



ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

# PRUEBA ESPECÍFICA DE CERTIFICACIÓN DE NIVEL AVANZADO C1 DE INGLÉS. CONVOCATORIA 2021

Comisión de Evaluación de la EOI de

## COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

Calificación	/10 puntos
N.º de respuestas correctas:	/25

Apellidos: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_  
DNI/NIE: \_\_\_\_\_

### LEA LAS SIGUIENTES INSTRUCCIONES

A continuación va a realizar una prueba que contiene **tres ejercicios de comprensión de textos escritos**. Los ejercicios tienen la siguiente estructura: se presentan unos textos y se especifican unas tareas que deberá realizar en relación a dichos textos. Las tareas o preguntas serán del siguiente tipo:

- **Opción múltiple: frases incompletas**, seguidas de una serie de frases que las completan. En este caso deberá **elegir la respuesta correcta** rodeando con un círculo la letra de su opción en la **HOJA DE RESPUESTAS**. **Sólo una de las opciones es correcta**.

Ejemplo:

1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A	B	C
---	------------------------------------	---	---

Si se confunde, tache la respuesta equivocada y rodee la opción que crea verdadera.

1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A	B	<input checked="" type="radio"/> C
---	------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------

- **Pregunta de completar**: Se presenta un texto con **10 huecos (numerados del 1 al 10)** en los que faltan una frase. Se proporcionan las frases en un listado (de la A a la L) que incluye una frase más de las necesarias. **Sólo hay una frase correcta para cada hueco**. Deberá elegir la respuesta correcta rodeando con un círculo la letra de su opción en la **HOJA DE RESPUESTAS**. Pregunta de relacionar.

Ejemplo:

1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A	B	C	D	E
---	------------------------------------	---	---	---	---

Si se confunde, tache la respuesta equivocada y rodee la opción que crea verdadera.

1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> A	B	<input checked="" type="radio"/> C	D	E
---	------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	---	---

- **Pregunta de Verdadero / Falso**. Se presentan una serie de preguntas y se deberá decidir si la información facilitada es verdadera o falsa.

Ejemplo:

1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> TRUE	FALSE
---	---------------------------------------	-------

Si se confunde, tache la respuesta equivocada y rodee la opción que crea verdadera.

1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> TRUE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> FALSE
---	---------------------------------------	--

En total, deberá contestar a **25 preguntas**. Cada una de ellas vale **0,4 puntos**. La calificación de la prueba se obtendrá de multiplicar el número de respuestas correctas por 0,4 expresando el resultado sin redondeo. Antes de responder a las preguntas, lea atentamente las instrucciones de cada ejercicio.

Dispone de **65 minutos** para responder todas las preguntas de los ejercicios que componen la prueba.

Utilice únicamente **bolígrafo azul o negro** y asegúrese de que su **teléfono móvil** y **dispositivos electrónicos** estén **desconectados** durante toda la prueba.

Trabaje concentradamente, **no hable ni se levante** de la silla. Si tiene alguna duda, levante la mano y espere en silencio a que el/la profesor/a **se acerque a su mesa**. **Espere a que le indiquen que PUEDE EMPEZAR**.

### HOJA DE RESPUESTAS

<b>EJERCICIO 1: WHY I WON'T BE VOTING IN THIS GENERAL ELECTION – OR EVER AGAIN</b>				Espacio reservado para la persona correctora
1	A	B	C	
2	A	B	C	
3	A	B	C	
4	A	B	C	
5	A	B	C	
6	A	B	C	
7	A	B	C	
8	A	B	C	
9	A	B	C	
10	A	B	C	

<b>EJERCICIO 2: NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES ITS MOST BORROWED BOOKS OF ALL TIME</b>												Espacio reservado para la persona correctora
1	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
2	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
3	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
4	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
5	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
6	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
7	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
8	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
9	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
10	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	

<b>EJERCICIO 3: MICROSOFT PLEDGES TO REMOVE MORE CARBON THAN IT PRODUCES BY 2030</b>			Espacio reservado para la persona correctora
1	TRUE	FALSE	
2	TRUE	FALSE	
3	TRUE	FALSE	
4	TRUE	FALSE	
5	TRUE	FALSE	

## EJERCICIO 1

### WHY I WON'T BE VOTING IN THIS GENERAL ELECTION – OR EVER AGAIN

*Adapted from [www.huffingtonpost.co.uk](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk)*

Read the following text. For questions 1 – 10, choose the correct option A, B or C as in example 0.

**DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.**

By Natasha Phillips

In a world where democracy does not exist, votes are meaningless and corrosive. Voting out of principle, or because women fought for that vote may be admirable, but it misses the point entirely.

The first time I realised democracy was dead was when I cast my first vote. I was 18 and had watched my parents live through two recessions, when Tony Blair appeared, like a phantom, from inside the Labour Party. He stood out against the backdrop of Britain's colourless politicians, and he could speak. His advocacy was charismatic, and the pledges he made, which included promises to improve access to the NHS and education, struck chords across the country.

In 1997, going to the polling station seemed like the most natural thing in the world. I was filled with hope, and sure that John Major's disastrous "Back to Basics" campaign — which featured political lows like the Cash For Questions scandal and government ministers doing illegal arms deals in Iraq — could be reversed, with a vote. The sense of excitement, which I can still remember more than 20 years later, was underlined by a violent hope that my ballot paper would make a difference.

And it did, eventually.

Labour won the election that year by a landslide. But it wasn't long before I realised my vote had a shelf life, and that the mechanics of government were not fit for purpose. My faith in British democracy died with the nearly 500,000 people who lost their lives in the Iraq war, which Blair helped to engineer despite failing to offer any evidence to warrant a conflict, and in the face of massive public opposition. I vowed that I would never let anyone sanction a wrongful war in my name again.

That experience also forced me to look at our version of democracy in the UK, and some inconvenient truths began to surface. One of those truths was that politicians, whether from the left or the right, were being set up to fail.

Our political system is geared towards a short term outlook, as any government typically only has a five-year window to make changes. This profoundly affects the way our politicians work, so they have no choice but to pander to the electorate with near-sighted policies that look deeply attractive at surface level, but on closer inspection are completely unworkable.

That includes party manifestos.

Caught in the grip of election fever, the internet has been reeling with pledges over the last few weeks. Free broadband? You got it. More money for schools, the NHS and the police? It's yours. But there's just one problem. Parties are not legally required to fulfill their pledges, so these promises carry no weight, or value, even though they are the expectations upon which we cast our votes. Despite the fact that a vast number of pledges are never fully upheld, we still continue to discuss manifestos in general elections as if they offer something tangible, and binding.

Research also tells us that while the number of pledges made has risen dramatically — In 1945, Labour made just 18 pledges, while in 2001 that number jumped to 207 — promises made by every party have become increasingly vague, making it much harder to hold politicians to account.

These quick fixes, often fed to us in pledge form, undermine long term growth, which is essential for building a healthy society.

A legitimate public panic is now creeping into our elections in the UK. This is partly down to the Conservative party's ongoing disregard for the law and parliament in a bid to shunt through Brexit, while a select few circle around the country's remains, picking off what's left of our economy and pocketing the change.

And yet despite the Tories' despicable conduct, I reserve most of my anger for Jeremy Corbyn. As the leader of a party that represents the nation's conscience, but has been paralysed instead by his Wizard of Oz-like leadership, defined by unsustainable economic policies and an anti-Semitism row that has all but destroyed the Labour party, Corbyn has left the UK without a credible opposition. Still, it may not be fair to blame Corbyn entirely.

Decades of voting, tactical or otherwise, have done nothing to address the greed, corruption and law breaking embedded inside the UK government's foundations. As David Runciman, the Head of Politics and International Studies at Cambridge University said in Russell Brand's Under The Skin podcast: "If politicians were completely honest with the public during election time they would say, vote for me, I'm the one who understands how powerless I am."

To that I say, no thank you. And I will never vote again.

## EJERCICIO 2

### NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES ITS MOST BORROWED BOOKS OF ALL TIME

*Adapted from [www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com)*

Read the following text. **TEN PHRASES** have been removed. Choose the sentence (B – L) which best fits each gap as in example 0. There is **ONE EXTRA PHRASE YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE**. **DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.**

By Katherine J. Wu

What's something you've probably read, apart from the first half of this sentence? If you live in the Empire State, your local library might have a good guess: This week, the New York Public Library announced the top ten most borrowed books in its 125-year history.

