



# La Rioja

EDUCACIÓN, CULTURA, DEPORTE Y JUVENTUD

## ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DE LA RIOJA PRUEBA DE CERTIFICACIÓN

### INGLÉS



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

Calificación final
  <input type="checkbox"/> Apto <input type="checkbox"/> No Apto
<b>Convocatoria MAYO 2023</b>

## 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: 60 minutos.</b></li></ul>

**TEXT 1**

Read the following article about a chaste cohabitation, 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 on the next page. (4 marks: 0.4 each)

BROOD	COOP	GROUNDS	QUALIFIERS
CIRCUMVENT	ELOPED	LOOP	SECRECY
COLLIDE	EMBOSSSED	PRECLUDED	<del>SPILLED</del>
COMPLY	FEIGN	PREVAILING	WINSOME

### A CHASTE MARRIAGE

I was 26 and married when I learned of the arrangement between my parents. Mom had come to stay with me and my new wife, and we got trapped indoors during an ice storm. Sometime during the weekend, my mother, probably in an alcohol-fueled moment of candor, (0) spilled the beans.

I had never heard of a Josephite marriage, a union inspired by the relationship between Joseph and the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. And to this day, I am astonished that my parents undertook a similar path with the blessing of the Roman Catholic Church. While their arrangement did not (1) \_\_\_\_\_ with the strict definition of a Josephite relationship — for they entered marriage without the intention of a celibate union — such pacts remain an option for Catholics seeking a higher spiritual plane.

My father was a worldly 32 and my mother a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ 19 when they met. He was a doctor completing his training at Queens General Hospital, now known as Queens Hospital Center. She was a student nurse in clinical training there. He was agnostic, though his parents were Presbyterian. She was Catholic. They (3) \_\_\_\_\_, were married by a Lutheran minister, and produced four children. Dad had a severe heart attack at 46. This brush with death prompted him to convert to Catholicism.

After he recovered from his heart attack, my father undertook religious training from our assistant pastor, Rev. Patrick O'Brien, a rosy-cheeked, rotund fellow who could have come from central casting.

Not long thereafter, my three siblings and I noticed that our parents' double bed was replaced by twin beds. My younger sister inquired about this. The sharp tone of our mother's answer (4) \_\_\_\_\_ further discussion: "Your father needs his rest!" My three siblings and I accepted this without question. What we didn't know was that my father had been married before meeting my mother. His first marriage lasted about two years, and because the church refused to recognize the divorce and end of that union, my parents could not receive the sacrament of matrimony.

During my father's immersion into Catholicism, it was pointed out that without the sacrament of matrimony performed by a priest, my parents were technically living in sin. Mortal sin.

My father tried repeatedly to have his first marriage annulled. The church declined. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for Catholic annulment were much more strict before reforms introduced in the U.S. in 1968. To the best of my knowledge, my father's first marriage did not meet the church's requirements of that era. But it did offer a different solution. Mom and Dad, with the bishop's permission, and after taking a solemn vow, could leave the marital bed and replace it with chaste cohabitation.

According to an official document that still bears the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ seals and signatures of various church officials and Catholic entities, they could "continue to cohabit in the manner of brother and sister." I have the letter, dated March 5, 1962, from a diocesan marriage tribunal, a "curia matrimonialis," in which both my parents swear to adhere to this arrangement — or face losing access to the sacraments and the blessing of the church. Mom was 34; Dad was 47.

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ was paramount. "No one is to know of the brother-sister relationship except the Advocate Father O'Brien, the Pastor, the Tribunal, and the confessors of the parties," the tribunal's letter said.

All this may seem like an artifact of the past, but a 2010 article in the publication Catholic Exchange explained that in addition to conventional marriage, there still exists “the type of marriage Joseph and Mary had and is sometimes referred to as a Josephite marriage.”

Robert Sullivan, a regular writer for the Catholic Exchange and a lawyer from Nebraska, told me that Josephite-like arrangements can be used to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ “some kind of impediment to marriage” as well as to “deepen a person’s faith.” I couldn’t help but wonder if the Catholic Church continues to structure these arrangements for couples who request such a union.

The (9) \_\_\_\_\_ view of theologians is that the special physical relationship of Mary and Joseph — the original Josephite marriage — endured throughout their lives.

As for my parents, nine years after my father’s heart attack and their decision to have a celibate marriage, his first wife died. On an ordinary Tuesday evening in 1970, Mom and Dad were married at our parish church. Two tight-lipped family friends served as witnesses. The twin beds in my parents’ bedroom were replaced by one big one. Yet again, my younger sister asked about the rearrangement. My mother’s brusque reply: “Your father is feeling much better!”

Yes, I suppose he was feeling better, reunited with Mom and, at long last, their union recognized for what it was.

There is still a lot I don’t understand about a celibate union, but what harm did it do? Our (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of four siblings might have been increased by a few more souls. But my parents didn’t seem to feel shortchanged, so who am I to question things. During her long years as a widow, Mom recalled, “It was what we had to do to be together. It wasn’t so bad.”

