



ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DE LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA
PRUEBA ESPECÍFICA DE CERTIFICACIÓN
INGLES NIVEL B2
CONVOCATORIA ORDINARIA 2023

PRUEBA DE COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

TAREAS: La prueba de Comprensión de Textos Escritos consta de TRES textos y TRES tareas.

DURACIÓN TOTAL: 75 minutos

INDICACIONES:

- TODAS las respuestas se escribirán en la **hoja de respuestas**.
- Emplear tinta permanente azul o negra. No usar lápiz.
- Corregir ~~tachando~~ el texto. No usar correctores líquidos o cintas.
- Puntuación total: **26 puntos**. "Apto" ≥ 13

TASK 1 ► Read TEXT 1, "50-Word Stories". Match each story (A-L) with the most suitable topic, as shown in the example. Write the corresponding letters (A-L) on the answer sheet, in spaces 1 to 8. There are three EXTRA stories that do not correspond to any topic.

8 points

EXAMPLE: A second-hand gadget. C

1. A boy's disappointment.
2. A middle-aged person who feels lonely.
3. Motivation to succeed.
4. Reading.
5. Setting something to make someone happy.
6. Someone else's children.
7. Someone's sudden death.
8. Your own children leaving home.

TASK 2 ► Read TEXT 2, “The Big Chop”. Decide which NINE statements (A-R) are TRUE according to the text. The first sentence is an example. Write the corresponding letters (A-R) on the answer sheet, in spaces 9 to 17 (the order is not important).

9 points

EXAMPLE: The title of the article, The Big Chop, makes reference to a haircut. (TRUE)

- A. The writer and the barber had never seen each other before.
- B. It was the first time the writer and the barber had talked to each other.
- C. The barber refused to cut her hair.
- D. Having had the Big Chop represents a turning point in her life.
- E. You don't have to think long before having the Big Chop.
- F. The place where she was raised made her wish for straight hair even more.
- G. She was never allowed to spend the night at her friends' when she was a kid.
- H. As a child, she used to love doing her friends' hair.
- I. Just women in her family had permission to touch her hair.
- J. She was really happy when she had her first chemical hair treatment.
- K. She used to believe that you must have straight hair in order to look good.
- L. She felt pressure not only from her friends but also from the black community.
- M. The internet helped boost the natural hair movement when she was a child.
- N. Brooklyn was a peaceful place to live in when she went to university there.
- O. She fully supported the Black Panthers.
- P. Cleaver's words provoked mixed feelings in her.
- Q. Talking to someone who no longer used chemical treatments encouraged her.
- R. She had a feeling of satisfaction after having the Big Chop.

TASK 3 ► Read TEXT 3, “Benefits of European train travel”. Choose the line (A-M) from the list below that best completes each gap. There are FOUR extra LINES that you DO NOT need. The first one is an example. Write the corresponding letters (A-M) on the answer sheet, in spaces 18 to 26.

9 points

EXAMPLE: EVEN THE THREAT OF MELTING

- A. A SUBSTANTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT
- B. TO STRETCH YOUR LEGS
- C. AS THE SAME JOURNEY BY RAIL
- D. FAR LESS LIKELY TO HAPPEN
- E. YOU'LL HAVE MUCH MORE LEGROOM
- F. AND AFFORDABLE OPTION
- G. MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE
- H. MORE TIME-CONSUMING THAN TRAVELLING BY TRAIN
- I. ESPECIALLY TRUE IF YOU ARE STAYING
- J. A CONSIDERABLE SAVING
- K. A TIME-SAVING LUXURY NOT EXPERIENCED
- L. AS GLOBAL WARMING
- M. TECHNOLOGICAL REWARD

TEXT 1 – 50-WORD STORIES

A. HEARTBREAK

You're moving, and I will miss the laughter your joyful children make in the early morning hours. It won't be the same when I sit outside because although the bird's songs are beautiful, the voices of your children laughing are grand. Why must you take away my heart's only medicine?

B. ENGULFING STORY

Hands together, tip forward, and dive. Make a silent splash into pages filled with stunning imagery of enchanted places and mysterious people. Swim dreamily under a tide of words too foreign for your own life, when strung together. Above the surface, someone calls out, drags you back to boring reality.

