



**ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DE LA RIOJA**  
**PRUEBA DE CERTIFICACIÓN**  
**INGLÉS**



Datos del candidato
Apellidos:
Nombre:
Modalidad: <input type="checkbox"/> Oficial Presencial

Calificación final

Apto  No Apto

**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: 65 minutos.</b></li></ul>

## TEXT 1

Read the following text about superstitions 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 box provided at the end of the text. (4 marks: 0.4 each)

AROSE	DOZE	PINCH	STRUGGLE
BETRAYAL	ISSUES	REMINDERS	TOKEN
CHARGED	LEANING	SHATTER	<del>UNEASY</del>
CLUMSY	OMENS	STEMMED	ZIPPING

### SUPERSTITIONS

Some superstitions are so ingrained in modern English-speaking societies that everyone, from lay people to scientists, succumb to them (or, at least, feel slightly (0) uneasy about not doing so). But why don't we walk under ladders? And why do we avoid at all costs opening umbrellas indoors? Find out the origins of all these familiar customs, and more.

"It's bad luck to open an umbrella indoors". Most historians think the warning against unfurling umbrellas inside originated much more recently, in Victorian England. When metal-spoked waterproof umbrellas began to become a common rainy-day sight, their (1) \_\_\_\_\_ spring mechanism made them veritable hazards to open indoors. A rigidly spoked umbrella, opening suddenly in a small room, could seriously injure an adult or a child, or (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a fragile object. Even a minor accident could provoke unpleasant words or a minor quarrel among friends. Thus, the superstition (3) \_\_\_\_\_ as a deterrent to opening an umbrella indoors.

"When you spill salt, toss some over your left shoulder to avoid bad luck". Spilling salt has been considered unlucky for thousands of years. Around 3,500 B.C., the ancient Sumerians first took to nullifying the bad luck of spilled salt by throwing a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of it over their left shoulders.

"It's bad luck to walk under a ladder". A ladder (5) \_\_\_\_\_ against a wall forms a triangle, and Egyptians regarded this shape as sacred. To them, triangles represented the trinity of the gods, and to pass through a triangle was to desecrate them. This belief wended its way through the ages. Centuries later, because a ladder had rested against the crucifix, it became a symbol of wickedness, (6) \_\_\_\_\_, and death. Walking under a ladder courted misfortune. And in England, in the 1600s, criminals were forced to walk under a ladder on their way to the gallows.

"Hang a horseshoe on your door open-end-up for good luck". The horseshoe is considered to be a good luck charm in a wide range of cultures. The belief in the talismanic powers of horseshoes passed from the Greeks to the Romans, and from them to the Christians. In the British Isles in the Middle Ages, when fear of witchcraft was rampant, people attached horseshoes open-end-up to the sides of their houses and doors. People thought witches feared horses, and would shy away from any (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of them.

"A black cat crossing your path is lucky/ unlucky". Many cultures agree that black cats are powerful (8) \_\_\_\_\_ but do they signify good or evil? The ancient Egyptians revered all cats, black and otherwise. It was in Egypt that the belief began that a black cat crossing your path brings *good* luck. And in the early seventeenth century in England: King Charles I kept and treasured a black cat as a pet. Upon its death, he is said to have lamented that his luck was gone. The supposed truth of the superstition was reinforced when he was arrested the very next day and (9) \_\_\_\_\_ with high treason.

"The number 13 is unlucky". Fear of the number 13 has its origins in Norse mythology. In a well-known tale, 12 gods were invited to dine at Valhalla, a magnificent banquet hall in Asgard, the city of the gods. Loki, the god of evil, crashed the party, raising the number of attendees to 13. The other gods tried to kick Loki out, and in the (10) \_\_\_\_\_ that ensued, Balder, the favorite among them, was killed. Scandinavian avoidance of 13-member dinner parties, and dislike of the number 13 itself, spread south to the rest of Europe.

Source: Article by Natalie Wolchover on © *LiveScience.com* September 19, 2011

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

## TEXT 2

Read the following text about fashion libraries 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 box on the right. (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)

### FASHION LIBRARIES

With the sales in full swing and festive soirees dominating social calendars, fast fashion is showing few signs of slowing down. But for those consumers with more parties than pounds, fashion libraries – where clothes can be rented rather than bought – are becoming increasingly popular.

