



## 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>• No escriba en los cuadros sombreados 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 article about the British singer Ian Curtis, 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. Write your answers in the white box on the next page. (4marks: 0.4 each)

BRAGGING	DISPLAYED	ISOLATED	RELEASED
COMMUTED	DIVE	OBLIVION	SQUEEZED
<b>CONVEYED</b>	IMAGINE	PROPELLED	STALK
CAPTURING	IMPROVE	PROSPERED	TRANSPLANTED

### IAN CURTIS

Ian Curtis was a singer and lyric writer of rare, mediumistic power: his songs and performances for Joy Division (**0**) conveyed desperate, raging emotions behind a dour, Mancunian façade. There were four in Joy Division, but Ian was their eyes and ears: it was he who (1)\_\_\_\_\_ them into uncharted territory – songs like ‘Dead Souls’ which, cold as the grave, has the infinity of a Gustave Doré hell.

It’s easy to forget, now that Manchester is an international music city, just how (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Joy Division were. At a time when the main venue of communication was the weekly music press, Joy Division shunned interviews: they survived and (3)\_\_\_\_\_ through concerts, badges, seven-inch singles and word of mouth.

Joy Division were not punk but they were directly inspired by its energy. Like punk, they used pop music as the means to (4)\_\_\_\_\_ into the collective unconscious, only this was not Dickensian London, but De Quincey’s Manchester: an environment systematically degraded by industrial revolution, confined by lowering moors, with (5)\_\_\_\_\_ as the only escape. Manchester is a closed city, Cancerian like Ian Curtis: he remains the city’s greatest poet, (6)\_\_\_\_\_ its space and its claustrophobia in a contemporary Gothic.

I was living in Manchester then, a Londoner (7)\_\_\_\_\_ to the North West; Joy Division helped me orient myself in the city. I saw this new environment through their eyes and felt it through the powerful atmosphere they generated on records and in concert. Their first album, *Unknown Pleasures*, (8)\_\_\_\_\_ in June 1979, defined not only a city but a moment of social change: according to writer Chris Bohn, they ‘recorded the corrosive effect on the individual of a time (9)\_\_\_\_\_ between the collapse into impotence of traditional Labour humanism and the impending cynical victory of Conservatism’.

This book may help us to understand the nature of the obsession that continues to (10)\_\_\_\_\_ rock culture: the romantic notion of the tortured artist, too fast to live, too young to die. This is the myth that begins with Thomas Chatterton and still carries on, through Rudolf Valentino, James Dean, Sid Vicious, Ian Curtis and Kurt Cobain. *Touching from a Distance* shows the human cost of that myth.



MARK

/4

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

## TEXT 2

Read carefully the following excerpt from an article by the writer James Scudamore in which he reviews some books about boarding school, and choose the correct answer (a, b or c) according to the text. *Item 0* is an example. Write your answers in the white box on the right. (3.2marks: 0.4 each)

### TOP BOOKS ABOUT BOARDING SCHOOL

Boarding school stories for children make up an entire genre, and have their lifelong devotees – but as in, say, the work of PG Wodehouse, the environment of these books is largely consequence-free. Whatever happens, the slate can usually be wiped clean at the end for the next caper.

In reality, they are places freighted with consequence, and stories for adults set within their walls, such as Lindsay Anderson's masterful 1968 film *If ...*, hold an enduring fascination for their microcosmic studies of oppression and rebellion.

My new novel, *English Monsters*, is about a group of friends who meet at a boarding preparatory school at the age of 10, and whose experiences there resound inescapably in their lives over the next 30 years. So, no Jennings, Bunter or Malory Towers here. Hogwarts is out, too. Everyone at boarding school craves superpowers, because it's the most obvious response to the powerlessness. But you don't have them.

📖 *The Time of the Hero* by Mario Vargas Llosa

The novel's original Spanish title translates as *The City and the Dogs*, the "dogs" being cadets at a vicious military school in Lima, Peru, based on the Leoncio Prado military academy to which Vargas Llosa was sent at 14. The plot hinges on the theft of an exam paper and subsequent death of the boy who told on the perpetrators. Officials at Leoncio Prado were so outraged by its portrayal in the novel that they held a book-burning ceremony, proving that Britain doesn't have a monopoly on the association of residential education with deranged nationalistic fervour.