The titles that made the cut offer some interesting insights on locals' reading habits. Selected from the millions of books that have been checked out of the library since 1895, Ezra Jack Keats' children's story *The Snowy Day*, (0) **described as a "charming tale of a child enjoying the simple magic that snow brings to his city"** tops the list.

The book, which features an African-American protagonist named Peter, (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Since its publication in 1962, *The Snowy Day* has been borrowed 485,583 times, (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

"As a young boy, Ezra found a safe haven and inspiration in the public library," says Deborah Pope, executive director of the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, in a statement. "Part of his legacy in diversity has been to extend the welcome of public libraries by creating books that (3) \_\_\_\_\_."

Following close behind is another children's book: *The Cat in the Hat*, a rhyme-heavy Dr. Seuss classic published in 1957. Chronicling the misadventures of its brightly-accessorized titular character, (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The list then takes a turn for the macabre, with George Orwell's 1984, a dystopian novel foretelling the societal tolls of totalitarianism, coming in third place.

With their shorter lengths and universal appeal, kids' books are the unsurprisingly dominant force on the NYPL list, with Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, and Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (5) \_\_\_\_\_.

Conciseness appeared to factor in for a few adult books on the list as well, however, both 1984 and the fifth-place winner, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* with over three hundred pages, err on the shorter ends of their genres. Per the NYPL, additional contributing factors for the top contenders included length of time in print, translation into different languages, timeliness in terms of current events, school assignments, and awards and acknowledgement.

Of course, there were exceptions to these trends, including the first *Harry Potter* novel, published in the United States in 1998. That's 62 years after the oldest book on the list: Dale Carnegie's self-help volume, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Modern interest in dystopian fiction (think *The Hunger Games*) has also prompted today's patrons to reach for topical titles of the past, the library notes: 1984 and Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, the seventh-place book, (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

Some of these checkouts may not have been entirely a personal choice but a school assignment. Orwell, Lee and Bradbury are among the many authors who (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The pressure may even transcend curricula: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for instance, has been called "America's novel,"

and the library acknowledges the idea that readers might feel a sense of obligation to leaf through its pages at least once.

Such mixed literary feelings also played a role in the library's listing of an honorable mention: *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown. The popular children's book would almost certainly have unseated another title further up the list if not for children's librarian Anne Carroll Moore, (9) \_\_\_\_\_, 25 years after its publication date.

Librarians and analysts included all book formats, (10) \_\_\_\_\_, compiling data from recent circulation, best-seller lists and more to finalize the winners, reports Concepción de León for the New York Times.

The list helps kick off the institution's yearlong celebration of its 125th birthday, a bookish bonanza that will include talks by authors, several exhibitions and Book of the Day emails. To help commemorate the big reveal, NYPL has also released limited-edition library and Metro cards featuring artwork from *The Snowy Day*.

### EJERCICIO 3

#### MICROSOFT PLEDGES TO REMOVE MORE CARBON THAN IT PRODUCES BY 2030

Read the following text. For questions 1 – 5, indicate if the statement provided is either True or False as in example 0.

**DO NOT FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.**

*Adapted from www.washingtonpost.com*

By Jay Greene

Microsoft announced plans to remove more carbon than it emits by the end of the decade, a pledge that addresses the climate-change crisis more aggressively than many of its tech rivals. The software giant also plans to remove all the carbon emissions it has generated since its founding in 1975 by 2050.

Microsoft's initiative goes a few steps beyond what crosstown rival Amazon announced. The e-commerce giant said at the time it would implement strategies to be at net zero emissions — removing as much carbon as it produces — throughout its business by 2040.

Working to remove carbon emissions to prevent further global warming is “far and away the biggest challenge that humanity has ever been presented with,” Microsoft President Brad Smith said in New York. Microsoft's Smith credited Amazon but noted that Microsoft's ambitions for addressing climate change are bolder. “They said they'll be carbon-neutral by 2040. We've said we'll be carbon-negative by 2030,” Smith said. “They've said they'll have 100 percent renewable energy for their data centers by 2030. We've said we'll do that by 2025.”

