



ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

PRUEBA ESPECÍFICA DE CERTIFICACIÓN DE NIVEL AVANZADO C1 DE INGLÉS SEPTIEMBRE 2024

Comisión de Evaluación de la EOI de

COMPRESIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS

Table with 2 columns: 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: preguntas o frases incompletas, seguidas de una serie de respuestas posibles o 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 (A) B C

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

1 (X) B (C)

- Frases para completar con una palabra. En este caso deberá escribir las palabras en el espacio correspondiente en la HOJA DE RESPUESTAS. Se proporcionan más palabras de las necesarias y sólo hay una combinación correcta.

Ejemplo:

1 espacio para su respuesta

- Pregunta de relacionar. Se presentan una serie de proposiciones que deberá relacionar con su respuesta correspondiente de entre las proporcionadas. En este caso deberá elegir la respuesta correcta y escribir la letra de su opción en la HOJA DE RESPUESTAS. Se proporcionan más proposiciones de las necesarias y sólo hay una combinación correcta entre pregunta y respuesta.

Ejemplo:

1 (A) B C D E

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

1 (X) B (C) D E

En total, deberá contestar a 25 preguntas. Cada una de ellas vale 0,4 puntos sobre un total de 10. La calificación se obtendrá al multiplicar el número de respuestas correctas por 0,4 expresando el resultado con un decimal. 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

EJERCICIO 1: YOUR MENTAL DICTIONARY

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	

EJERCICIO 2: UK, BRITAIN, BRITISH ISLES, AND IRELAND

Espacio reservado para la persona correctora

8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

EJERCICIO 3: RICKY GERVAIS ON US VS. UK HUMOUR

Espacio reservado para la persona correctora

16	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
17	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
18	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
19	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
20	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
21	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
22	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
23	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
24	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
25	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	

EJERCICIO 1

YOUR MENTAL DICTIONARY

Adapted from discovermagazine.com

Read the following text and, for questions 1 – 7, choose the correct option A, B, or C as in example 0. Only **ONE** answer is possible.

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

In an era where physical dictionaries are becoming less common, it's fascinating to realize that each of us carries an even more powerful dictionary in our minds. This mental dictionary includes not just the meanings of words, but also their sounds, spellings, and grammatical roles. It's akin to a thesaurus, linking words through similarities in meaning, sound, or spelling.

As a researcher focused on word retrieval, I am intrigued by how words are organized in our mental lexicons. Each person's mental dictionary is unique, shaped by individual experiences and linguistic exposure. This personalization is evident in the variance of vocabulary sizes among people. For instance, research shows that the average 20-year-old American English speaker knows about 42,000 unique words, a number that increases to around 48,000 by age 60. However, these numbers can be higher depending on a person's reading habits and educational background.

While we often visualize the mental dictionary as a neatly organized book, the reality is far more complex. The brain's processing of language is dynamic, involving multiple regions and networks. One outdated theory, the grandmother cell theory, proposed that each concept, including every word we know, was represented by a single neuron. This has been largely dismissed in favour of more holistic models that acknowledge the distributed nature of brain processing. Modern neuroscience suggests that large networks of neurons work together in parallel to process words and concepts. When you think of a word, several aspects are activated simultaneously, drawing on different experiences and senses.

Consider the word "dog." Your brain retrieves not just the definition, but also sensory experiences, emotions, and memories associated with dogs. This processing is distributed across various parts of the brain, illustrating the complexity and richness of our mental dictionaries.

The speed of word retrieval is another marvel. Studies have shown that word selection in the brain occurs incredibly quickly, often within 200 milliseconds after seeing an image or being prompted. This rapid processing is essential for fluid conversation and reflects the brain's ability to efficiently navigate our vast internal lexicon.

However, this process isn't always seamless. The "tip-of-the-tongue" phenomenon, where a word is temporarily inaccessible despite knowing it, is a common experience. Such incidents tend to increase with age, partly due to age-related changes in the brain affecting sound activation and memory retrieval.

For individuals with language disorders, such as those caused by brain injuries or neurodegenerative diseases like aphasia, difficulties with word retrieval can be more pronounced. Aphasia, in particular, can significantly impact a person's ability to access and use words, often leading to frustration and communication challenges.

Fortunately, there are various treatments and therapies aimed at improving word retrieval. Semantic feature analysis, for example, helps strengthen the connections between words and their meanings, aiding in more efficient retrieval. Phonomotor treatments focus on the production of speech sounds, enhancing the ability to articulate words. In our digital age, there are also apps and online platforms that offer remote, personalized therapy for word retrieval, making treatment more accessible.

