



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 a tourist at Val d'Isère 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 provided on the next page. (4 marks: 0.4 each)

BLISSFUL	FORSAKEN	HARNESS	ROCKET
COVETED	GALES	LEAK	SPLINTERS
DONNING	GLIMPSE	PEELING	TEETERED
FALTER	HARDCORE	ROAR	WOBBLY

VAL D'ISÈRE

Lit up by over a kilometre of orange lights, the daunting 1,400 metre piste stretched out in front of me. Taller than Ben Nevis, the UK's highest mountain, the run called La Face de Belvedere, starred in the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics and has attracted (0) hardcore skiers and off-piste aficionados to Val d'Isère for decades.

But I'm a ski novice, and thankfully my view of Belvedere wasn't from the top. I was perched high in the treetops opposite, in a (1) _____ clipped to a particularly sturdy pine tree.

This was a tree-top adventure course, with all the ziplines, Tarzan swings and (2) _____ bridges you'd expect, but unusual in that it opens only as darkness falls, the way illuminated by LED lights. It's one of many new activities this classic ski destination is trialling to try widen its appeal after Covid shutdowns and the war in Ukraine (Russia is its third-biggest market) saw visitor numbers (3) _____.

"We have enjoyed a good reputation for world-class off-piste skiing," said Benjamin Dubois, director of the Val d'Isère ski school. "But we need to attract new people in a sustainable way."

Val d'Isère already has Green Globe sustainable tourism certification – for measures including tree planting and the removal of over 100 lift pylons – and added the (4) _____ *Flocon Vert* (Green Snowflake) accreditation in November.

The resort has also stepped up recycling and energy efficiency programmes in the valley, replacing petrol buses with electric ones and switching piste groomers to biofuel. They are also working to diversify activities offered so that as the snowline gets higher through climate change, there isn't simply a demand for more artificial snow (snow cannons consume a lot of energy).

After just a few minutes, we fell silent and I was distracted by a first (5) _____ of the frozen surface of Lake Ouillette, the setting, later that day, for my first non-ski experience – ice floating.

This, when the time came, essentially meant (6) _____ an orange drysuit and jumping into a frozen lake. Initially the thought of hanging around in freezing water left me cold (in many ways), but as I slid into the small watery rectangle that instructor Damien had cut into the ice earlier, the air was filled with the near-musical sounds of icy (7) _____ floating and colliding on the water's surface. I let go of his arm and felt the suit constrict around my thighs, then flopped into the water and immediately bobbed up to the surface.

At first I and my fellow ice floater laughed at the strangeness of it all, but after just a few minutes, I simply gazed at the mountains and thought of nothing at all. It was (8) _____.

My last morning began on an electric bus to La Daille – the final hub in the Isère valley to try the last eco-tick on my sustainable activity list – a ride on a moon bike. This environment-friendly alternative to a snowmobile (100% electric) can be charged by solar power.

I'd be lying if I said it was easy to master. Going straight was easy enough, but to turn you have to lean hard and fast into corners – motorbike style – to stay balanced. It took 10 minutes of looping the rental shack and apologising to passing skiers before I was released on to the mountainside. But what a revelation: with no petrol engine (9) _____, the experience was exhilarating and utterly silent, fast yet calming.

That evening, before my illuminated treetop adventure, I stood on the platform ready to jump into the darkness. It may not be the “black” most people talk about when they mention this resort but I reasoned, as I (10) _____ on the edge of the spindly pine forest, that here in Val d'Isère green is definitely the new black.

Source: Article by Phoebe Smith © *The Guardian*, 2nd January 2023

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

TEXT 2

Read the following article about a group of mothers 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 boxes on the right. (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)

MOMFLUENCERS

In some ways, the internet has been incredible for mothers. Spaces online have provided solace and connection and allowed some women to have a public voice in communities that otherwise stifle them. It's also a trove of practical tips. And yet when women write about how mothers can't live up to the unreasonable and often nonsensical ideals of our culture, they often get flak for even mildly threatening the status quo. Whenever I've written about my struggles or those of other mothers to meet untenable expectations during the pandemic, I've received blowback about how we shouldn't be complaining, because having kids was our choice and should be our full responsibility.