One point on which Microsoft and Amazon are aligned is that they both will continue to provide artificial intelligence and machine learning technology to energy companies to help them better pinpoint oil deposits for extraction. Activist employees at Amazon have protested their employer's work with energy companies, to the point that a lawyer in the company's human resources group raised the possibility of termination if they didn't adhere to its external communications policy. Last month, an anonymous author who claimed to work for Microsoft lamented the company's work with energy firms in an article in Logic Magazine.

Microsoft declined to comment on the article, but Smith said in an interview Thursday the company intends to continue working with oil and gas companies, in part to help them move to cleaner forms of energy.

Microsoft previously pledged to continue working with the U.S. military after some employees protested some contracts with the Pentagon, saying it wanted to be part of the discussion about using technology responsibly. Microsoft applied the same logic to its decision to work with oil and gas companies.

In working toward being carbon-negative by 2030, Microsoft is counting emissions it produces, such as exhaust from its fleet of cars and trucks, as well as emissions it indirectly causes, such as those that come from electricity it uses, the production of the materials in its buildings, and the power customers consume when using its products. But Microsoft won't count the emissions from energy produced by oil and gas companies that its technology helped find.

To achieve its goal, Microsoft plans for its entire fleet of vehicles to run on electric power by 2030. It will adopt negative-emission technologies including soil carbon sequestration and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage to remove emissions it has created. The company also committed to investing \$1 billion over the next four years in new technologies to help address the climate change crisis.

And while Microsoft said it will continue to disclose its carbon footprint, Smith said the company hasn't committed to an independent audit of the progress against its goals. The company will push for better standards to measure and report carbon emissions and removal.

"Whether it actually needs to be audited, we'll see," Smith said. He declined to disclose the cost of the new carbon-reduction initiative.

**EJERCICIO 1****WHY I WON'T BE VOTING IN THIS GENERAL ELECTION– OR EVER AGAIN**

**0** In the first paragraph, the writer is casting doubt on ...

- A women's right to vote
- B the survival of democracy
- C** the validity of exercising your right to vote

**1** In the second paragraph the writer refers to Tony Blair as a ...

- A man of means
- B stirring speaker
- C presidential speechwriter

**2** In 1997, the writer believed that turning up at the pools could ...

- A be regarded as bizarre
- B improve John Major's campaign
- C give her a sense of self-fulfillment

**3** 1997 polling results showed that ...

- A voter turnout wasn't important
- B British governmental dynamics are flawless
- C individual contributions were significant but of little value

**4** The writer's democratic beliefs died when her vote ...

- A supported Tony Blair's untruth
- B helped to avoid an unarmed conflict
- C was of no use for British democracy

**5** A closer look into British democracy revealed ...

- A parties work closely with their electorate
- B governments set off on impossible journeys
- C quinquennial plans have proved to be effective

**6** According to the writer, party manifestos ...

- A address core issues
- B illustrate a party's socio-economic priorities
- C fall short on addressing electoral commitments

**7** The writer thinks that British conservative politicians are to blame for ...

- A pursuing their own agenda
- B boosting the nation's economy
- C not ensuring people's voices are heard



**8 As the leader of the opposition, Jeremy Corbyn is ...**

- A impractical
- B unscrupulous
- C a man of conscience

**9 According to the writer, voting should ...**

- A be honest and not tactical
- B be the root of gradual betterment
- C have eliminated unethical procedures

**10 In the last line, the writer clearly states that she ...**

- A has cast her last ballot
- B doesn't like powerless politicians
- C doesn't expect the system to be invigorated

**EJERCICIO 2**

**NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES ITS MOST BORROWED BOOKS OF ALL TIME**

QUESTIONS
0 <u>  A  </u>
1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____
9 _____
10 _____

REMOVED SENTENCES (Remember: one sentence is not needed)
<b>A</b> described as a “charming tale of a child enjoying the simple magic that snow brings to his city”
<b>B</b> clocking in at spots four, six, nine and ten, respectively
<b>C</b> a figure gathered from the library lending records
<b>D</b> reflect the diverse faces of the children who use the library
<b>E</b> have not been borrowed at all
<b>F</b> including e-books, in their final tally
<b>G</b> represents one of the earliest examples of diversity in children’s literature
<b>H</b> the classic has been checked out 469,650 times
<b>I</b> are popular old-fashioned novels
<b>J</b> have become compulsory on middle and high school reading lists
<b>K</b> the only nonfiction title to make the top ten
<b>L</b> whose distaste for the story kept it off NYPL shelves until 1972

