

TEXT 1

Read the following text carefully and complete each blank with the best option from the box. Each option can be used only ONCE. There are **five extra options** that you will not need. *Item 0* is an example. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. (3 points: 0.3 each)

AVERAGE	GARBAGE	PLAYING	RUN-DOWN
CAMERA	HANGING	PRIDE	SHOTS
CAVE	KICKS OFF	RECKONS	STREAMS
CEASES	MADE-UP	RELEASING	WOODEN

SIGUR RÓS - HEIMA

Sigur Rós has always been known as an unclassifiable band. From publishing an album in a (0) **made up** language to the use of the bow to create ambient soundscapes on an electric guitar, the music of Sigur Rós is truly unique and one-of-a-kind. Sigur Rós is also well-known for (1) _____ beautiful music videos. So when I heard that Sigur Rós was going to bring out a documentary, *Heima* (meaning "home" in Icelandic), about all the free shows they gave in Iceland last summer, I was rather excited.

I am not usually a big fan of DVDs put out by artists. I don't enjoy listening to why the artist (2) _____ they are cool and why we, as a fan base, should think they are cool. In contrast, while there are interviews with the band on *Heima*, Sigur Rós comes off as lively people who feel (3) _____ about their homeland.

The documentary (4) _____ with an introduction where it shows Sigur Rós T-shirts being made. The colors are vibrant and the mood is ethereal. In between those images of T-shirt making come pictures of a stage with a semi-transparent sheet in front of it. As Sigur Rós starts playing *Glosoli*, the lights dim and flood lights shine from behind the band to create shadows on the sheet (5) _____ in front of the stage. A data projector projects unfocused images and colors onto the front of the sheet with a heavenly effect. As the song plays, videos of crystal clear (6) _____ and rivers all throughout Iceland are interposed. Halfway through the song, the video is played backwards and a haunting waterfall starts to catch the water it had long thrown away. The mixture of live performance and bird's-eye (7) _____ of nature is truly breathtaking.

The first two songs set a high bar for the songs that follow and yet, each new song brings with it visually stunning views of Iceland. The beauty in this disc is that the video taken of Iceland is mainly of things that are either (8) _____ looking, or decrepit and decaying. Some of the songs are played in intimate settings where the camera spends most of the time looking at the expressions on the faces of the audience as opposed to watching the band.

In the video of the song *Se Lest*, Sigur Ros uses very (9) _____ objects for their visuals, such as a rusted tractor and an abandoned factory. However, the tractor and factory are used to portray the haunting and subtle music of the song. In addition, the band put on a free concert at an abandoned fish factory that has a giant rusting ship beached right outside. Yet with the soundscapes of Sigur Rós, the factories giant catacombs turn into a warm and welcoming (10) _____.

Heima is vibrant and is filled with pictures from Iceland. The images of Iceland are lush, rich, and beautiful as the compositions. This DVD is truly a masterpiece.

Adapted from © sputnikmusic.com

TEXT 2

Read the following text carefully and choose the correct answer (a, b or c) according to the text. *Question 0* is an example. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. (3.5 points: 0.5 each)

MISS SUBWAYS

They may not have become as famous as "Miss America", but in New York City "Miss Subways" were local legends. A new exhibit celebrates the competition and looks at the women that became the faces of New York City's underground system. The beauty queens had their faces plastered all over subway cars. The competition ran from 1941 to 1976 and each month a winner was chosen by subway riders. And while the contest began as a way to get people to notice other advertisements on trains, it quickly became a staple of culture.

Winners were usually chosen by telephone-based voting, from among a group of contenders whose photos were all placed on the subways; the nominees were chosen by a modeling agency. To be eligible, a woman had to be a New York City resident and be herself a subway commuter. Winners' photos and biographies were displayed in trains throughout the city, and the publicity often led to work in radio and television.

In the 1940s, African-American advocacy groups pressured the modeling agency in charge of selecting winners to integrate the contest, finally succeeding near the end of the decade with Thelma Porter. As the first black "Miss Subways", she was celebrated on the cover of *Crisis Magazine*. In 1949, Helen Lee became the first Asian-American winner.

Photographer Fiona Gardner is behind the exhibition. She spent the last five years tracking down the women in the posters and traveled across the U.S. to photograph 41 Miss Subways. The result is a new book titled *Meet Miss Subways: New York's Beauty Queens 1941-1976*, which features the images on display at the exhibit. The project gives the women a new platform for their perspectives on their beauty queen days and the years in between. Gardner said it is the realistic representation of life in New York that she thinks makes the beauty contest an important piece of history. "A lot of them had multiple careers, actually, and had to juggle things like having a family and working outside the home. These are all things that all of us women in our 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, women in America are all dealing with. I think "Miss Subways" gives a lot of insight into those questions that all of us experience today."

Gardner learned about the competition after seeing posters on the walls of Ellen's Stardust Diner in New York City. Owner Ellen Sturm was "Miss Subways" in 1959, when she was 17 years old. Sturm said the competition changed her life. Sturm claims that after 35 years the competition came to an end when graffiti started to blanket trains on the subway system.

In 2004, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority brought back the program, now named "Ms. Subways", for one year only. A voting contest was held to determine the winner, Caroline Sanchez-Bernat, an actress who played a role in *Sunday Brunch 4*. The 35-minute piece of performance art was a full enactment of a Sunday brunch performed aboard a southbound train. With subway riders looking on, the actors chatted amiably about New York current affairs.

Adapted from © I.T.



0. New York city "Miss Subways" was
 - a. a local quiz.
 - ✓ b. **an underground contest.**
 - c. part of Miss America.

1. "Miss Subways" competition first wanted to
 - a. become a cultural icon.
 - b. highlight underground announcements.
 - c. make ads on carriages controversial.

