



Junta de Andalucía

Consejería de Desarrollo Educativo y Formación Profesional

Pruebas Específicas de Certificación 2023/2024

Comprensión de Textos Escritos

Cuadernillo de respuestas

NIVEL C1 | INGLÉS

Apellidos:

Nombre:

☐ Alumno/a OFICIAL del grupo:

Indica el nombre de tu profesor/a-tutor/a:

☐ Alumno/a LIBRE.

INSTRUCCIONES

- Duración máxima: 75 minutos.
- Esta prueba consta de tres tareas:
 - En la Tarea 1 tendrás que identificar las ideas generales del texto.
 - En la Tarea 2 tendrás que entender las ideas principales del texto.
 - En la Tarea 3 tendrás que comprender los detalles importantes de un texto.
- En cada tarea obtendrás: 1 punto por cada respuesta correcta; 0 puntos por cada respuesta incorrecta o no dada.
- Solo se admitirán respuestas escritas con bolígrafo azul o negro.
- Por favor, no escribas en los espacios sombreados destinados a la calificación de las tareas.

PUNTUACIÓN

/ 26

NOTA FINAL

/ 10

CALIFICACIÓN

☐ Superado

☐ No Superado



TASK 1

THE NEUROSCIENCE OF MAGIC

You are going to read six extracts from the book *The illusionist brain*. Match the extracts (1-6) with the most suitable headings (A-H). Question 0 is an example. There is ONE heading that you MUST NOT use so you MUST leave one gap blank (for each EXTRA heading which you use, ONE POINT WILL BE SUBTRACTED from the total of 6 points). You will get one point per correct answer.

ANSWER		
A. THE EXTERNAL LIFE OF A MAGIC EFFECT (EXAMPLE)	0	✓
B. THE SUBTLE ART OF MISDIRECTION		
C. ARTFUL CONCEALMENT IN MAGIC		
D. NAVIGATING NEURAL EFFICIENCY		
E. PRECISION IN ILLUSION CRAFTING		
F. DETECTING CONTRAST AND CLARITY		
G. THE PREDICTIVE BRAIN AND PERCEPTION		
H. AN EYE FOR AN EYE, A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH		
MARK		/ 6



TASK 2

ELAGABALUS, HISTORIANS DIVIDED OVER 'TRANS' EMPEROR

Read the article about the Roman emperor Elagabalus in which some sentences have been removed. Match the extracts in the box below (A-L) with the most suitable option in the text (1-10). There is ONE sentence that you MUST NOT use so you MUST leave one gap blank (for each EXTRA sentence which you use, ONE POINT WILL BE SUBTRACTED from the total of 10 points). Question 0 is an example. You will get one point per correct answer.

ANSWER		
A. or release lions or bears to roam among his guests (EXAMPLE)	0	✓
B. is something we reflect when discussing her in contemporary times		
C. who have been expected to be good at being a man or being a woman		
D. that all look male, that portray him with male facial hair, male features and in garments		
E. when it was reported that North Hertfordshire Museum in Hitchin		
F. their first recorded use in western history		
G. who has claimed not to have found any real evidence		
H. is unbelievably close to correcting someone's pronouns		
I. which opens with a lengthy discussion of the "tall stories" told about Elagabalus		
J. who wanted to win the favour of Elagabalus's successor		
K. which shows that this isn't a new concept.		
L. was also said to have openly flouted contemporary gender roles		
MARK		/ 10



TASK 3

HOW TO HANDLE HANGXIETY

Read the text “How to handle Hangxiety”. For questions, 1 to 10, choose the most appropriate answer (A, B or C). Number 0 is an example. You will get 1 point per correct answer.

	ANSWER	
0. Hangxiety... A ... <i>brings several symptoms together.</i> B ... <i>is the result of soberness.</i> C ... <i>is an exorbitant experience.</i>	A	✓
1. Hangxiety is... A ... much less grave than we could expect it to be. B ... overexaggerated to raise awareness. C ... not paid serious attention to as a rule.		
2. According to the text, hangxiety is often treated in social conversation... A ... as a serious mental health issue. B ... as an inevitable and humorous part of socializing. C ... as a rare and uncommon condition.		
3. Hangxiety can have the worst effects on... A ... the vast majority of the population. B ... more than 12% of the people. C ... those who already have mental problems.		
4. One of the main chemical changes in the brain that contributes to hangxiety is... A ... the increase in dopamine and serotonin levels. B ... the reduction in GABA and increase in glutamate. C ... the increase in adrenaline and cortisol levels.		
5. According to the text... A ... alcohol makes you feel more relaxed after it wears off. B ... having a genetic predisposition might diminish some negative symptoms. C ... your personal problems will linger after alcohol abuse.		
6. Among the hangover effects, we can mention... A ... the unattainability of some duties and sleep deprivation. B ... high liveliness concerning attention-seeking. C ... hallucinations or a feeling of suffocation as in sleep paralysis.		
7. One of the first tips given encourages the person to... A ... go into a downward spiral. B ... reflection. C ... some sport activity.		
8. A good way to reduce anxiety could be... A ... to cast doubts on what it really happened. B ... to gather data to double-check. C ... to list your fears and overlook extra help.		
9. According to the experts, it is of paramount importance... A ... to evaluate how we spend our spare time. B ... to alternate social drinking with solo activities. C ... to seize the moment but being aware of our track record.		
10. The NHS recommends... A ... drinking alone to avoid peer pressure. B ... using an app to set targets. C ... avoiding taking any money with you.		
MARK	/ 10	