Source: An article by Geoffrey Leavenworth © *The New York Times*, November 17, 2021

ANSWERS		
0	<b>SPILED</b>	✓
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

**TEXT 2**

Read the following article about a TV show 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)

**BYRON BAES**

I'm not proud of this fact, but over the course of the past 24 hours, and in defiance of a to-do list a mile long, I binged all eight episodes of Byron Baes, Netflix's "first Australian reality show". This is, obviously, what you are supposed to do with a show like Byron Baes, which is not a product to be savoured or lingered over. It is wholly contrived, full of horrible characters and premised on an idea of life in which words such as "wellness" play a meaningful role. It is also expertly designed to suck you into the drama and offer you respite from the real problems of the world.

If there's a squeamish element to watching Byron Baes, it is the knowledge that the show works by encouraging a specific response in audiences that might be summarised as hate therapy. The cast are all young, affluent and deluded to one degree or another, identifying as designers and influencers, and living in a coastal town that was at one time a hippy surfing community. A few years ago, American movie stars began moving in – the location is stunning – and the place became promptly appalling. As an Australian friend told me: "It's been ruined by Hemsworths and Damons" – after which, the deluge: hordes of crystal-waving, linen-wearing Instagrammers who, inevitably after a few seasons, attracted the attention of Vanity Fair. In 2019, the magazine did a long piece about various eco-entrepreneurs in Byron Bay, one of whom specialised in "ethical bed linens for babies" while another eschewed the US because of its "consumerism". That piece was the springboard for the show, and here we are.

Fifteen years after the Kardashians first aired, it is curious to consider the evolution of the format, and the psychology of those who take part in it. Every episode of Byron Baes is organised around an event, either a product launch or a party, at which a confrontation between two or more characters is preordained. The show's participants are, directly or otherwise, incentivised to compete for screen time through drama and to bring about various staged disagreements. The rest of the cast then picks a side and jumps in. It is a whisper away from being scripted and an enjoyment of the show is watching a group of people turned so inside out with self-consciousness that their performances are on a par with Mrs Overall in Acorn Antiques.

And it's cleverly edited to build in some surprises. Initially, I thought Hannah, who helps her parents run their online interiors business, was unremittingly awful, only to discover she's among the most sympathetic characters in the cast. Jess, a designer, seemed vaguely self-aware for two episodes before descending into pot-stirring hell. Alex, a proxy for the regular person, rolls his eyes and barely belongs in this show, and Jade is straightforwardly dreadful throughout. Meanwhile, various large, male dimwits move around the landscape like those boulder people in Frozen II. Observing these characters is an old-school pleasure reminiscent of the first few seasons of Big Brother, with the added fascination of knowing that every one of them signed up fully aware of what they were getting into.

Unlike TV talent shows, which prey on the genuinely desperate, it is hard to see much exploitation here, beyond something very broad about what happens when interior life is scooped out by Instagram fame. A theme of the show is authenticity, and the Byron Bay locals like to distinguish themselves from people from, for example, the Gold Coast, who are disparaged for having "spray-on dresses and fake lips". With many lumbering cues, the show's audience is invited to consider that Gold Coasters, with their tans and tiny dresses, live a more authentic existence than the parade of shallow oddballs in Byron Bay.

Each character has, very obviously, made the calculation that exposure and the opportunities that come with it are worth the cost of derision. Elle throws a fundraiser to draw attention to the destruction of ocean life, at which she serves tuna canapés and is delivered cleanly to the audience on a plate. Jade, who presents like a creation of Sacha Baron Cohen's, is exposed for allegedly buying his Instagram followers in Turkey. There are no politics in this show, except for something nebulous about unchecked privilege and the adoption of good causes for likes, an impulse, after all, not exclusive to Byron Bay. The show is a padded room, like one of those places you can pay to enter to safely break things and work out your anger. Netflix, by offering these people up for a universal disparagement unrivaled by the usual conflicts and divides, is practically providing us with a public service.

0. The writer has watched the whole TV show

- a. *disregarding some household chores.*
- b. ***in a short span of time.***
- c. *while eating and drinking to excess.*

①

**B**


1. Byron Baes

- a. encourages you to confront personal challenges.
- b. engages viewers in dramatic breakdowns.
- c. is clearly artificial and absorbing.

①

2. The show is likely to

- a. develop some kind of emotional dislike in viewers.
- b. help viewers overcome self-loathing experiences.
- c. speed up audience growth relentlessly.

②

3. The show features

- a. some young adults striving for money and fame.
- b. well-to-do people who seem confused and misled.
- c. youngsters looking up to influencers and designers.

③

4. Byron Bay has been

- a. a restrictive spot for upper-class Instagrammers.
- b. in absolute decline due to current media pressure.
- c. the home of some sustainable business models.

④

5. In the show, participants

- a. are impelled to be involved in arranged disputes.
- b. come down on their rivals' side to increase audience share.
- c. put up a fight after a series of unplanned mishaps.