“I don’t have the financial income to invest in high quality but I do want to change my style regularly,” said Zoe Partridge, founder of rental service *Wear the Walk*, which launched last year. “So my problem was either to invest every six months in a luxury item or to buy lots of fast fashion. There was no middle ground. I wanted to create that.”

As the party season continues, the appeal of borrowing instead of buying is on the rise. It allows partygoers to wear items that may be beyond their usual budget; and they aren’t under pressure to wear them to every possible occasion to feel they are getting their money’s worth.

Fashion libraries allow users to check out clothes, wear them for a set period, then return them to the library (where dry-cleaning is usually taken care of) in exchange for something new. Some also offer the option to buy – ideal if it turns out you can’t bear to say goodbye to the item after all.

“We realise the burden and commitment that come with ownership and the freedom that comes with using what we really gain value from, when we want it,” said Sara Arnold, founder of subscription-only rental service *Higher Studio*, which launched in April. “It comes down to re-evaluating what we want from our fashion objects.”

Renting clothes is not a new concept: high-priced items worn for a single occasion, such as a prom night or a wedding, have long been available for hire. Sites such as *Front Row* and *Girl Meets Dress* offer designer items at a low cost – the latter specialising in dresses and catering for events such as races, premieres and awards. But subscription services, which offer long-term borrowing on everyday items, are beginning to gain traction.

But is rentable fashion bad news for designers? Not necessarily, according to Sara Arnold. “We don’t own the stock but split the earnings with the brands when items are rented,” she said. “We want them to be able to earn from quality and durability rather than the quantity sold.”

With UK households sending 300,000 tonnes of fashion waste to landfill each year, and the average number of times a garment is worn before it is retired dropping by 36% in the past 15 years, fashion libraries offer an ethical solution. According to research by Westfield, seven out of 10 UK shoppers would pay to rent “the hottest fashion item of the moment”. For 33% of them, the appeal of renting clothes lay in saving money, while one in eight were motivated by the desire to shop in a more sustainable way.

It’s not just in the UK that shoppers are keen to maximise wardrobe space. Toronto’s *Fresh Fashion Library* offers one of the most budget-friendly options: \$30 (£17.50) per month membership allows customers to borrow three items for an unlimited lease period. Which beats scouring the sales for something to see in the new year – and then never wearing it again.

0. Fashion libraries are

- a. fashionable buildings to store clothes.
- b. libraries for fashion designers.
- c. **places where you can rent clothes.**

Ⓒ



1. Zoe Partridge faced the dilemma of either spending a fortune on clothes or

- a. getting myriads of clothes at affordable prices.
- b. renting trendy clothes every now and then.
- c. setting up a new business.

Ⓐ

2. Thanks to fashion libraries partygoers can wear high-priced clothes and live

- a. in the lap of luxury.
- b. up to people's expectations.
- c. within their means.

Ⓒ

3. Some fashion library users

- a. can't bear worn-out clothes.
- b. have to take the clothes to the dry-cleaner's.
- c. may purchase the items of clothing.

Ⓒ

4. According to Sara Arnold, after buying clothes, consumers

- a. face some kind of strain.
- b. feel better when the items are fashionable.
- c. regret having bought priceless items.

Ⓓ

5. According to the text, subscription services

- a. are getting more popular.
- b. offer pricey clothes.
- c. provide long-term hiring of designer clothes.

Ⓔ

6. Sara Arnold states that subscription service companies

- a. are short-lived.
- b. possess durable and high-standard stock.
- c. share the profits with the clothes firms.

Ⓕ

7. According to the text, fashion libraries

- a. can be an environmentally-friendly measure.
- b. end up dumping clothes in landfills.
- c. mainly attract vintage lovers.

Ⓖ

8. In Toronto's *Fresh Fashion Library* customers

- a. can return clothes whenever they want.
- b. pay the cheapest membership fee.
- c. prefer going bargain hunting to renting.