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TASK 1

THE NEUROSCIENCE OF MAGIC

[0] A (EXAMPLE)

Any magic trick or effect has a narrative structure and a resolution or climax; in other words, it is a kind of expository presentation that ends with an impossible outcome. A magic trick can have more than one effect, however, so routines typically go through a set of consecutive effects or tricks.

The type of climax at the end of the effect of interest to us here is the illusion of impossibility. Our focus is thus on the magic effect that has an impossible outcome and lasts for some seconds or even minutes.

Magic tricks have a double reality. Following the ideas of the magician Arturo de Ascanio, we can distinguish between what the audience sees, and its "internal life," that is, the secret actions that make the whole effect possible.

[1] _____

Brain networks are characterized by the presence of physical bottlenecks —that is, regions in which the information elaborated and processed by many neurons is transmitted much more sparsely by a significantly smaller number of cells, to later be amplified again in the subsequent stages of processing, saving physical space and metabolic cost. To manage visual information, the visual system of the brain encounters a series of such physical bottlenecks, beginning when information received in the retina from the outside passes to the brain through the very narrow optic nerve.

Bottlenecks require the filtering out and discarding of a lot of information, a process that generates successive phases of compression and decompression as the image travels through the brain.

[2] _____

We have already noted that the retina prioritizes those points in space where the light changes in intensity. To do this, it uses two types of detector neurons called "on" and "off." "On" neurons detect local changes from less luminance to more luminance. Their preferred stimuli are those areas that go from dark to light. When the brightness is evenly distributed, these cells simply do not respond, and the retina sends no signal to the brain. "Off" neurons behave in a complementary manner, detecting local changes from more luminance to less luminance. The two "on" and "off" circuits inhibit each other: when one is active, the other is suppressed, further increasing the sense of contrast and the quality of the image, and thus restoring its sharpness.

Similarly, other areas of the brain have neurons that have specialized in detecting local changes in various aspects of an image, such as color, size, shape, and movement, and even attributes at a higher cognitive level, such as identification of objects.

[3] _____

The inability to process all incoming information in real time has made our brains behave like extraordinary machines capable of predicting events with a high degree of reliability based on our experiences. For this reason, when what is observed concludes as predicted, adult spectators relax their attention and discard anything supposedly superfluous. In magic, the artists try to carry out their maneuvers in a logic of "normality" that makes everything predictable, because "what matters is what the spectator feels, not what he sees." On the contrary, if the predictions are not fulfilled, alarms go off immediately; the brain then needs more time to process the data, and there is a risk that its attention

will be focused on the failure of the predictions. Such a disruption is fatal, because “if the audience feels compelled to analyze why you did something, you’ve already lost the battle.

[4] _____

In magic, nothing is subject to improvisation, even if it seems so. Magicians create opportunities that may seem fortuitous to us, but these apparently improvised opportunities are the result of many previous trials. At the same time, thanks to their resources and experience in this kind of situation, magicians also know how to take advantage of opportunities that may arise casually. What are the qualities on which a trick’s presentation relies?

First, clarity is fundamental: the trick must be presented in a clear, simple, and understandable way. Everything the magician explains and does must be received as natural. Let’s take an example: In rope magic, magicians strive to tie the knots as anyone normally would. Not only must the method and the handling of the materials be totally unnoticed, but the rhythm of the exposition and the “timing” and execution of the maneuvers must also be appropriate. Any mismatch in the timing of the movements, for example, would arouse suspicion.