📖 *Frost in May* by Antonia White

Nanda Grey is sent to the Convent of the Five Wounds at the behest of her adored father, a recent convert to Catholicism. Girls as young as 11 are told here that they must "live constantly in the spiritual presence of death", so they "mortify" themselves by putting salt on their pudding instead of sugar, and affixing burrs to the inside of their uniforms. Even when Nanda's behaviour is exemplary, she is still admonished for lacking "normal, healthy, natural naughtiness". It's a booby-trapped environment of Exemptions and Permissions, where you can burn in hell for ever just for eating a found sweet on your way to communion.

📖 *Decline and Fall* by Evelyn Waugh

Sent down from Scone College, Oxford for indecent behaviour after his trousers are stolen by a drunken member of the Bollinger Club, Paul Pennyfeather is exiled to teach at a purgatorial boarding school in Wales. On sports day, the hurdles have been burned for firewood and are replaced by five-foot-high spiked railings, and the starting pistol is Philbrick the butler's service revolver, which ends up being discharged into the heel of Lady Circumference's son, Lord Tangent. Among its many delights is the novel's acknowledgement of the fact that teachers at boarding school often seem as perplexed as the pupils as to how they came to be in such a place.

📖 *Old School* by Tobias Wolff

The novel opens in November 1960 after John F Kennedy has beaten Richard Nixon to the US presidency. The boys at the elite school where this novel is set all favour JFK, partly because "he had his clothes under control" and "his wife was a fox" – but mainly because he "read and wrote books". The highlight of every term is a visit from a Great Writer, and in our unnamed protagonist's final year, the visiting writers are Robert Frost, Ayn Rand and Ernest Hemingway, the last of whom will judge a creative writing competition. This sends the pupils into a competitive frenzy and tests the school's hardwired codes of honour to breaking point.

📖 *Prep* by Curtis Sittenfeld

At 14, Lee Fiora becomes fascinated with boarding schools while researching the subject at her local public library. She falls for the handsome boys in the prospectuses she sends away for and ends up, to the mystification of her parents, on a scholarship to the prestigious Ault school in Massachusetts. The environment here is as preppy as it gets – the characters have names such as Cross Sugarman and Gates Medkowski – but the stew of adolescent fears and desires the novel depicts is universal.



0. It is suggested that in PG Wodehouse's books

- a. adventures happen one after another in a row.
- b. **characters may act without any harmful result.**
- c. there is a laid-back atmosphere.

Ⓐ  
B



1. The plot in the novel *English Monsters*

- a. deals with culturally-rooted childish wishes.
- b. draws a fine line between facts and fiction.
- c. spreads beyond the characters' childhood.

Ⓐ

2. In the article, Peru and Britain are compared in terms of their

- a. animosity towards critique.
- b. censorial educational system.
- c. fanatical patriotic stance.

Ⓑ

3. In *Frost in May*, the students at the Convent of the Five Wounds

- a. are instilled with a sense of guilt.
- b. are pushed to become thrifty.
- c. must face bullying on a regular basis.

Ⓒ

4. Paul Pennyfeather is

- a. demoted to an unpleasant school.
- b. forced to work in an obscure religious school.
- c. unfairly judged by his fellow partners.

Ⓓ

5. In *Decline and Fall*, the teachers

- a. are frequently puzzled by the circumstances too.
- b. are oblivious to what really happens at the school.
- c. end up sympathizing with their students.

Ⓔ

6. In *Old School*, the boys especially support Kennedy

- a. because he was an articulate man.
- b. due to, among other things, his cunning wife.
- c. for his reputation as a well-educated man.

Ⓕ

7. The main character of *Old School*

- a. is devoid of appellation.
- b. remains hidden under a nickname.
- c. turns out to be unspeakable.

Ⓖ

8. In the review of *Prep*, the author of the article highlights the

- a. bewilderment of Lee Fiora's parents.
- b. encouragement of Lee Fiora's parents.
- c. spirituality of Lee Fiora's parents.

Ⓗ

### TEXT 3

Read the following text about the city of Brighton, 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 at the end of the text. (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)

#### BRIGHTON

The English city got the royal stamp of approval as a place to go for hedonism and escaping social restrictions – (0) A.

The English south coast city of Brighton goes places few other cities even think of. This is a town where a man dressed as a geisha can step delicately along the city's thronged main street and draw nothing more than an approving nod from locals.

