original menu.

④

5. *Making the menus again in exactly the same way*

- a. is not always an easy task.
- b. often takes over a week.
- c. requires buying fresh products.

⑤

6. *The restaurant has two different kitchens*

- a. and one of them is used to cook ordinary dinners.
- b. to be able to prepare the menu for the Nobel Banquet.
- c. to cope with the high demand of customers.

⑥

7. *Guests*

- a. can order any menu if they belong to a party of ten people.
- b. may eat the same food that Albert Einstein did.
- c. have to share the latest menu with at least ten more people.

⑦

8. *Preparing the menu for the banquet can be difficult because*

- a. certain guests might prefer low-calorie meals.
- b. it needs to be fully revised before the formal tastings.
- c. some necessary ingredients might be seasonal.

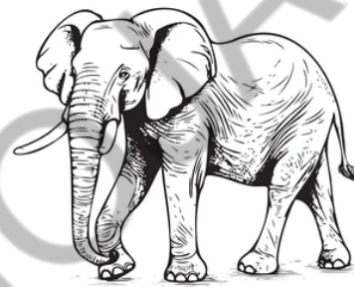
⑧

TEXT 3

Read the following article about elephants 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)

WHITE ELEPHANTS

Records of white elephants in Asia (0) B. Such individuals are not only exceptionally rare, but also very highly prized, and they were traditionally considered to be sacred in countries such as Thailand, being (1) _____. Indeed, those rulers lucky enough to possess a white elephant often featured it in their title, as in the case of the Burmese ruler called Hsinbyushin, whose name translates as Lord of the White Elephant.



In spite of their name, (2) _____, as the circus entrepreneur P. T. Barnum discovered to his cost, having purchased a white elephant in 1884 from the King of Burma at great expense. Unfortunately, she was only partly pale in colour. When she arrived on a boat with her handler, (3) _____ more pinkish than white. This is because although the dark melanin pigment is not present in the skin of white individuals, the blood vessels here just below the surface create a pinkish colour.

There was great excitement when Sri Lanka's first white elephant was confirmed in 2004. Various rumours of sightings in the area of the Yala National Park, in the southeast of the country, had previously surfaced. Extending back to 1993, these are now thought to have related to this particular individual. She was first spotted as a newborn calf in that year, but her herd proved to be very shy, (4) _____, only emerging from cover as darkness fell, so it was very difficult to track her progress. It was to be three years before there was another recorded sighting of her. She became known as 'Sudu Aliya', with this name meaning 'white elephant' in the Sinhalese language. There was a good sighting of her in 2004. It was clear that (5) _____, her skin was tan in colour, and her tail was blackish, which confirmed that she was not a pure albino, as she possessed some melanin pigment. Subsequent sightings have been made over the years, but it appears that unfortunately, *Sudu Aliya* has not produced any calves yet. The likelihood is that they would not be white in colour. Only if she mates successfully with a bull elephant who has the same gene is there a possibility of her (6) _____.

The modern English meaning of 'white elephant' refers to an expensive item that has failed to live up to expectations – and its origins date back well before the case of Toung Taloung. This was (7) _____ – but white elephants were considered too valuable to work, yet keeping them was very expensive!

A. because elephants were kept for working purposes in Asia

~~B. date back many centuries~~

C. giving birth to another white elephant like herself

D. one of the most abundant species on Earth

E. regarded as bringing peace and prosperity to a kingdom

F. remaining hidden in forest out of sight

G. the pale areas of her body were also

H. they realised that she had never been

I. while the hair on her body was mostly white

J. white elephants are not always pure white in colour

⑩	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
B							
✓							



KEY

COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

B2

MAYO 2024

TEXT 1: IS IT WRONG TO STEAL A TATTOO? (4 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	WEIGHING
1	INSTEAD
2	FADING
3	BUMP
4	SLEEVE
5	WISDOM
6	EXPECTED
7	OWNERSHIP
8	SPREADS
9	REDRAW
10	DIFFERENTLY

TEXT 2: THE NOBEL BANQUET (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)

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

TEXT 3: WHITE ELEPHANTS (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	B
1	E
2	J
3	G
4	F
5	I
6	C
7	A