[5] _____

Magic makes use of concealment almost continuously, and it has learned to do so in many ways, not only with the help of various gadgets and gimmicks but also sometimes by resorting to new materials or to other sciences, like optics, and even by using auditory masks, such as a certain timely bit of music or an appropriate noise to cover up the sound made by a secret gadget. The simplest examples of concealment are those based on camouflage, which reduce to zero the contrast of objects with the background and render them invisible —as in black light theater, or when magicians use cards with a black back on a black mat. Another effective way to manipulate what the audiences perceive is to use optical illusions.

[6] _____

Sometimes magicians take advantage of a justified maneuver, or of a certain maneuver that has its own logic, to make a secret move. We are referring to such as taking a pen from your pocket to write with and taking advantage of this maneuver to carry a coin. As the American magician Al Baker puts it, “Actions that appear necessary but unimportant are only half-noticed and soon forgotten. Actions that are unnecessary arouse suspicion.” Necessary, seemingly unimportant maneuvers profit from the fact that we make unconscious inferences about the logic of a movement or an act, and these inferences nullify any conscious deliberation about the action’s motives.

Source: Cami J. & Martínez L.M. The Neuroscience of Magic: The illusionist brain



TASK 2

ELAGABALUS, HISTORIANS DIVIDED OVER 'TRANS' EMPEROR

There are legendary dinner parties, and then there are the tales about those thrown by the Roman emperor Elagabalus. The teenage ruler, who managed four years as emperor before being assassinated aged 18 in AD222, would serve bizarre dishes such as camels' heels or flamingoes' brains to guests, stage themed nights when all the food was blue or green, [0] A (EXAMPLE).

On one occasion, according to a Roman historian, those present at a dinner were suffocated to death under an enormous quantity of rose petals; another saw guests seated on slowly deflating whoopee cushions – [1] _____.

But did he really do all those things? Or perhaps we should be asking – did she? The obscure young emperor made headlines this week [2] _____ has changed the pronouns it uses with reference to a coin of Elagabalus in its collection and would now refer to the emperor as a trans woman using "she" and "her"

As well as throwing wild parties, Elagabalus [3] _____. The emperor is said to have also dressed as a female sex worker, "married" a male slave and acted as his "wife", asked to be referred to as "lady" rather than "lord" and even, according to one account, begged to have a surgical vagina made by a physician.

The stories led Keith Hoskins, executive member for arts at the North Herts council, to assert in a statement: "Elagabalus most definitely preferred the "she" pronoun, and as such this [4] _____ ... It is only respectful. We know Elagabalus identified as a woman and was explicit about which pronouns to use, [5] _____."

But do we know that? Thanks to a growing awareness of more complex ideas of gender in history, and a desire to reject historical prejudices, Elagabalus has been reclaimed in recent decades as a gender queer icon.

But many historians disagree that the evidence is as unambiguous as the museum asserts. Mary Beard, formerly professor of classics at Cambridge University, directed followers on X to her latest book, titled Emperor of Rome, [6] _____. The accounts told of sexual unconventionality (and of extravagant cruelty) largely originated with hostile historians [7] _____, she says. "How seriously should we treat them? Not very is the usual answer," Beard writes.

The Romans may not have shared current understandings of trans identity, but several of the contested accounts about Elagabalus feel remarkably modern, points out Zachary Herz, assistant professor of classics at the University of Colorado.

Asserting that Elagabalus requested female pronouns is an "astonishingly close translation" of a story written by the third century historian Cassius Dio, says Herz. "Elagabalus is saying, don't call me this word that ends in the masculine ending, call me this word that ends in the feminine. So, it [8] _____." The problem, as he sees it, is "I just don't think it really happened". "The biographies" written under Elagabalus's successor are "basically fictional", he says.

Martijn Icks, a lecturer in classics at the University of Amsterdam, agrees. The same "effeminacy narrative" that has made Elagabalus a queer icon "was meant to character assassinate the emperor", he says, adding that other so-called "bad emperors" including Nero and Caligula had very similar profiling. "We don't know what Elagabalus was like," says Icks. "We don't know how Elagabalus saw himself. But we



have portraits and coins [9] _____ that would have been understood as male within Elagabalus's culture – including the coin the museum has in its display."

While "there is a long history of people [10] _____ and have had a hard time with that," says Herz. "I worry that when we tell our students they should care about Elagabalus because she's trans or because they're nonbinary – because they fit a modern category that our students use for themselves – we're depriving them of the richness of history."

Source: *The Guardian* – 25th Nov. 2023

TASK 3

HOW TO HANDLE HANGXIETY

Feelings of guilt, shame, paranoia, jitteriness, and low mood – *hangxiety* is an unpleasant experience that can accompany the traditional symptoms of a hangover. So, how can you begin to address it?