**EJERCICIO 3****MICROSOFT PLEDGES TO REMOVE MORE CARBON THAN IT PRODUCES BY 2030**

0	Microsoft wants to reduce its environmental footprint to zero	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE
1	Microsoft acknowledges Amazon's efforts to be genuine yet modest	TRUE	FALSE
2	Fossil fuel extraction methods will undergo specific significant changes in the coming years	TRUE	FALSE
3	Amazon workers will be made redundant if they don't comply with the company regulations	TRUE	FALSE
4	Microsoft's investments will contribute to curbing CO2 emissions	TRUE	FALSE
5	The writer of the article implies that when it comes to carbon reduction data, there is complete transparency	TRUE	FALSE

DL: AS-00189-2021



Gobierno del Principado de Asturias

Consejería de Educación

Dirección General de Ordenación, Evaluación y Equidad Educativa

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**COMPRENSIÓN DE  
TEXTOS ESCRITOS**

**MODELO DE  
CORRECCIÓN**

## HOJA DE RESPUESTAS

<b>EJERCICIO 1: WHY I WON'T BE VOTING IN THIS GENERAL ELECTION – OR EVER AGAIN</b>				Espacio reservado para la persona correctora
1	A	<u>B</u>	C	
2	A	B	<u>C</u>	
3	A	B	<u>C</u>	
4	<u>A</u>	B	C	
5	A	<u>B</u>	C	
6	A	B	<u>C</u>	
7	<u>A</u>	B	C	
8	<u>A</u>	B	C	
9	A	B	<u>C</u>	
10	<u>A</u>	B	C	

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3	B	C	<u>D</u>	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
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7	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	<u>I</u>	J	K	L	
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<b>EJERCICIO 3: MICROSOFT PLEDGES TO REMOVE MORE CARBON THAN IT PRODUCES BY 2030</b>		Espacio reservado para la persona correctora
1	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE
2	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>
3	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE
4	<u>TRUE</u>	FALSE
5	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>

## EJERCICIO 1

### WHY I WON'T BE VOTING IN THIS GENERAL ELECTION– OR EVER AGAIN

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QUESTIONS
0 <u>  <b>A</b>  </u>
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2 <u>  <b>C</b>  </u>
3 <u>  <b>D</b>  </u>
4 <u>  <b>H</b>  </u>
5 <u>  <b>B</b>  </u>
6 <u>  <b>K</b>  </u>
7 <u>  <b>I</b>  </u>
8 <u>  <b>J</b>  </u>
9 <u>  <b>L</b>  </u>
10 <u>  <b>F</b>  </u>

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5	The writer of the article implies that when it comes to carbon reduction data, there is complete transparency	TRUE	<u>FALSE</u>

### EJERCICIO 1

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In 1997, going to the polling station seemed like the most natural thing in the world. I was filled with hope, and sure that John Major’s disastrous “Back to Basics” campaign — which featured political lows like the Cash For Questions scandal and government ministers doing illegal arms deals in Iraq — could be reversed, with a vote. (2C) The sense of excitement, which I can still remember more than 20 years later, was underlined by a violent hope that my ballot paper would make a difference.

And it did, eventually.

(3C) Labour won the election that year by a landslide. But it wasn't long before I realised my vote had a shelf life, and that the mechanics of government were not fit for purpose. My faith in British democracy died with the nearly 500,000 people who lost their lives in (4A) the Iraq war, which Blair helped to engineer despite failing to offer any evidence to warrant a conflict, and in the face of massive public opposition. (4A) I vowed that I would never let anyone sanction a wrongful war in my name again.



That experience also forced me to look at our version of democracy in the UK, and some inconvenient truths began to surface. (5B) One of those truths was that politicians, whether from the left or the right, were being set up to fail.

Our political system is geared towards a short term outlook, as any government typically only has a five year window to make changes. This profoundly affects the way our politicians work, so (5B) they have no choice but to pander to the electorate with near-sighted policies that look deeply attractive at surface level, but on closer inspection are completely unworkable.