2. To be a nominee, women had to
 - a. have modeling experience.
 - b. make use of the New York underground.
 - c. work on radio and TV shows.

3. In the late 1940s
 - a. African-American groups started their own contest.
 - b. "Miss Subways" launched a magazine.
 - c. women from ethnic minorities became "Miss Subways".

4. Fiona Gardner
 - a. has searched for "Miss Subways" nationwide.
 - b. has written a book on the history of beauty contests.
 - c. is exhibiting the pictures at a subway platform.

5. According to Gardner, "Miss Subways" had to
 - a. deal with the same problems in the early 20th century.
 - b. face the same problems as present women.
 - c. leave behind their jobs to pursue modeling careers.

6. Ellen Sturm
 - a. blames it on graffiti for the end of the contest.
 - b. first knew about the contest in an eatery.
 - c. witnessed how trains were plastered with photos.

7. In 2004
 - a. "Ms. Subways" was a live TV show on Sundays.
 - b. some voters took part in a performance.
 - c. the photographs were replaced by a live performance.

TEXT 3

Read the following text carefully and decide which of the options below is the most appropriate to fill in each gap. Each option can be used only ONCE. Notice that all the phrases to be inserted are in lower case in spite of their position in the sentence. There are **three extra options** which do not match any gap. *Item 0* is an example. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the answer sheet. (3.5 points: 0.5 each)

DOUGHNUTS

In the mid-1990s, I visited Las Vegas for the first time. I was there for an Internet conference and a friend of mine, who had been there many times, took it upon himself (0) I and make sure I got the complete Las Vegas experience. We walked down the Strip, taking in the obligatory pirate show, erupting volcano, and other spectacles. But there was one sight I had never heard of that (1) _____: the *Krispy Kreme Doughnuts* shop in the Excalibur hotel.

At that time, *Krispy Kreme* hadn't expanded to become the phenomenon it is today. The only commercial doughnut shop chain I had ever known was *Dunkin' Donuts*. But *Krispy Kreme* was definitely something special. For one thing, (2) _____; a window ran along the side of the shop where the line formed. I was fascinated by the mechanism that flipped the doughnuts over in the oil when they were half-cooked, and watched in awe as they passed through a curtain of glaze. Although doughnuts are such a simple food, I felt I was watching something magical. (3) _____ even more impressed. I had never known what a fresh, hot doughnut was like; the difference from what I had experienced before is like that of fresh bread hot from the oven compared to week-old supermarket bread. It was light, soft, perfectly sweet, delicious. I couldn't understand why *Krispy Kreme* hadn't taken over the world yet; of course, it was only to be a matter of time.

Doughnuts as we know them today originated in the mid-1800s. Their predecessor was the *olykoek* (oil cake), (4) _____ by frying the leftover bits of bread dough in hot oil. Exactly how the name "doughnut" came to be used is the subject of some disagreement. According to some sources, the Dutch twisted their dough into knots, hence "dough knots". Others point out that the *olykoeken* (5) _____, so some makers would put nuts in the center ("dough-nuts") to make them more pleasant.

The uncooked centers seem to have been the reason behind the hole. According to several widely diverging accounts, the doughnut hole was the invention of a sea captain named Mason Crockett Gregory around 1847. Gregory's mother made *olykoeken* and sent them with her son on his journeys to sea. The least likely but most colorful version of the story, (6) _____, is that Gregory needed a place to put his *olykoek* while he steered the boat, so he impaled it on one of the spokes of the steering wheel. Other sources say that he simply didn't like the uncooked centers and poked them out.

Whatever Gregory's real reason for adding the hole, it had the beneficial effect of (7) _____, and the idea quickly caught on.

Adapted from © itod

- A. a treat that Dutch immigrants made
- B. and therefore the one I like best
- C. came up with this brilliant idea
- D. gently removed from the center
- E. making doughnuts much chewier
- F. making the doughnuts cook more evenly
- G. tended not to cook through in the very middle
- H. then I tasted one and was
- I. ~~to show me all the standard tourist sites~~
- J. visitors could watch the doughnuts being made
- K. was later to become a regular pilgrimage for me



Apellidos: _____

Nombre: _____

NIVEL AVANZADO 2

PRUEBA DE CERTIFICACIÓN

Alumno: ☐ Oficial Presencial

☐ Libre

PRUEBA DE COMPRENSIÓN ESCRITA

CALIFICACIÓN FINAL:

☐ Apto

☐ No Apto

READING SKILL (10 POINTS)

TEXT 1: SIGUR RÓS - HEIMA (3 points)

	ANSWERS
0	MADE UP
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

TEXT 2: MISS SUBWAYS (3.5 points)

	A	B	C
0		X	
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

TEXT 3: DOUGHNUTS (3.5 points)

	ANSWERS
0	I
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	



KEY
READING SKILL
AVANZADO 2

TEXT 1: SIGUR RÓS - HEIMA (3 points: 0.3 each)

	ANSWERS
0	MADE UP
1	RELEASING
2	RECKONS
3	PRIDE
4	KICKS OFF
5	HANGING
6	STREAMS
7	SHOTS
8	AVERAGE
9	RUN-DOWN
10	CAVE

TEXT 2: MISS SUBWAYS (3.5 points: 0.5 each)

	A	B	C
0		X	
1		X	
2		X	
3			X
4	X		
5		X	
6	X		
7			X

TEXT 3: DOUGHNUTS (3.5 points: 0.5 each)

	ANSWERS
0	I
1	K
2	J
3	H
4	A
5	G
6	B
7	F



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