



INGLÉS II

Se deberá escoger la Opción A completa o la Opción B completa. TODAS las preguntas deberán responderse en el pliego de respuestas, NO en esta hoja.

OPCIÓN A

How to be a Brit

Back in 1986, George Mikes produced a manual for all those who want to be British, *How to be a Brit*. Some 30 years later, Penguin has republished it for the first time since its original publication. Full of the very best advice that any future Brit should need, it is a jolly good read. These are some contents almost as true today as they were in 1986.

One thing you must learn in England is that you must never really learn anything. You may hold opinions as long as you are not too dogmatic about them. You may think that two and two make four, you may 'rather suspect it', but you must *not* go further than that. 'Yes' and 'no' are about the two rudest words in the language. You should never be clear about anything: people on the Continent either tell you the truth or lie; in England they hardly ever lie, but they would not dream of telling you the truth.

Quite a few people told me that I was mistaken when I made fun of the English national habit: queuing. I was explained that it was simply a war-time benefit and it would disappear in no time. Other nations need occasional explosions of madness and violence; the English need occasional excesses of self-discipline. Under unbearable stress, other nations shout and lose self-control; the English queue up for a cup of tea.

Books like *How to be a Brit* emphasize stereotypes that, far from being exaggerated or simply wrong, happen to be quite true. For example, the British love to drink tea and you must drink endless cups of tea. The mere mention of such wonders as Earl Grey and English breakfast tea should set your heart agitated and you should refuse to drink absolutely anything else. The British are excessively polite: as a Brit, you should start and finish every phrase by excusing yourself with 'sorry'. Equally, you must repeat 'please' and 'thank you' at least five times within a sentence. And, of course, showing politeness implies not complaining: complaining is very un-English; if a waiter brings your food ice-cold, you keep your mouth shut.

• QUESTIONS. Do not copy literally from the text. (1 punto por respuesta = 4 puntos)

1. Why is *How to be a Brit* an interesting book?

(Modelo de respuesta, o formulación similar equivalente) After more than thirty years since it was first published in 1986, it has recently been republished by Penguin. Besides this, the text says people enjoy reading it, as it contains the best advice for any future Britisher.

2. What does the text say about the openness and sincerity of the British people?

(Modelo de respuesta, o formulación similar equivalente) British people are not particularly open or sincere. They avoid expressing openly what they think or what they know, and they manage not to lie while hiding the truth.

3. What is the role of queuing in British culture?

(Modelo de respuesta, o formulación similar equivalente) According to the text, queuing is considered to be the national habit. It comes from war times and it is quite unlikely to disappear. Queuing is seen as an act of extreme self-discipline: British people queue even when they want to get a cup of tea.

4. How does the text describe British politeness?

(Modelo de respuesta, o formulación similar equivalente) Being polite means that you should never say the words 'yes' and 'no' straightforwardly, you are expected to use expressions like 'sorry', 'please' and 'thank you' continually, and, of course, complaining is terribly impolite, so you should never complain in any situation.



• EXERCISES

5. Fill in the gaps with the correct, most appropriate word in each case. **(0,25 por acierto = 1 punto)**

They say it is always raining in Britain. As a Brit you can never (A) _____ the house without an umbrella, a raincoat or a good pair of wellington boots. Never (B) _____ the sun fool you into thinking it might (C) _____ a nice day. It will rain eventually, don't you worry. And on the off-chance there ever is a genuinely sunny day, then you best stay inside, you (D) _____ not equipped to handle it.

A) *leave* B) *let* C) *be* D) *are*

6. Rephrase the following sentences so that their meaning is as similar to the original as possible. **(0,25 por acierto = 1 punto)**

- A) How much does the new iPad Pro cost?
I'd like to know how...
- B) My advice is to choose a direct flight to Australia.
If I...
- C) Tom couldn't convert the audio files with VLC.
The new files...
- D) 'Why don't we spend the day at the beach?' said Carlos.
Carlos suggested...