There's a group of women on the internet who exist in contrast to the struggling moms who spent the Covid quarantines screaming: *momfluencers*, women with social media followings in the tens of thousands or even millions who offer tips and inspiration to their fellow moms. They're often selling something through advertiser-sponsored posts — that's how they earn money — whether it's makeup, cookware or their own parenting courses or workout routines. These mothers seem to be permanently happy with their children. Whenever they refer to mental health or parenting difficulties, those problems are in the past. Their postpartum depression or a family death or their child's issues at school have been juxtaposed with a beautiful image of open hands or a serene lake.

The influencers who show up most often in my algorithm often have a domestic or classically feminine inclination beyond motherhood — like beauty, clothing or home décor. Some call themselves trad wives who emphasize gender roles. Others combine information about babies' sleep or feeding with perfectly curated imagery.

I know these influencers have problems like any parent and that their 2-year-old probably threw a tantrum right before that smiling photo was taken in front of a backdrop of majestic mountains. I also know that they are trying to sell me something. Still, I'm entranced and shamed. I see their photographs with their sunny captions, and some small part of me believes they are more naturally suited to motherhood. And I know I'm far from alone.

Unreal expectations for American moms go back as far as written history: In the colonial days, the ideal was a pious woman who spun cloth with her baby at her heels and helped keep her children on the path to salvation. Over the next few centuries, new requirements appeared: a focus on creating stalwart American citizens, an education in scientific child-rearing techniques. One thing remains consistent, though. Despite the work that mothers do to keep families and societies together, our contributions are insincerely praised, ignored or demonized, depending on the time and place and the mother's race, religion and social standing.

The impact of influencers on mothers' psychological health troubles Ilyse DiMarco, a clinical psychologist. She treats lots of mothers who cite social media as one source of their anxiety, jealousy, shame, guilt and mood issues. What strikes her is that some of the moms who spiral from looking at the influencers on Instagram don't even like the influencers they're following or share their values. She said that "if you are taking cues for living from influencers you don't respect, that's "like going to a doctor who you think is a quack, whose training you think is subpar, and then following their medical advice."

And maybe there are better online models of motherhood than the ones supported by the biggest advertisers: Like Emily Feret who has 1.1 million followers and 36.4 million likes as of this writing. She's a 29-year-old stay-at-home mom of two, and she makes delightful videos that send up the unattainable perfection found elsewhere on social media. Ms. Feret said she wants to "normalize normal" and she's done a series of videos taking the viewer on a tour of her house, showing "life without the filter."

I'm glad Ms. Feret is normalizing normal. She makes me smile and she makes me feel seen. (I have a mountain of unfolded laundry sitting next to me on my bed as I work on this essay.) What is so valuable about her is that she's not trying to get us to be like her or promote herself as someone who has it all figured out. Even if we have motherhood in common, the details of our lives are different, and we are often making the best of a set of unsatisfying choices.

I know there's not a single way all people should raise their families, but if there's one takeaway from my reporting on the history, sociology and science of American motherhood, it's that the ideals as they are created may serve industry but they do not serve us or our families.

0. The Internet is regarded positively for mothers since

- a. **it has become a source of comfort for some of them.**
- b. they do not feel overlooked by online communities.
- c. they have grown into reps of some close-knit groups.

①

A

✓

1. The author thinks that some mothers

- a. are criticized for putting the standards at risk.
- b. might endanger gender equality.
- c. pursue ineffective parenting goals.

①

2. Momfluencers

- a. are inspiring women who endeavor to make easy money.
- b. have built a powerful social media presence.
- c. neglect posting carefree pictures through vulnerable times.

②

3. Some momfluencers

- a. advocate conformity to long-established feminine roles.
- b. decline to post their offspring perfect-seeming images.
- c. write about home care or about those who are housebound.

③

4. The author claims that at some point

- a. kids might be nauseated before having a pic taken.
- b. many influencers lead smooth trouble-free lives.
- c. she feels uneasy but captivated by momfluencers.

④

5. In former times,

- a. motherhood was based on religious beliefs.
- b. mothers hung out the laundry standing by their babies.
- c. upbringing was associated with more realistic approaches.

⑤

6. According to Ilyse DiMarco,

- a. many women don't think highly of the influencers they follow.
- b. most patients suffer from anxiety and social media addiction.
- c. some mothers sometimes follow bad medical practices.

⑥

7. Ms. Feret

- a. mocks the idealistic depictions of motherhood.
- b. refrains from making her beautiful domestic paradise visible.
- c. unwillingly shows an idealized portrayal of motherhood.

⑦

8. The author's final key point highlights that

- a. aiming for parenting perfection is pointless.
- b. idealizing motherhood is unrealistic and hurtful.
- c. putting increased pressure on our lives is a mistake.

