

**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: "The Loch Ness monster: a famous creature"**

1. For a long time the Loch Ness monster has been seen in Lake (Loch) Ness in Scotland. This creature, which
  2. resembles a large aquatic serpent, is today best known as Nessie, a nickname given by its fans. Although nobody
  3. knows for sure if it really exists, the monster is a celebrity today. In fact, there are video cams and web cams on
  4. different points of the lake ready to capture a picture of Nessie. Many people have moved to tents and mobile
  5. homes in the vicinity hoping to see their long-awaited "idol". There is even a reward for whoever sees him arise
  6. from the depth of the waters either live or through the cameras installed for that purpose.
  7. There are many theories surrounding the Loch Ness monster. Most researchers believe that a specimen of this
  8. creature could have existed in the lake at least 200 million years ago, and that very possibly any actual living Nessie
  9. could be the descendant of many generations from the original monster. They also think that there is more than one
  10. Nessie, or that there is a possible underwater passage allowing the monster to travel. In the United States, a similar
  11. monster has been reported in Lake Champlain, Vermont. This creature, known as Champie, would strengthen the idea
  12. of a possible underwater passageway connecting Scotland to the USA; Champie could be Nessie, changing its
  13. identity.
  14. The first documented report on the monster was made in 1930, but he became famous and was widely
  15. publicized in the early 1960s. Nowadays, although many people claim they have seen the monster in recent years,
  16. the cameras installed show no clear shots of Nessie, only movement in the lake's waters. Nobody has claimed the
  17. reward yet, but Nessie's enthusiasts keep watching the lake religiously. In the United Kingdom, confirming the
  18. existence of Nessie is irrelevant because the monster has a purely mythological meaning for the British people,
  19. and particularly for the Scottish, who do not need proof to believe in the monster's existence. There is a popular
  20. legend saying that a certain hornpipe melody has the ability to attract Nessie to the surface; however, only a few
- people who know the music are still alive today.

**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** What initiatives have been taken to prove Nessie's existence? Give at least two.

**2** Is there any relationship between Nessie and Champie? Explain.

**3** According to the tradition, how can the creature be brought out of the water?

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

**4** Most researchers believe that the Loch Ness Monster is only an invention.

**5** It is important for the British people to prove that the Loch Ness Monster really exists.

**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 "proof"(NOUN).

**7** GIVE AN ADJECTIVE WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "meaning" (NOUN; LINE 17).

**8** FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "an informal name for someone or something".

**9** WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING?: Look like / resemble / look up / be like.

**10** REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: "Researchers believe Nessie descends from another 200-year old creature." >>> Nessie ...

**11** JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING AN APPROPRIATE LINKER (DO NOT USE AND, BUT, OR BECAUSE). MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: "British people believe that Nessie exists. There is no evidence of it."

**12** FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: "If there ..... (be) monsters in lakes, people could not have a holiday near them".

**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:

say he I sorry to am ill is

**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) What do you think should be done with Nessie, if ever discovered?

B) Some British and American traditions have become popular in Spain nowadays. Discuss.

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### OPTION B: "Taxi drivers' brains "grow" on the job"

1. Research shows that cab drivers' grey matter enlarges and adapts to help them store a detailed mental map of the
2. city. Those taxi drivers who were given brain scans by scientists at University College London had a larger
3. hippocampus compared with other people. The hippocampus is a part of the brain associated with navigation in
4. birds and other animals.
5. The scientists also found that part of the hippocampus grew larger as the taxi drivers spent more time in the
6. job. "There seems to be a definite relationship between the navigating they do as taxi drivers and the brain
7. changes," said Dr Eleanor Maguire, who led the research team. She said: "The hippocampus has changed its
8. structure to accommodate their huge amount of navigating experience."
9. The research confirms something which London's black-cab drivers have suspected for some time: learning
10. their way around the capital is a highly-demanding cognitive task.
11. In order to drive a traditional black cab in London, drivers have to gain "the knowledge" – an intimate
12. familiarity with the great number of streets in a six-mile radius of Charing Cross. It can take around three years of
13. hard training, and three-quarters of those who embark on the course abandon it, according to Malcolm Linskey,
14. manager of a London taxi school.
15. "There are 400 pre-established itineraries which you can be examined on, but in reality you can be asked to join
16. any two points in the map," he told BBC News Online. "Most people learn by visualisation but we do have a few
17. tricks which we teach them; for example, "little apples grow quickly" gives you the order of the theatres on the
18. north side of Shaftesbury Avenue: Lyric, Apollo, Gielgud, Queen's."
19. But "the knowledge" is definitely worth learning – drivers of black cabs are self-employed and can earn
20. significantly more than the other type of taxi drivers (called minicabs). A black cab fare from Shepherd's Bush to
21. Heathrow might cost £50, compared with £28 for a minicab.

#### 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 According to the text, what is the difference between the brain of a taxi-driver and the brain of a normal person and why?
  - 2 What do London taxi drivers mean by "the knowledge"?
  - 3 What would the sentence "little apples grow quickly" mean for a London Taxi driver?
- ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.
- 4 Most of the people who start studying for "the knowledge" finally obtain their license.
  - 5 A drive in a black cab costs the same as a drive in a minicab.

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

- 6 FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: "The student gave ..... smoking long ago". *Off / up / away / out*.
- 7 FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "a quantity of something".
- 8 GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS "grow" (VERB; LINE 17).
- 9 GIVE ONE OPPOSITE FOR "huge" (ADJECTIVE; LINE 8).
- 10 TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE: "We teach taxi drivers a few tricks".
- 11 TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: "The man asked me: 'How can I get to the airport?'"
- 12 GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: "The pearl was hers".
- 13 COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL SENTENCE: "If I had to take a taxi in London ....."

#### 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) How good is public transport where you live? Explain.
- B) Advantages and disadvantages of making city centres pedestrian areas.