- A) *I'd like to know how much the new iPad Pro costs.*
- B) *If I were you, I would choose a direct flight to Australia.*
- C) *The new files couldn't be converted with VLC.*
- D) *Carlos suggested spending the day at the beach.*

7. Write a composition about the following topic (100-120 words). **(4 puntos)**

According to your experience, describe characteristics that are typical of Spanish people



OPCIÓN B

Learning languages

There are hundreds of good reasons to start learning a new language. Let's review some of them. Learning a second language opens up many career opportunities. The world is changing fast and more companies than ever are doing business in several countries around the world, but they cannot do it without multilingual employees. Speaking a second language each day really can keep the doctor away! Scientists have demonstrated the cognitive benefits of learning another language, no matter how old you are: memory improvement, and a reduced risk of age-related cognitive decline are just some of the known positive effects of speaking several languages. If you speak a foreign language, you can get an outsider's perspective about your own culture. Trying to understand your own culture exclusively from within it is like trying to understand what a bus is like if you have only ever ridden inside it: you cannot see the bus's wheels, the exterior colour, or the engine that drives it. You need to get off that bus and examine it from the outside. Learn another language and you will have insight into another culture, you will get to 'ride on a different bus'.

Consider now the following tips given by experts on multilingualism. One main suggestion is to make realistic goals. You may feel wildly optimistic when you start, but why don't you set yourself the target of, for example, reading a newspaper article in the new language without the help of the dictionary? Experts remark that you should learn vocabulary in context; memorizing lists of vocabulary can be boring and, eventually, useless. A great way to build vocabulary is to make sure the words you are learning come from situations that you have experienced yourself, so that the content is always relevant and connects to your experience. Finally, age is just a number: you should ignore the myth that learning languages when you are an adult is harder. Adults and children learn in different ways: as children we learn languages organically and instinctively; as adults, we can learn them systematically.

• **QUESTIONS. Do not copy literally from the text. (1 punto por respuesta = 4 puntos)**

1. Is there any relationship between learning languages and the job market?
(Modelo de respuesta, o formulación similar equivalente) **There certainly is. Learning a new language may be an open door to a significant improvement in your job, in other words, speaking two or more languages can improve your employment prospects. Many companies are doing business at an international level and they can only do that if they have employees who speak several languages.**
2. In what way is learning a foreign language beneficial for the understanding of your own culture?
(Modelo de respuesta, o formulación similar equivalente) **Learning a foreign language allows you to analyse your own culture from an external perspective. You may get a richer, fuller picture of your own culture only if you get out of it and study it from outside.**
3. Name two pieces of advice provided by experts on multilingualism.
(Modelo de respuesta, o formulación similar equivalente) **Experts on multilingualism suggest setting attainable goals and learning vocabulary in context and as a result of your own experiences.**
4. What is the meaning of the expression 'age is just a number' as used in the text?
(Modelo de respuesta, o formulación similar equivalente) **The expression 'age is just a number' means that you should not let yourself be influenced by the idea that learning a foreign language when you are an adult is more difficult than doing so at a young age; it is simply a different learning process.**



• EXERCISES

5. Fill in the gaps with the correct, most appropriate word in each case. **(0,25 por acierto = 1 punto)**

It may not (A) _____ an option for everyone but if you are serious about learning a foreign language, you need to go (B) _____ the language is spoken. Travel and living (C) _____ can complement learning in the classroom. Once you (D) _____ to the foreign country, a new world is open to your eyes and to your ears.

- A) *be* B) *where* C) *abroad* D) *get*

6. Rephrase the following sentences so that their meaning is as similar to the original as possible. **(0,25 por acierto = 1 punto)**

- A) 'I wouldn't buy that diesel car, Tom, if I were you.'
I advised...
- B) The new Labour Government is building hundreds of community houses at the moment.
Hundreds of community houses...
- C) Nobody in the class cooks better than Sam.
Sam is...
- D) I found a man's wallet. He gave me a reward.
The man whose...

- A) *I advised Tom not to buy the diesel car (I advised Tom against buying the diesel car).*
- B) *Hundreds of community houses are being built by the new Labour Government at the moment.*
- C) *Sam is the best cook in the class.*
- D) *The man whose wallet I found gave me a reward.*

7. Write a composition about the following topic (100-120 words). **(4 puntos)**

What are your own, personal motivations for wanting to speak another language? **(do not copy ideas from the text)**