That includes party manifestos.

Caught in the grip of election fever, the internet has been reeling with pledges over the last few weeks. Free broadband? You got it. More money for schools, the NHS and the police? It's yours. But there's just one problem. (6C) Parties are not legally required to fulfill their pledges, so these promises carry no weight, or value, even though they are the expectations upon which we cast our votes. Despite the fact that a vast number of pledges are never fully upheld, we still continue to discuss manifestos in general elections as if they offer something tangible, and binding.

Research also tells us that while the number of pledges made has risen dramatically — In 1945, Labour made just 18 pledges, while in 2001 that number jumped to 207 — promises made by every party have become increasingly vague, making it much harder to hold politicians to account.

These quick fixes, often fed to us in pledge form, undermine long term growth, which is essential for building a healthy society.

A legitimate public panic is now creeping into our elections in the UK. (7A) This is partly down to the Conservative party's ongoing disregard for the law and parliament in a bid to shunt through Brexit, while a select few circle around the country's remains, picking off what's left of our economy and pocketing the change.

And yet despite the Tories' despicable conduct, I reserve most of my anger for (8A) Jeremy Corbyn. As the leader of a party that represents the nation's conscience, but has been paralysed instead by his Wizard of Oz-like leadership, defined by unsustainable economic policies and an anti-Semitism row that has all but destroyed the Labour party, Corbyn has left the UK without a credible opposition. Still, it may not be fair to blame Corbyn entirely.

(9C) Decades of voting, tactical or otherwise, have done nothing to address the greed, corruption and law breaking embedded inside the UK government's foundations. As David Runciman, the Head of Politics and International Studies at Cambridge University, said in Russell Brand's Under The Skin podcast: "If politicians were completely honest with the public during election time they would say, vote for me, I'm the one who understands how powerless I am."

To that I say, no thank you. (10A) And I will never vote again.

## EJERCICIO 2

### NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES ITS MOST BORROWED BOOKS OF ALL TIME

*Adapted from www.smithsonianmag.com*

By Katherine J. Wu 592

What's something you've probably read, apart from the first half of this sentence? If you live in the Empire State, your local library might have a good guess: This week, the New York Public Library announced the top ten most borrowed books in its 125-year history.

The titles that made the cut offer some interesting insights on locals' reading habits. Selected from the millions of books that have been checked out of the library since 1895, Ezra Jack Keats' children's story *The Snowy Day*, A (0) described as a "charming tale of a child enjoying the simple magic that snow brings to his city, tops the list.

The book, which features an African-American protagonist named Peter, G (1) represents one of the earliest examples of diversity in children's literature. Since its publication in 1962, *The Snowy Day* has been borrowed 485,583 times, C (2) a figure gathered from the library lending records.

"As a young boy, Ezra found a safe haven and inspiration in the public library," says Deborah Pope, executive director of the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, in a statement. "Part of his legacy in diversity has been to extend the welcome of public libraries by creating books that D (3) reflect the diverse faces of the children who use the library."

Following close behind is another children's book: *The Cat in the Hat*, a rhyme-heavy Dr. Seuss classic published in 1957. Chronicling the misadventures of its brightly-accessorized titular character, H (4) the classic has been checked out 469,650 times. The list then takes a turn for the macabre, with George Orwell's *1984*, a dystopian novel foretelling the societal tolls of totalitarianism, coming in third place.

With their shorter lengths and universal appeal, kids' books are the unsurprisingly dominant force on the NYPL list, with Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, and Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* B (5) clocking in at spots four, six, nine and ten, respectively.

Conciseness appeared to factor in for a few adult books on the list as well, however, both *1984* and the fifth-place winner, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* with over three hundred pages, err on the shorter ends of their genres. Per the NYPL, additional contributing factors for the top contenders included length of time in print, translation into different languages, timeliness in terms of current events, school assignments, and awards and acknowledgement.

Of course, there were exceptions to these trends, including the first *Harry Potter* novel, published in the United States in 1998. That's 62 years after the oldest book on the list: Dale Carnegie's self-help volume, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, K (6) the only nonfiction title to make the top ten.

