



Aferrau una etiqueta identificativa  
amb codi de barres

## Prova d'accés a la Universitat (2012)

### Anglès

Model 2. Opció A.

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in English. USE YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.**

**Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes. Total score: 10 points.**

#### **Tattoo removal on the increase in Spain in the battle for jobs**

As the saying goes, "act in haste, repent at leisure", and not just at leisure but also in pain and considerable expense when it comes to having a tattoo removed. Thus, according to some analysts, it seems that as job competition increases, what once seemed a cool fashion accessory – the spider web tattooed on your neck, that python encircling your forearm – can be a blot on your CV when it comes to job interviews.

The *Planas* clinic in Barcelona has reported an 81% increase over the past few years in the demand for laser treatment to remove tattoos. "Having a tattoo removed takes longer, costs more and is much more painful than having one done," Rafael Serena, head of the clinic's laser unit, told *La Vanguardia* newspaper. "It's not something people usually think about when they get a tattoo." Getting rid of a small tattoo will cost about €200; a larger one can cost about €1,500, and the more colours involved, the longer and more costly the treatment.

Reasons for removal are many. Often, it is a case of getting rid of "I love Maria" when it turns out that you do not love her any more. In one case, according to Serena, a man needed his devil tattoo deleted because the local priest refused to marry him until he did. Another wanted to get rid of his tattooed Barcelona football club badge, presumably because he was moving to Madrid. Many employers have policies that do not allow visible tattoos. Depending on the employer's industry and the type of job, this may make sense. For example, a four-star hotel may not want the receptionist to have large tattoos of skulls and crossbones on the back of each hand. But the same hotel may have less concern if a dishwasher in the kitchen has those same tattoos because direct contact with the hotel's customers is minimal. Thus, most people mention work as their main motivation for tattoo removal. Men who wish to sit the civil service exams to join the police or fire service, for example, neither of which will employ tattooed candidates. Women with jobs where they deal with the public want tattoos removed from visible areas such as their neck or ankle too. But, "we also see young people who are setting out on executive careers and don't feel comfortable wearing a suit and tie over their tattoos," said Buendía.

*Adapted from The Guardian, 28 December 2011*

#### **Vocabulary:**

**Haste** (Adj.) = Great speed in doing something because of limited time.

**Remove** (V) = To get rid of something that annoys you.

**Blot** (N) = Something that spoils someone's reputation, or spoils the appearance of something.

Aferrau la capçalera d'examen  
un cop acabat l'exercici



1. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text. NO marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (1 point)

a) Removing a large tattoo might cost more than €1,000.(0,5)

.....  
.....  
.....

b) People may have personal reasons for getting rid of a tattoo. (0,5)

.....  
.....  
.....

2. **In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following question. NO marks are given for responses copied directly from the text. (1 point)**

Why does work seem to be the main reason for removing a tattoo?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3. Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the ones below. In the case of verbs, ONLY *infinitive forms* will be accepted. (1 point):

1) Maxim or well-known statement. (0,25)

.....

2) One time or one occasion only. (0,25)

.....

3) To be logical or easy to understand. (0,25)

.....

4) A feeling of worry about something that you think is important. (0,25)

.....

4. Follow the instructions for each question and answer them (2 points):

4.1. Fill the blanks in the following sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets. (0,5)

A: Oh! I see you no longer have the rose tattoo on your ankle. When ..... you ..... (remove) it?

B: Just last week.

A: ..... (be) it very painful?

B: Yes, a bit, but I'm OK now.

4.2.Fill the blanks in the following two sentences with a **phrasal verb** that means the same as the verb in brackets. (0,5)

a) In spite of his looks, he's really very kind. I ..... very well with him. (have a good relationship or be friends with someone).

b) In the end, he decided to ..... the job offer. (decline, reject or refuse).

4.3. Rewrite the sentence using a **modal verb**. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence. (0,5)

'Workers are not allowed to have tattoos'.

Workers .....



Aferrau una etiqueta identificativa amb codi de barres

4.4. Rewrite the following sentence using the 2nd conditional form. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence. (0,5)

He didn't get the job because he had a devil tattoo on his arm.

If .....

5. Look at the underlined part of the words below. Three of the words in each line (A, B, C, D) contain the same sound. Circle the word which contains a different sound (1 point):

- 5.1. A) jam B) yes C) use D) yellow (0,25)
5.2. A) moon B) should C) look D) good (0,25)
5.3. A) go B) over C) socks D) hole (0,25)
5.4. A) saved B) needed C) fried D) called (0,25)

6. Write a composition of 120-150 words on the following (4 points):

What are your views on tattoos? Does having a visible tattoo say anything about an individual that is relevant to his or her job? Explain.