C. REDUNDANT

When the company went bankrupt, Grandpa bought one of the huge office photocopiers, going cheap. Grandma was furious. It sat in their garage, plugged in, making the occasional sound and waiting for something useful to do. Grandpa made copies of our drawings. Maybe he just wanted to feel useful, too.

D. THAT WEEK

I'd meant to call that week, but had little to say. How's the knitting? Having good weather? Just working, mostly, everything's fine. Nothing much interesting, I'm sorry. Still, so nice to hear your voice. They say she was gone before she hit the floor. That week, I'd meant to call.

E. SEPARATION

Making the bed alone, the sheets won't stay in place. Besides, the double mattress we'd talked about replacing with a king feels empty. I sleep on the couch. Around midnight, I hear the front door open. She still has her key. But there isn't room on the couch for two.

F. LIFE OUTSIDE BOXES

Glancing over her room, Itsumi wondered if it was too late. Her entire life, fifty-three years, fit into sixteen midsized cardboard boxes. She didn't believe her life would have been better with more boxes; she merely noticed that no one was there to help carry them to the donation center.

G. YOU WAIT

You wait for them to smile, as you wait for sleep through the night. You wait for first words, as you wait for them to walk. You wait for preschool, college, graduation, job. All that waiting takes its toll. Until you look about one morning and realise that they've gone.

H. THE MAILBOX

We have a new routine these days: checking the mailbox when we return from daycare. It is day three and still no letters to collect. Those big brown eyes look at me in disappointment. It is day four. I put a letter in the mailbox before going to collect her.

I. MUTUAL MISUNDERSTANDING

Mitchell's tears dropped onto his mac and cheese. "We're not chasing tornados on vacation," his parents said. They knew they'd let him watch too many storm-chaser shows. They promised Mitchell an adventure. Just a safer one. He looked up, bright-eyed: "You mean there's another way we can get to Oz?"

J. TOO YOUNG

"Maybe Parkinson's," he said flatly, taking a quick glance at his watch, then the office door, measuring the seconds left in his obligation. "...Can't be. Twenty-nine is too young for that." Thirty-seven years old now, I count the ticks of a second hand on my trembling wrist, still too young.

K. THE GHOST

Only Arthur could see the outline of the girl standing by the window. He wanted to tell his parents, but he knew they wouldn't believe him. Nancy saw the outline of the boy standing by the door. She wanted to tell her parents, but she knew they wouldn't believe her.

L. OLD-TIME TENNIS GREAT

It doesn't matter if I win or lose a match anymore. It's the sprint from the back of the court to the net, tracking down the drop shot, then smashing it crosscourt for a winner. The roar of the crowd. Fist in the air. Chills. That's what keeps me going.

Source: fiftywordstories.com

TEXT 2- THE BIG CHOP

It was a hot, humid day when I decided it was time for the Big Chop. My body wanted to go home, but my heart guided me to the Dominican barbershop in my neighborhood in New York instead. The man sitting in a blue folding chair out front eyed me curiously as I approached.

I'd walked by the man countless times before, but we'd never spoken. Not until now, as I asked if he would cut off my hair. He frowned, unsure of what I was asking. But when I pointed at my chemically straightened hair and made sweeping snip-snips with my fingers, he gestured for me to follow him. Little did he know that his agreement would change my entire life.

Even though the Big Chop can be performed in one fell swoop, the thought process that goes into doing it is no quick matter – especially when one considers the fraught, complicated history between Black people, Black natural hair and the rest of the world.

As a Black kid growing up with all-white friends in a majority-white American suburb in the late 90s and early 2000s, I longed for straight hair with a burning and slightly obsessive passion. When it was “makeover time” at sleepovers, I'd sit patiently and wait for the other girls to finish doing each other's hair so we could finally do something I could participate in. The list of people who were allowed to touch my hair was short: my mom, my grandma Kate, and my mom's hairdresser, all Black women.

So naturally, when my mom promised me my first relaxer when I turned 10, I was elated. I counted down the days until the hairdresser put the cocktail of chemicals in my thick curls that would “relax” them.

At the time, I didn't see this as trying to “fit in” with white standards of beauty, as I do now. I was just excited to finally have one more thing in common with my friends. But it wasn't just my peers who influenced my belief that bone-straight hair equalled beauty. Both my mom and my older sister were relaxing their hair at the time, and so many Black celebrities had straight hair too. Throw in the fact that the natural hair movement hadn't taken off the way it eventually would thanks to the internet, and there I was, floating around in a natural hair desert.

