



Instrucciones. a) Duración: 1h30m. b) No se permite el uso de diccionario.
c) La puntuación de las preguntas está indicada en las mismas. d) Las opciones A y B no se pueden mezclar.

OPTION A: "Can humans control the weather?"

1. The opening night of the 2008 Beijing Olympic summer games was an amazing spectacle: thousands of dancers,
2. acrobats and singers performed in carefully choreographed unison. No detail was too big or too small to be left to
3. chance; from the lovely child performers, to one factor that seemed uncontrollable: the weather. Chinese officials
4. claimed that they prevented the rain by launching rockets into the rain clouds the night before. Right on schedule,
5. the first day of the Olympics was clear, with low humidity – a notable contrast to the usual hot and wet conditions
6. of South East Asia in August.
7. Does this prove that humans have learned how to control the weather? The idea of humans controlling the
8. weather is not a new one. Back in medieval France, people would shoot cannons into the clouds to try to prevent
9. crop-damaging storms. But it wasn't until the 1940s that human attempts to influence the weather had any real
10. results. A series of weather modification experiments carried out by General Electric Laboratories showed that
11. releasing chemicals into clouds caused rain drops to turn into ice at higher than normal temperatures.
12. New satellites and high technological measuring equipment are helping scientists and researchers learn more
13. about the weather patterns of the earth. By mid century you can expect more accurate weather predictions, and
14. eventually controlling the weather itself.
15. Governments all over the world are researching weather modification. The obvious benefits of controlling local
16. weather would be to increase crop production, decrease the severity of storms, reduce flooding, eliminate water
17. shortages, etc. There are also military uses, such as making sure the weather is clear for a mission or covering the
18. enemy with snow, fog or lightning strikes.
19. A far better use of weather modification would be if we could someday stop a hurricane like Katrina from ever
20. reaching land.

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1 How did the Chinese authorities try to guarantee good weather on the Olympic Games opening night?
- 2 What change has been achieved by General Electric's experiments on weather control?
- 3 Give at least three benefits of controlling the weather.

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4 Technology contributes to more accurate weather predictions.
- 5 China is the only country carrying research into weather control.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6 FIND IN THE TEXT ONE WORD MEANING "the total field production from a specific area".
- 7 FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "wetness" (NOUN).
- 8 WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING?: Instrument / advice / device / tool.
- 9 GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "prove" (VERB; LINE 7).
- 10 TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: "The doctor said to the old lady: 'I will not operate on you'".
- 11 JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: "The name of the hospital is St Andrew's. I had a heart operation there".
- 12 FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: "They don't let people (smoke) in hospitals".
- 13 USE THE WORDS IN THE BOXES TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL SENTENCE. USE ALL AND ONLY THE WORDS IN THE BOXES WITHOUT CHANGING THEIR FORM:
with should scientists technologies be the familiar latest

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)

- 14 WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS, AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT. SPECIFY YOUR OPTION.
A) "Weather changes greatly affect people's lives." Discuss.
B) What would your ideal weather be like?



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OPTION B: "Indian woman gives birth at age 70"

1. Rajo Devi, who married 50 years ago, gave birth to a baby girl on November 28, and is now the world's oldest new
2. mother. Adriana Iliescu, a retired university lecturer in Romania, was the previous oldest woman to have given
3. birth. She had her child at the age of 66 in 2006. Maria Del, a Spanish woman, gave birth at the age of 67. And now,
4. Rajo Devi has given birth in her seventies, becoming the oldest woman in doing so.
5. Devi's husband –aged 72– was first married to Devi's sister. Ten years later, after she failed to have any children
6. –something widely considered to be a stigma in India's family-orientated society– Ram married Devi's younger
7. sister hoping that she would give him an heir. Situations like this one, though illegal and punishable by law, are
8. not uncommon in rural India even today and enjoy a broad social acceptance in agrarian communities where
9. women have few or no rights. But their new attempt also failed and the three of them lived childless for decades
10. till they finally got in touch with a nearby fertility centre for treatment. Dr Anurag Bishnoi, a doctor at the fertility
11. centre, said: "Infertility is no longer a social taboo or a divine punishment. It can be treated scientifically." On April
12. 19 the embryo transfer was successfully done and both mother and child are now in good health.
13. The new mother said: "We have wanted to have a child for years and now we are very happy to have one in the
14. final years of our life." Her husband said he wasn't worried about who would take care of the child if they died. "As
15. we have a big family, the education and upbringing of the child are not a problem," he said. The couple also said
16. that they had been feeling socially humiliated for not being able to have children, and after the treatment their
17. social status has risen in the village.

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 1 Why did Ram marry Devi's sister?
- 2 To Ram and Devi, what is the advantage of belonging to a big family?
- 3 Did the couple have problems for not having children?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

- 4 Not having children is well considered in the Indian society.
- 5 Rajo Devi is the second oldest mother to give birth at the age of 70.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

- 6 FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR "wed" (VERB).
- 7 GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "fail" (VERB; LINE 5).
- 8 WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING?: Habit / costume / custom / tradition.
- 9 FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT PREPOSITION: "My brother apologized being late".
- 10 TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE: "The police are investigating him".
- 11 TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO DIRECT SPEECH: "The teacher told us not to mock our classmates".
- 12 GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: "I travel to London twice a month".
- 13 FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: "Devi (be married) for fifty years now". Married / is married / has been married.

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)

14 WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS, AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT. SPECIFY YOUR OPTION.

- A) Would you mind having your children after fifty? Give reasons.
- B) "Young people nowadays don't want to have children." Discuss.