People feeling free to dress (or undress) how they wish is a Brighton trope – like an elderly chap I chatted to recently, (1) \_\_\_\_\_, its riot of cherries and oranges rounded off by pointy red winkle-picker shoes. Meanwhile, Brighton tailor Zack MacLeod Pinsent recently described to the BBC his decision to dress every day here as an 18th-Century Regency dandy as simple “self-expression – never an attention thing... If I enjoy what I'm doing, why change?”

Gathering people who don't feel so comfortable elsewhere has been Brighton's thing since the 18th Century. Today, that includes a sizeable LGBTQI community (2) \_\_\_\_\_ not keen on the nine-to-five routine. They help sustain small-scale wonders like “queer culture” pub theatre The Marlborough and the community-run Cowley Club, a fabulous radical social centre where all-comers are welcome.

Brighton's most high-profile early “outsider” was the Prince Regent, later George IV. Nicknamed “Prinny”, he fled stifling court life in London to enjoy sexual shenanigans, gambling, flamboyant theatre and other exuberances in Brighton from the 1780s on – helping (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the city has followed ever since. In 1815, he hired architect John Nash to create a perfect Brightonian fantasy palace in the unique shape of the Royal Pavilion, an eye-popping architectural mash-up of minarets and domes uniquely fusing together visions of India, China and Regency England into one of the world's most striking buildings, inside and out.

But before Prinny – (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the 60 miles from central London through the South Downs hills – geography and history injected something distinct into the air in a town where the salty tang of the English Channel licks an atmospheric shingle shore overseen by raucous yellow-eyed gulls. “Brighton was quite cut off,” explained local historian Louise Peskett. “Before the age of cars and trains, the Downs were hellish to get over from London. So, it had this psychological thing of being like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow”.

Given the royal stamp of approval as a place to go for hedonism and escaping social restrictions, Brighton was set on a course where, for more than two centuries, its principal “industry” was pleasing yourself in whatever way you wished, (5) \_\_\_\_\_. This included, at times, the sort of rule-breaking behaviour expressed by low-life gangsters in Graham Greene's novel *Brighton Rock*.

Peskett further explores this eccentric spirit of Brighton in her *Notorious Women of Brighton* history tour. One of the characters on her tour is Phoebe Hessel, who escaped London's 18th-Century slums by dressing as a man to join the army only discovered when she was wounded in battle. Honourably discharged, she chose Brighton as the place for a cross-dressing female soldier to settle. And Brighton being a town where all-comers meet, (6) \_\_\_\_\_, who paid her pension until she died at age 108.

Peskett also cites early women doctors who, when female medical students were being pelted in the street in 1880s Edinburgh (7) \_\_\_\_\_, were welcomed in Brighton. “I think it was tied up



with Brighton always having a reputation for being LGBT friendly, which meant women who weren't interested in settling down with a man would have come here because they would be left to get on," she said.

Living outside the box helps people cut stresses associated with caring too much what others think about you. And perhaps that's also a reason why Brighton regularly tops lists of the happiest places in the UK to live. Because in a city where anything goes, anything feels possible too.

Source: Article by Norman Miller © *BBC Travel*, 16 March 2020

①A	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
✓							

- A. ~~and has been imbued with inclusivity and tolerance ever since~~
- B. and long before the Victorian railway brought day trippers
- C. casually sporting a multicoloured fruit machine-inspired suit
- D. establish a template of pleasure-seeking
- E. for defying anti-women social codes of the time
- F. mingled with a concentration of creatives and other myriad folk
- G. saw Brighton morph into one of Britain's first seaside resorts
- H. that were decades ahead of ideas becoming increasingly popular today
- I. this former pauper became friends of the Prince Regent
- J. though largely unnoticed by many womanish passers-by
- K. underpinned with a sense of rebelling against social norms



# KEY

## COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

C2

SEPTIEMBRE 2020

TEXT 1: IAN CURTIS (4 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	CONVEYED
1	PROPELLED
2	ISOLATED
3	PROSPERED
4	DIVE
5	OBLIVION
6	CAPTURING
7	TRANSPLANTED
8	RELEASED
9	SQUEEZED
10	STALK

TEXT 2: TOP BOOKS ABOUT BOARDING SCHOOL(3.2 marks: 0.4 each)

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

TEXT 3: BRIGHTON(2.8 marks: 0.4 each)

	ANSWERS
0	A
1	C
2	F
3	D
4	B
5	K
6	I
7	E





**Gobierno  
de La Rioja**

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ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DE LA RIOJA

EE 00 // DE LA RIOJA