Beyond its practical implications, understanding our mental dictionaries offers a window into the human experience. Language is a defining feature of our species, and the way we use words can reveal much about our thoughts, emotions, and identities. Each person's vocabulary, shaped by unique life experiences and cultural backgrounds, contributes to a rich tapestry of human communication.

The next time you engage in a conversation, consider the intricate processes at play. The words you choose, how you combine them, and the ease with which you access them are all testaments to the remarkable capabilities of your mental dictionary. This personal lexicon is not just a tool for communication but also a reflection of who you are and your journey through life.

EJERCICIO 2

UK, BRITAIN, BRITISH ISLES, AND IRELAND

Adapted from irishpost.com

Read this article below. For gaps 8 - 15, complete the text with **ONE** of the words in the box. Question 0 has been made as an example. There are **THREE** extra words you **DO NOT** need to use.

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

The terms United Kingdom (UK), Great Britain (GB), and the British Isles are often **0. confused** due to political, cultural, and social reasons. This ambiguity extends to the differences between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. These islands off the West of Europe perplex not only visitors but also their own citizens.

To **8**_____ the nomenclature (a term for choosing names), we've consulted Ordnance Survey (OS), Britain's mapping agency, and Dr David Nally from the University of Cambridge's Geography Department, and here are the answers to our questions:

What is the United Kingdom and what countries are in it? The UK's full name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Despite this clear **9**_____, Rob Andrews from OS notes the frequent misuse of "GB" and "UK."

The UK is a political union comprising England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Each is a country within the sovereign state of the UK. England, while the largest, is not sovereign by itself. Until 1922, the UK also included all of Ireland. "In 1801, the Act of Union with Ireland **10**_____ the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. After Ireland's 1922 independence, the name changed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland," Dr Nally explains.

What is Great Britain? Great Britain geographically includes England, Scotland, Wales, and their associated islands but not Northern Ireland. Misusing "Great Britain" and "UK" interchangeably is a common error. Without 'Great', Britain refers only to England and Wales. Great Britain is not a **11**_____ country but a geographical term.

The British Isles – Is it a Sensitive Topic? The British Isles is a geographical term encompassing a group of Atlantic islands northwest of continental Europe. This includes the Republic of Ireland and about 5,000 smaller islands like the Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, and the Channel Islands, which are Crown dependencies but not part of the UK.

"The term 'British Isles' refers only to geography, not nationality. While the Republic of Ireland is geographically part of the British Isles, its people are not British," OS clarifies. "Many in Ireland resist the 'British Isles' label, viewing it as cultural **12**_____. Alternatives like 'these islands' are preferred for their neutrality," adds Dr Nally.

What about Ireland? Ireland comprises 32 counties. The Republic of Ireland, independent since 1922, consists of 26 counties. It uses the Euro and has English and Irish as languages.

How does Northern Ireland fit into this context? Northern Ireland covers six northeastern counties of Ireland, forming part of the UK. Its currency is **13**_____, and English is spoken. Created in 1921 through partition by British parliament, its population includes Protestants, Catholics, and others with varied political identities. Peace has prevailed since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Geographical or political identity? Dr Nally emphasizes the complex history behind geographical names and identity politics. The terms 'formed', 'declared', and 'created' used in this context often **14**_____ from wars and conquests with diverse interpretations. This history illuminates current identity questions, like Unionists in Ireland identifying as both British and Irish, or many in Scotland preferring 'Scots' over 'British'. The geography of identity is intricate and **15**_____.

EJERCICIO 3

RICKY GERVAIS ON US VS. UK HUMOUR

Adapted from time.com

Read this article written by a British comedian. Choose the phrase (A-L) which best fits each gap (16-25) as in example 0. Only **ONE** answer is possible. There is **ONE** extra phrase that you **DO NOT** need to use.

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

It's often dangerous to generalize, but under threat, I would say that Americans are more "down the line." They don't hide their hopes and fears, and **0** H. Brits are more comfortable with life's losers. We embrace the underdog until it's no longer the underdog. We like to bring authority down a peg or two. Just for the hell of it. **16**_____. Brits are terrified to say this. We tell ourselves it's because we don't want to sound insincere, but I think it might be for the opposite reason. We don't want to celebrate anything too soon. Failure and disappointment lurk around every corner. This is due to our upbringing. Americans are brought up to believe they can be the next president of the United States. Brits are told, "It won't happen for you."

People in the U.K. often think that Americans don't understand irony. This is of course not true. But what is true is that they don't use it all the time. **17**_____. We Brits incorporate it quite liberally into our everyday conversations, much like how we use prepositions. We use sarcasm as a shield and a weapon. We avoid sincerity until it's absolutely necessary. We playfully tease both our friends and foes without discrimination, including ourselves. **18**_____. This practice holds great importance for us:. It allows us to engage in such banter.