I wouldn't think to change until more than a decade later, when I moved to Brooklyn for graduate school. Everywhere I went, it seemed, I ran into a protest or a deeply disturbing headline about another police officer who'd killed a Black person without any repercussions. The unrest in the city was palpable, and I was starting to feel it in my own bones.

It began to affect what I wrote, what I cared about. And it affected how I saw myself. My personal unrest peaked, though, when I watched the documentary *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution*. While I opposed the Black Panther party's sexist attitude towards women, I was captivated by their aesthetic. I could understand how a generation of frustrated young Black men and women would cling to the Panthers' sharp berets, their black leather jackets, their billowing afros. They fashioned an entirely new sense of themselves, and it was powerful to watch.

Even more powerful was Kathleen Cleaver explaining her afro to a white reporter. "This brother here, myself, all of us were born with our hair like this," she tells him. "The reason for it, you might say, is like a new awareness among people that their own appearance, their physical appearance, is beautiful. And it's pleasing to them."

It was like Cleaver was speaking directly to me, and I felt pride taking in her matter-of-factness. But I felt shame, too, for relaxing my hair for so many wrong reasons. Watching that documentary, I realised those reasons no longer applied to me. No longer did I feel the urge to hide my Blackness under painful, expensive chemicals in order to blend in. For once, I considered what it might be like to reach into my scalp, touch my roots and feel proud of its many textures.

A few weeks after that, I found myself sitting in the Dominican barbershop, armed with much trepidation and a few reassuring words from a dear natural-haired friend from college: it's only hair, it'll grow back. I clung to those words as the barber snipped off my relaxed hair, waiting to see what lie beneath. The answer? Hair that was short, sweet and oh-so-pleasing to me.

Adapted from theguardian.com

TEXT 3 - THE BENEFITS OF TRAIN TRAVEL

After a summer of air travel headaches complete with flight cancellations and delays, luggage disasters, security and customs hassles and **- EXAMPLE -** airport runways, some people are beginning to think taking the train while in Europe may be a better idea.

Europe's train system is a well-developed **- 18 -**. You won't have to deal with long airport security lines, airport commute hassles, luggage fees and a host of other problems. Instead, you can just hop on a long-distance train from the city center of virtually any major European city to get to your final destination.

European trains often offer a couple of complimentary conveniences and the freedom **- 19 -** and stroll to a dining car for a bit to eat or drink. Not to mention, trains rarely come with the problems that many European airports and airlines have faced this summer.

Simply walking on and off trains with your luggage in hand is **- 20 -** by air travelers for decades. Beyond the physical burden of the screening process at airports, the queues you'll need to wait in to even get to the screening counter for security, passport control and customs can add hours to the experience. As a result, what you had hoped would be a quick flight may feel **- 21 -**.

Many airlines, especially budget carriers, will not provide Wi-Fi. If they do, they often charge a high price for it on most short-haul flights. Most long-distance European trains, however, come with Wi-Fi included with the ticket price. Additionally, **- 22 -** and tray table space at your disposal, so you can comfortably kick back and get some work done as you go.

The price, stress and timing of getting to an airport can set your trip off on the wrong note. Taking a train from the central station of your favorite European city is typically far more convenient than schlepping outside the city to an airport. This is **- 23 -** in or near the city center. Depending on where you stay, you may even find it possible to walk directly to or from the station.

European trains run on regular schedules and are not subject to the same weather and air traffic control delays as airplanes. Plus, trains are rarely oversold like planes are, and you won't get bumped by someone with a higher status. Some overnight trains and those with longer, more complicated itineraries may have delays on the rails to make way for overnight freight traffic. However, generally, delays are **- 24 -**.

You may not regularly think about how environmentally friendly your trips are, but it doesn't mean your travels don't play a part in the larger conversation about the environment. Many experts agree that there is **- 25 -** to traveling by train instead of flying.

"A journey from London to Paris by air emits around 10 times as much CO2 **- 26 -**," said Tom Hall, a writer and train specialist at Lonely Planet. "As travelers look for more sustainable travel choices, longer-distance rail routes are gaining in popularity."

Adapted from www.thepointsguy.com