Modern interest in dystopian fiction (think *The Hunger Games*) has also prompted today's patrons to reach for topical titles of the past, the library notes: *1984* and Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, the seventh-place book, I (7) are popular old-fashioned novels.

Some of these checkouts may not have been entirely a personal choice but a school assignment. Orwell, Lee and Bradbury are among the many authors who J (8) have become compulsory on middle and high school reading lists. The pressure may even transcend curricula: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for instance, has been called "America's novel," and the library acknowledges the idea that readers might feel a sense of obligation to leaf through its pages at least once.

Such mixed literary feelings also played a role in the library's listing of an honorable mention: *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown. The popular children's book would almost certainly have unseated another title further up the list if not for children's librarian Anne Carroll Moore, L (9) whose distaste for the story kept it off NYPL shelves until 1972, 25 years after its publication date.

Librarians and analysts included all book formats, F (10) including e-books, in their final tally, compiling data from recent circulation, best-seller lists and more to finalize the winners, reports Concepción de León for the New York Times.

The list helps kick off the institution's yearlong celebration of its 125th birthday, a bookish bonanza that will include talks by authors, several exhibitions and Book of the Day emails. To help commemorate the big reveal, NYPL has also released limited-edition library and Metro cards featuring artwork from *The Snowy Day*.

### EJERCICIO 3

## MICROSOFT PLEDGES TO REMOVE MORE CARBON THAN IT PRODUCES BY 2030

*Adapted from www.washingtonpost.com*

By Jay Greene

Microsoft announced plans to remove more carbon than it emits by the end of the decade, a pledge that addresses the climate-change crisis more aggressively than many of its tech rivals. (0-TRUE) The software giant also plans to remove all the carbon emissions it has generated since its founding in 1975 by 2050.

Microsoft's initiative goes a few steps beyond what crosstown rival Amazon announced. The e-commerce giant said at the time it would implement strategies to be at net zero emissions — removing as much carbon as it produces — throughout its business by 2040.

Working to remove carbon emissions to prevent further global warming is “far and away the biggest challenge that humanity has ever been presented with,” Microsoft President Brad Smith said in New York. (1-TRUE) Microsoft's Smith credited Amazon, but noted that Microsoft's ambitions for addressing climate change are bolder. “They said they'll be carbon-neutral by 2040. We've said we'll be carbon-negative by 2030,” Smith said. “They've said they'll have 100 percent renewable energy for their data centers by 2030. We've said we'll do that by 2025.”

(2-FALSE) One point on which Microsoft and Amazon are aligned is that they both will continue to provide artificial intelligence and machine learning technology to energy companies to help them better pinpoint oil deposits for extraction. (3-TRUE) Activist employees at Amazon have protested their employer's work with energy companies, to the point that a lawyer in the company's human resources group raised the possibility of termination if they didn't adhere to its external communications policy. Last month, an anonymous author who claimed to work for Microsoft lamented the company's work with energy firms in an article in Logic Magazine.

Microsoft declined to comment on the article, but Smith said in an interview Thursday the company intends to continue working with oil and gas companies, in part to help them move to cleaner forms of energy.

Microsoft previously pledged to continue working with the U.S. military after some employees protested some contracts with the Pentagon, saying it wanted to be part of the discussion about

using technology responsibly. Microsoft applied the same logic to its decision to work with oil and gas companies.

In working toward being carbon-negative by 2030, Microsoft is counting emissions it produces, such as exhaust from its fleet of cars and trucks, as well as emissions it indirectly causes, such as those that come from electricity it uses, the production of the materials in its buildings, and the power customers consume when using its products. (5-FALSE) But Microsoft won't count the emissions from energy produced by oil and gas companies that its technology helped find.

To achieve its goal, Microsoft plans for its entire fleet of vehicles to run on electric power by 2030. It will adopt negative-emission technologies including soil carbon sequestration and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage to remove emissions it has created. (4-TRUE) The company also committed to investing \$1 billion over the next four years in new technologies to help address the climate change crisis.

(5-FALSE) And while Microsoft said it will continue to disclose its carbon footprint, Smith said the company hasn't committed to an independent audit of the progress against its goals. The company will push for better standards to measure and report carbon emissions and removal. "Whether it actually needs to be audited, we'll see," Smith said. He declined to disclose the cost of the new carbon-reduction initiative.

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