Dotted lines for writing the composition.



Prova d'accés a la Universitat (2012)

Anglès

Model 2. Opció B.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in English. USE YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes. Total score: 10 points.

**House swap holidays: Cheap holidays in other people's luxury**

Some people have the ability of finding a holiday bargain. Take this place: A classic five-bedroomed, Victorian tile-roofed house lying on a quiet lane leading to the church in a smallish West Sussex town. It has a swimming pool, tennis court and a vegetable patch. The property has the kind of peace and space you would expect at a five-star hotel or villa. But what is the price? Nothing - if you become a house sitter. Penny Coppin, owner of the property, is prepared to allow someone to run the place while she takes her own UK holiday - as long as they are prepared to do a bit of work. "We have our cat, Bruno, who gets lonely, and Archie, a rather bouncy dog. Plus the plants might like some water. Oh, and the swimming pool benefits from a bit of maintenance."

Andy Peck, a screen writer, is a regular house sitter and not just in the UK. It began when he was looking for somewhere quiet to write but although house sitting was the affordable answer, it took time before he found the right place. But it turned out to be pretty spectacular: "The property - in Galicia, Spain - had its own vineyard and views across to Portugal. I was amazed when the owners told me they had difficulty finding good sitters. It became obvious that there was a clear need for an effective site for homeowners and house sitters to find each other," he says. So Andy founded the website *Trustedhousesitters*.

Penny Coppin believes that the level of information and range of people provided by *Trustedhousesitters* will ensure a professional service. "There is a huge range of people to choose from on the website - young people wanting to travel and do it cheaply, ex-policemen, teachers...The sitters I chose had excellent references."

The independent consumer publication *Which? Holidays*, has some basic advice on its website for anyone considering letting out or taking up a house-sitting holiday. Its main warning: that there is no compensation if things go wrong. But Penny Coppin was confident that things would go well for her. "Well, there is a chance something could happen. A plant or two could die. The swimming pool could go green. Even the dog could get run over - but I'm sure it wouldn't be the people's fault. These things happen, don't they? That's life!"

*Adapted from BBC News, 5 September 2011*

**Vocabulary:**

**House swap** (V)= An arrangement where two families exchange houses for a holiday.

**House sitter** (N) = To live in someone's house in order to look after it while they are away.



1. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text. NO marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (1 point)

a) Penny Coppin's property is a five-star hotel. (0,5)

.....  
.....  
.....

b) The publication *Which? Holidays* warns about the potential dangers of a house-sitting holiday. (0,5)

.....  
.....  
.....

2. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following question. NO marks are given for responses copied directly from the text. (1 point)

Why did Andy Peck decide to create the website *Trustedhousesitters*?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3. Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the ones below. In the case of verbs, ONLY *infinitive forms* will be accepted. (1 point):

1) To be in charge, control or look after something. (0,25)

.....

2) Customary, usual. (0,25)

.....

3) Sure of oneself. (0,25)

.....

4) To hit someone or something with a vehicle. (0,25)

.....

4. Follow the instructions for each question and answer them (2 points):

4.1. Fill the blanks in the following sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets. (0,5)

A: ..... you ..... (choose) your vacation destination yet?

B: Yes. This summer I ..... (fly) to Australia to visit a friend of mine.

4.2. Complete the following sentence with a suitable word. (0,5)

Sometimes ..... takes a while ..... find the right place.

4.3. Rewrite the sentence using a modal verb. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence. (0,5)

Probably the house is right for me and my family.

The house.....



4.4. Join the following two sentences with a relative pronoun. (0,5)

I went back to the small town in West Sussex. I used to spend my summer holidays there.

I .....

5. Look at the underlined part of the words below. Three of the words in each line (A, B, C, D) contain the same sound. Circle the word which contains a different sound (1 point):

5.1. A) beach B) lips C) sea D) hee (0,25)

5.2. A) colour B) seven C) later D) sugar (0,25)

5.3. A) cat B) light C) kite D) wine (0,25)

5.4. A) needed B) discovered C) related D) invited (0,25)

6. Write a composition of 120-150 words on the following (4 points):

What are the main advantages and disadvantages of house swapping? Would you ever swap or exchange your home for a holiday? Explain.

Dotted lines for writing the composition.