⑤

6. In the show,

- a. Alex has an acquaintance who is an ordinary guy.
- b. Jess appears involved in strife and controversy.
- c. some silly characters mirror Frozen's protagonist.

⑥

7. The TV show is a far cry from other shows because its

- a. contestants are prone to overlooking shallowness.
- b. local characters are genuine and authentic.
- c. participants are not overly used for a profit.

⑦

8. The characters in the show

- a. assume they still get some advantages after being ridiculed.
- b. sidestep political issues in order not to lose fan support.
- c. try to deceive the audience readily through privileges.

⑧

### TEXT 3

Read the following excerpt from the book *Forbidden City* 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)

#### SECRETARY SUN'S VISIT

The Party official arrived in early summer, the rumble of his jeep echoing along the rutted road. Vehicles didn't often travel through our narrow valley, still as remote as in the days (0)           K          . I leaned on my hoe, my shoulders aching. Beside me, my two sisters had also stopped working, listening until the sound drew so close that we ran in from the fields, joining the shouts and cries of excitement.

We halted at the sight of the jeep parked in the plaza, (1)                                 . The official spoke with the headman, who pointed at a neighbor, at me, at each girl in the cultural work troupe, and gestured to a spot by the acacia tree.

"Line up. Quickly, now. Don't keep Secretary Sun waiting," the headman barked. He had a squat neck and a body powerful in its flab. As I took my place, my blood jittered.

Secretary Sun had the look of a serpent, with high cheekbones and hooded eyes. He carried himself with a disciplined air, all tucks and polish. His thick black hair glinted gold, then red-brown in the sunlight.

I tried not to fidget. My father, sitting beneath the acacia, tipped the brim of his hat at me, and I hitched up my sagging pants, (2)                                 .

Secretary Sun walked along the line, his steps slow and precise, pausing before each girl: the bony ones, the short ones, the village beauty (3)                                 . At last, he stopped at me.

All of us had volunteered for the troupe to get out of field work, but we hadn't practiced in months. Ten thousand hours of rehearsals wouldn't have improved our performances. Only my neighbor, who accompanied us on his bamboo flute, possessed any talent. With a nod at us, Fatty Song played an old tune, one that my grandparents had hummed as children about the long days of summer, of sunshine and dreams. (4)                                 .

As we sang about victory and freedom, we acted out each verse. We raised our arms above our heads, to imitate the sun rising from the east – the east, where the dawn, where revolution began. I stretched as high as I could, (5)                                 , and set my jaw, trying to look fierce. When I glimpsed the girl beside me, though, I almost laughed out loud – her face squinched up as if she was suppressing a gigantic sneeze. Then I faltered, wondering if I might look like her.

Afterward, we lined up again. Our shuffling feet had kicked up the tickling scent of chickens, dust, and straw. Taking my place at the end, I hunched over, panting, sweat dripping down my back.

As the official looked over us again, I prayed to the Chairman, asking him to grant me the opportunity to serve. If the official didn't select me, in a year I might get married. In time, I would have a baby, then another and another. I had to act now; it might be my only chance. Catching Headman Song's eye, I (6)                                 . I swiveled my head over the length of the crowd as if to say, I will tell everyone.

When his mouth twitched, I knew he understood. Headmen elsewhere in Hebei province had been beaten for lesser offenses, for the people hungered to humble the powerful. To listen to their confessions, strip their authority, force them to clean latrines and catch flies in a jar. Even if only some believed the secret I held, the headman's reputation would suffer, (7)                                 .

When Secretary Sun returned and stopped in front of me, resting his hand on my shoulder, I didn't shy away.



- A. a taut line from my toes to the tips of my fingers
- B. a time when his haunting voice silenced us
- C. broad-shouldered and gangly ones, awkward as baby calves
- D. floated my hands in a gesture only he would understand
- E. for such was the strength of accusation in those days
- F. had me determined while I was still in the womb
- G. hand-me-downs from my sisters that were short and threadbare
- H. its red flags rippling with importance on the hood
- I. renowned for her deep dimples and petal-soft skin
- J. the words had been changed and put into the service of the people
- K. ~~when news of an emperor's passing arrived years afterward~~

①	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦
<b>K</b>							
✓							

# KEY

**COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS****C2****MAYO 2023****TEXT 1: A CHASTE MARRIAGE (4 marks: 0.4 each)**

	<b>ANSWERS</b>
<b>0</b>	<b><i>SPILLED</i></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>COMPLY</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>WINSOME</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>ELOPED</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PRECLUDED</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>GROUND</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>EMBOSS</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>SECRECY</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>CIRCUMVENT</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>PREVAILING</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>BROOD</b>

**TEXT 2: BYRON BAES (3.2 marks: 0.4 each)**

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

**TEXT 3: SECRETARY SUN'S VISIT (2.8 marks: 0.4 each)**

	<b>ANSWERS</b>
<b>0</b>	<b><i>K</i></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>J</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>E</b>