Ⓗ

### TEXT 3

Read carefully the following article about Alfred Hitchcock's filmography, and decide which of the options (A - K) is the most appropriate to fill in each gap. Each option can be used only ONCE. There are **three extra options** which do not match any gaps. *Item 0* is an example. Do not forget to write your answers in the white box on the next page. (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)

#### MY FAVOURITE MOMENTS

I view Hitchcock (0)           **B**          , and I rank him with Picasso, Stravinsky, Joyce, and Proust. I revere him as a poet who saw the beauty, horror and comedy of life. As an analyst of sexuality, he far surpasses the pedantic ideologues of feminism and poststructuralism.

While writing my scene-by-scene study of *The Birds*, I realized (1) \_\_\_\_\_, the dramatic tableaux where meaning is conveyed by spectacle and body language rather than by words. Surely this is a remnant of his roots in silent film, in London in the 1920s.

The first Hitchcock image that entranced me was the surrealist hallucination in *Spellbound* when door after door opens behind Ingrid Bergman and Gregory Peck, (2) \_\_\_\_\_. I also love the opening of *Lifeboat*, where the camera glides over a shipwreck scene of death and destruction to arrive at Tallulah Bankhead, in a lifeboat, looking bored and cynical in her fur coat and jewels.

In *Notorious*, I admire the episode when the sheepish Claude Rains must wake his harridan mother to admit (3) \_\_\_\_\_. In *Strangers on a Train*, the explosive yet dreamily slow breakdown of the carousel is a symbol of twentieth-century chaos.

In *Rear Window*, Grace Kelly, as airily gorgeous as a high-fashion model, wafts into the lamed James Stewart's bedroom with the all-conquering majesty of Helen of Troy. In *To Catch a Thief*, Kelly traumatises Cary Grant (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and random pedestrians and livestock on a Riviera cliffside road.

My favourite moment in *Vertigo* is when Kim Novak left in a sumptuous ball gown, drifts past the awestruck James Stewart in a posh San Francisco restaurant. In *North by Northwest*, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and weird paranoia of the murder at New York's United Nations building, where Cary Grant somehow ends up with a knife in his hand. And then, of course, there is the sober, controlled ritualism of Grant's waiting and waiting on the vast, dusty prairie for an appointment that suddenly materialises as a dive-bombing aeroplane.

In *Psycho*, I favour the scene where the troubled Janet Leigh, dressed in a formidable black brassiere, hastily packs her bag as the thick sheaves of stolen money wait on her bed.

My favourite moment in *The Birds* is when Tippi Hedren (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a bird cage in a rowboat across the bay and second when she sits tensely smoking near the schoolhouse as crows ominously gather on the jungle gym behind her. In *Marnie*, it's when Hedren goes mad after a drop of red ink falls on her white sleeve and then, when reunited with her beloved horse, she leaps on his back to race ecstatically across the fields.

Finally, in *Frenzy*, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with a nude female corpse in a gritty potato truck as it speeds north along a highway at night.

After my lifetime diet of Hitchcock, most of today's movies seem like very bland fare indeed. Filmmaking needs to return to one of its prime creative sources.

- A. approaching him with an evil glint in her eyes
- ~~**B. as a major genius of the twentieth-century arts**~~
- C. as they embrace to a glorious burst of romantic music
- D. he has been duped by a beautiful woman
- E. how important the lines uttered by his actors are
- F. I am always dazzled by the chilly modern architecture
- G. I'm fond of the scene where the panicky villain is tumbled about
- H. in her fur coat and high heels mischievously ferries
- I. in her sporty convertible as she speeds through hairpin turns
- J. that I am most attracted to the mime in Hitchcock
- K. there's an oppressively unsettling ambience that

① <b>B</b>	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
✓							



# KEY

**COMPRESIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS**  
**C1**  
**SEPTIEMBRE 2020**

**TEXT 1: SUPERSTITIONS (4 marks: 0.4 each)**

	<b>ANSWERS</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>UNEASY</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>CLUMSY</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SHATTER</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>AROSE</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PINCH</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>LEANING</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>BETRAYAL</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>REMINDERS</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>OMENS</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>CHARGED</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>STRUGGLE</b>

**TEXT 2: FASHION LIBRARIES (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)**

	<b>ANSWERS</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>A</b>

**TEXT 3: MY FAVOURITE MOMENTS (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)**

	<b>ANSWERS</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>J</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>G</b>





EE 00 II DE LA RIOJA