Brits almost expect doom and gloom so to start off that way, but then, having a happy ending is an unexpected joy. Network America has to give people a reason to like you, not just a reason to watch you. In Britain we stop watching things like Big Brother when the villain is evicted. We don't want to watch a bunch of idiots having a good time. We want them to be as miserable as us. America rewards up front, on-your-sleeve niceness. **19**_____.

Recently I have been accused of being a shock comic, and cruel and cynical. **20**_____. But nothing could be further from the truth. I never actively try to offend. That's churlish, pointless and frankly too

easy. But I believe you should say what you mean. Be honest. No one should ever be offended by truth. That way you'll never have to apologize. I hate it when a comedian says, "Sorry for what I said", because I think that **21**____. As a comedian, I think my job isn't just to make people laugh but also make them think. As a famous comedian, I also want a strict door policy on my club. Not everyone will like what I say or find it funny. And I wouldn't have it any other way. **22**____. Good luck to them, but that's not my game, I'm afraid.

I'm not one of those people who think that comedy is your conscience taking a day off. My conscience never takes a day off and I can justify everything I do. There's no line to be drawn in comedy in the sense that there are things you should never joke about. There's nothing that you should never joke about, but it depends what that joke is. Comedy comes from a good or a bad place. **23**____. You can make jokes about race without any race being the butt of the joke. Racism itself can be the butt, for example. When dealing with a so-called taboo subject, the angst and discomfort of the audience is what's under the microscope. Our own preconceptions and prejudices are often what are being challenged. I don't like racist jokes. Not because they are offensive. I don't like them because they're not funny. And they're not funny because they're not true. They are almost always based on a falsehood somewhere along the way, **24**____. Comedy is an intellectual pursuit. Not a platform.

As for cynicism, I don't care for it much. I'm a romantic. From *The Office* and *After Life* to *The Invention Of Lying* and *Cemetery Junction*, goodness and sweetness, honour and truth, love and friendship always triumph. For me, humanity is king. Oh, and for the record, I'd rather a waiter say, "Have a nice day" and **25**_____.

EJERCICIO 1**YOUR MENTAL DICTIONARY**

- 0 The text describes the brain's function as...**
- A acting as a sound processor
 - B mirroring a dictionary's role**
 - C functioning like a grammar rulebook
- 1 The mental dictionary is similar to a thesaurus in the sense that it...**
- A provides us with definitions of words
 - B categorizes words based on their origin
 - C helps in finding lexical relations for words
- 2 The uniqueness of a person's mental dictionary is framed by...**
- A the number of books they read
 - B the number of languages they speak
 - C their personal experiences and background
- 3 The single neuron theory in word processing has been replaced by...**
- A the concept of linguistic relativity
 - B the theory of binary brain processing
 - C complex neuron networks across the brain.
- 4 The tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon is defined as...**
- A a fleeting inability to retrieve a familiar word
 - B an occurrence that only affects elderly individuals
 - C a condition where the tongue becomes physically stuck
- 5 What is a consequence of conditions like aphasia?**
- A Improved vocabulary access
 - B Challenges in recalling words
 - C A more pronounced word processing
- 6 At the end of the text, we are encouraged to...**
- A use digital apps for therapy
 - B learn more words for your mental dictionary
 - C consider the uniqueness of your word choices

- 7 The main focus of the text is the...
- A complexities of mental dictionaries
- B evolution of language development
- C role of the brain in language processing

EJERCICIO 2

UK, BRITAIN, BRITISH ISLES, AND IRELAND

altered	clarify	confused	definition
extend	formed	imperialism	integrated
multifaceted	sovereign	stem	sterling

EJERCICIO 3

RICKY GERVAIS ON US VS. UK HUMOUR

- A. a perceived tendency towards mischief is often met with disapproval
- B. Americans say “have a nice day”, whether they mean it or not
- C. it shows up in their smarter comedies, but they don’t use it as much socially as us
- D. not mean it, than ignore me and mean it
- E. our playfulness and arrogance are balanced by an equal measure of self-mockery
- F. the subject of a joke isn’t necessarily the target of the joke
- G. there are already enough comedians who try to please everyone
- H. **they applaud ambition and openly reward success** 0
- I. this is, of course, due to a few comments I made as host of last year’s Golden Globes
- J. which ruins the gag for me
- K. we can still be childish, and insecure, and even a bore, but we can’t be too mean
- L. you shouldn’t say it if you didn’t mean it and you should never regret anything you meant to do

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