⑧

TEXT 3

Read the following essay about the “Just William” books, 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 boxes on the next page. (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)

JUST WILLIAM

Where to begin with William Brown? (0) J of the writer Richmal Crompton’s wildly popular “Just William” stories, 100 this year, is an astutely rendered portrait of a 1920s British schoolboy. His antics have captured the imagination of millions over the decades, the stories adapted for radio, stage and television.

As with many British millennials, my introduction to William, at age 7, came via the “Just William” audiobook, which my mother had chanced upon at a secondhand sale. My family was (1) _____, frequently convulsing with laughter. “Just William” soundtracked our every car journey, and I’d often fall asleep with it churning away on my Walkman, dreaming of joining William’s gang, the Outlaws.

But more than anything, I longed to *be* William. A self-styled scoundrel, William runs riot through the family home, antagonizing his older siblings, Robert and Ethel, and exasperating Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who wonder, (2) _____. No family function is safe when William is present — but his absence is also cause for concern. There’s always the sneaking suspicion he’s up to no good.

For many, mention of “Just William” (3) _____: one of twirling maypoles on somnolent village greens, vicarages frequented by well-meaning, nosy parishioners, games of conkers and knock-down ginger played till dusk. The reality, of course, is that few readers will have experienced such quaint youths: the carefree, sugarcoated gleam of a vanished Britain. As a friend of mine puts it, the freedoms enjoyed by William in a safe and bucolic universe contrasted starkly with the realities of her own childhood.

It’s a childhood that now feels alien, the stories brimming with action: The boys vex stray cats, make “licorice water,” fall into ditches, and draw the ire of their schoolmasters, sweet-shop owners and local farmers, and sometimes all at once. It’s worth noting here that the “Just” of “Just William,” the title of Crompton’s first official book of William stories, published in 1922, is not (4) _____. Take him or leave him, he won’t change.

Of course, William has not made it to the 21st century unscathed. One story, “William and the Nasties” (1935), was (5) _____ from reprints. And yet, William has escaped the full opprobrium of many of his nostalgic contemporaries. Perhaps some of this longevity is due to Crompton’s decision to adapt the stories to the period. Rather than preserving the narrative in a kind of literary aspic, the cast moves with the times.

Even today, the “Just William” enthusiasm shows no sign of letting up. One attraction is the stories’ relative difficulty. Rather than pandering to the young reader, the text is challenging, (6) _____. (This is no accident: Crompton, who set out as a writer of serious fiction, had not particularly targeted William to child readers.)

Crompton was known for her mastery of dialogue. For loquacious William, Crompton (7) _____ — an affectation of working-class speech. He mangles the ends of words: He’s “right’n wron’s”; “it’s not” becomes “s’not.” William’s speech differs sharply from that of his siblings: Haughty Ethel performs a kind of saintly enunciation, while the ever-lovelorn Robert is sometimes so overcome he cannot speak. Mr. Brown, meanwhile, is all exclamation: “*William!*”

Reading the books anew, I’m comforted by the familiarity of William, the Outlaws and the Browns in their world of village fetes, overcast summers and amateur theater. From a time overshadowed by wars, poverty and fascism, the child’s-eye view on life remains steadfastly joyful.

- A. a nod to his moral character, but rather a kind of shrug
- B. deemed to have antisemitic undertones and has been withdrawn
- C. employs a kind of “royal cockney”
- D. immediately hooked by the gleefully eventful, frenetic stories
- E. makes them scour yard sales for memorabilia
- F. out loud, how best to tame him
- G. peppered with such daunting words as “ignominious”
- H. summons a nostalgic pastoral of interwar childhood
- I. the sibling torn between benign misunderstanding and a mischief born of malice
- ~~J. **the stubbornly disheveled, snub-nosed 11-year-old protagonist**~~
- K. whether the loveable imp of mischief has a soft spot for his offspring

①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
J						
✓						

KEY

COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

C2

MAYO 2024

TEXT 1: VAL D'ISÈRE (4 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	<i>HARDCORE</i>
1	HARNESS
2	WOBBLY
3	FALTER
4	COVETED
5	GLIMPSE
6	DONNING
7	SPLINTERS
8	BLISSFUL
9	ROAR
10	TEETERED

TEXT 2: MOMFLUENCERS (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)

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

TEXT 3: JUST WILLIAM (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	J
1	D
2	F
3	H
4	A
5	B
6	G
7	C