Hangovers are often talked about as an inevitable symptom of a great night out, or a rite of passage in the world of socialising. The conversation around them tends to be lighthearted – think of the laughs the classic 'wearing sunglasses inside' trope gets in TV shows and films. But perhaps we need to spend more time talking about another side of the experience: *hangxiety*.

It's a catchy term, but the experience of anxiety is anything but enjoyable. It refers to psychological symptoms, such as anxiety and depression, that appear the morning after drinking. Although it may be worse in those with existing mental health problems, *hangxiety* can affect anyone – in fact, a study published in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, estimates it impacts around 12% of people. In addition to a general sense of anxiety and low mood, *hangxiety* may also manifest in feelings of guilt, shame, or regret, paranoid feelings, irritability, jitteriness, or feelings of dread.

So, why does this happen? One cause has to do with the source: alcohol. When we've had a few drinks, we can become flooded with warm and calm feelings that make us feel relaxed. The problem is those feelings are short-lived. As the alcohol wears off, and your brain works hard to strike its normal chemical balance, it reduces the brain's GABA (a chemical made in the brain which causes relaxed feelings) and increases glutamate, which can cause those anxious feelings. But, beyond what's happening on a chemical level, there are several other factors at play.

"People drink alcohol for all sorts of different reasons, but we often drink to feel relaxed and to lower our inhibitions," says counsellor Georgina Sturmer. "The downside to this is that when the alcohol wears off, we are left feeling all of the same things that we felt before. So, if we're prone to anxiety, then we'll find that it's still there – even if we have temporarily forgotten our fears and worries. And there might be an added layer of embarrassment, guilt, or anger, based on what happened, or what we did, while we were drinking."

In addition, some of the classic symptoms of a hangover, including dehydration and a lack of sleep, can also contribute to anxious feelings. Plus, a study, published in the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, found that hangovers can significantly lower our alertness, and lead to higher levels of mental fatigue and anxiety when the study's participants were asked to complete a multitasking framework.



All this considered, there's a lot to contend with. So, what's the best way to navigate these feelings?

Dealing with *hangxiety*

If all this sounds familiar, Georgina has some tips for dealing with *hangxiety* when it strikes:

- Understanding. The first step is to understand what's going on. You might be overwhelmed by the combination of your physical hangover and your feelings of anxiety. Take stock and acknowledge that your hangover, and the accompanying physical symptoms, are likely to be exacerbating your anxiety. Notice if you're spiralling into negative thoughts or catastrophising.
- Tackling the hangover. Then consider what you need to do in order to tackle the hangover itself. This might involve sleep, water, food, fresh air, or whatever helps you to alleviate that hangover feeling.
- Coping with the anxiety. Different approaches work for different people. It might be helpful for you to unpick exactly what your anxiety stems from. Is it related to the events the night before? If so, it might be worth talking it through with someone else who was there, to gain some perspective and avoid catastrophising. Or perhaps it's an underlying feeling that often follows you. If this is the case, then I'd suggest seeking some professional support to help you to look at the root cause of your anxiety, and to offer you coping strategies.

According to charity Drinkaware, 'unwanted physical or mental effects from drinking' makes the list of signs to watch out for when assessing your relationship with alcohol. Other things to consider include 'giving increasing priority to alcohol', or 'impaired control over alcohol use' (for example, not being able to control how long a drinking session may be, or drinking more than you intend to, or in inappropriate settings).

"Accountability often helps, so you might want to share your goals with other people," suggests Georgina, when considering advice for those who wish to cut back on drinking. "Consider alternative options for socialising, so that it doesn't always feel as if having fun has to be accompanied by alcohol. And notice how much better you feel when you don't drink, or when you drink less. This can provide you with the 'evidence' or motivation that you might need in order to continue."

The NHS also recommends using the Drink Free Days app, to set yourself a weekly unit target and to stick to it. You could also set a budget for alcohol and try only withdrawing the exact cash you need for a couple of drinks, to control your spending if you're out. Switching to drinks with lower alcohol levels (such as around 6 medium glasses of wine or six pints of beer), how each of us reacts to alcohol will differ drastically – and you may still experience the symptoms of *hangxiety* with drinking within the recommended limits, so the key thing is to assess your individual relationship.

Taking back control

Changing your drinking habits can be a real challenge. We face a lot of messaging from mass culture about what it means to have fun and be social, and we can also feel a lot of pressure from the people in our lives. But if you are experiencing *hangxiety* and are finding that it is impacting your life in a negative or destructive way, it may be time to take back control. But you don't have to do it alone. Apps, online forums, your GP, and mental health professionals can offer support and guidance to help you put a cork in *hangxiety*.

Source: *Happiful*, Issue 80, 2023