



Please answer the following 6 questions:

1) True/False; 2) Reading comprehension; 3) Vocabulary; 4) Grammar; 5) Phonetics, and 6) Composition. You can choose any of these 6 questions from the two exam options given (A or B). Note that you have only 2 possible options per question. When questions are composed of different subsections [i.e. questions 1 (True/False), 3 (Vocabulary), 4 (Grammar) and 5 (Phonetics)], you necessarily have to answer all the subsections of the chosen question without exception. Be careful not to separate or mix the different subsections of any question between the two options.

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

OPCIÓ A

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

Meet Rosalía - Madonna and Almodóvar's favourite flamenco star

Rosalía always knew she would be famous. "I am a spiritual person so I had a vision of this moment in my life", she says before appearing on the cover of Spanish *Vogue* magazine. In the space of just two years, she has evolved from singing flamenco standards to controversially modernising that genre's folkloric tradition, swiftly becoming pop's most exciting new superstar in the process. Last year, in a *New York Times* profile, the 25-year-old was affectionately nicknamed as "the Rihanna of flamenco". Along the way, she has picked up fans ranging from James Blake to Alicia Keys (to whom she's been giving Spanish lessons) and director Pedro Almodóvar, who cast her in his latest film *Pain and Glory*. That is thanks in part to the album's crossover hit 'Malamente', full of complex handclap rhythms and sleek electronic pulses, which landed her five Latin Grammy nominations and a performance at the MTV Europe music awards.

If this new found fame has unsettled her, she is not showing it. "I feel like I've been preparing all my life for this moment", she says on the phone from a Barcelona studio. "I'm working harder now than at any other point in my life because I have a fear of losing what I have", she adds. "Before, I had nothing; I had nothing to lose so I've always been fearless". That determination has been put to the test recently with accusations from certain sections of the Spanish media that Rosalía's use of flamenco iconography can be considered cultural appropriation. "It is very important that people understand how important flamenco is to the Gypsy community", she says, choosing her words carefully. "There have been some amazing Gypsy artists. It's important that we give visibility to that, but at the same time people have to be fair and recognise that Paco de Lucía was the biggest guitar player in this style of music in the world and he wasn't Gypsy. Lola Flores was the biggest Spanish female flamenco icon and she wasn't Gypsy. Music is beyond races, beyond territories". Therefore, she grows angry when reflecting on the implication that she is nothing more than a capitalist construct and that flamenco is merely an adornment to a campaign with a huge marketing budget; "when an artist becomes pop, it's because the people choose it. Yes, you can have that dream to be a big pop star, but it's the audience that puts you in that position. I never had a paid marketing campaign, it was never like that. The content was, and is, radical and it worked", she says.

Growing up, her musical icons were all female. The team she surrounds herself with now is mainly women, too. "It's important we give visibility to women in an industry that's still very masculine", she says. "I think having long nails is a radical feminist symbol", she further adds. "Very extreme. It's more than just being pretty, it's about power".

She currently has collaborations with Pharrell, Arca, Billie Eilish and Dua Lipa to get finished. "We're hopefully going to finish all these songs soon and I can't wait to share them", she says, near breathless. "I'm excited". We all should be.

Adapted from *The Guardian*, June 2019



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) Rosalía never thought she would become a pop star. (0.5)

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b) Rosalía believes having long nails is a symbol of women’s power. (0.5)

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

How does Rosalía defend herself against accusations of cultural appropriation?

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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) Not to be afraid of anyone or anything. (0.25)

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2) To develop from being a child to being an adult. (0.25)

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3) Further or outside the range or limits of something or someone. (0.25)

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4) To make someone feel slightly nervous, worried, or upset. (0.25)

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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: I wish I (become) a famous pop star.

B: Why is that?

A: Well, if I were a famous pop star I
(be able to) sing and write lyrics, and make lots of money for it!

4.2. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets. (Use only ONE word in each blank) (0.5)

a) It's (believable) the amount of pressure social media puts on these celebrities.

b) She's very positive about herself. She seems a very
(health) person.

4.3. Fill the blanks in the following two sentences with a phrasal verb that means the same as the verb in brackets. (0.5)

a) As he the plane, he was greeted by a hundred screaming fans. (leave a form of transportation).

b) Could you please me from the concert at 9pm? (collect somebody from a place).

4.4. Rewrite the sentence using a modal verb. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence. (0.5)

I am sure she is the lead singer of a rock band.

She

5. Look at the highlighted 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) pie B) ski C) my D) die (0.25)

5.2. A) palm B) dark C) bra D) land (0.25)

5.3. A) thirty B) breathe C) nothing D) path (0.25)

5.4. A) pleased B) decided C) tasted D) added (0.25)



6. Write a composition of 120-150 words on the following topic. Answer **ALL** the questions (4 points):

What are the main reasons why somebody becomes a famous pop star? Which pop stars do you admire the most? Why? Explain.

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Total number of words:

Assessment criteria:					
Task fulfilment:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Grammar:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Organisation:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Vocabulary:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Total :					

OPCIÓ B

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

Is the smart home a silly choice in the end?

Depending on how you look at it, my 87-square-metre Brooklyn apartment is either a technological marvel with wall-to-wall conveniences, or it is a confusing maze of digital assistants and unnecessary remote control integration that just gets in the way.

I can control everything from a single app or my voice. But is all of this smart-home business actually more convenient? Is saying "Alexa, watch *Midnight Diner* on Netflix" easier than turning the TV on? At first glance, it would seem so. But in daily practice, one begins to wonder about his sanity and need for technology in places where, let's be honest, sometimes technology just is not necessary. The effect of saying "Hey Siri, watch the Yankee game" is empowering. But now that I have lived in a smart home for three years, the empowerment has changed into dependence, and that dependence now has notes of anxiety. Now, if my WiFi goes down for even a moment, my entire home—lights, security, safety and entertainment—needs a reboot.

It all started innocently enough. My smart thermostat promised to save money by learning when I am home and adjusting the temperature only when needed. But that has not really manifested. The device cost me \$400 in the first place, and I have not seen a single digit change in electric usage since I installed it in 2016. And, in fact, it has done some bizarre things. It will randomly change temperatures based on some learning algorithm that neither I, my wife nor the cat can make sense of. And then there are the creepy moments from the security camera. One cool, quiet Brooklyn night last fall, I was up late in the study. Everyone in the house had been asleep for hours when I got an alert on my phone: "Alert: Person spotted in Living Room", it read. Whatever my camera had spotted was, by my calculations, standing right behind me! Silent. I scanned the video feed on my phone, looking for figures in the night-vision, seeing nothing. Had somebody already made it behind me and out of the camera's vision? What was behind me? Nothing. It turned out to be a false alarm. This terrifying scenario has played out multiple times now. Sometimes, it happens while I am travelling and I think my home is being robbed. Other times, it happens while I am home like a "the call is coming from inside the house" chilling moment. Either way, whatever my camera thinks it sees, it has never picked up on a real intruder.

Overall, I have spent roughly \$2,000 on all of this technology across the thermostats, lights, security system and wall switches. And, so far, it has not added any tangible benefits outside of the occasional wow factor and party lights at dinner parties. But there is no turning back, I think. Our homes are getting smart whether we like it or not. The good news is that, in most cases, these devices still come with the most important feature of all: an on-and-off switch.

Adapted from *The Observer*, January 2019



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) The author feels somehow anxious about his smart home control system. (0.5)

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b) The smart security camera system has caused numerous false alarms. (0.5)

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

Why does the author seem not to be convinced about the advantages of having a smart home?

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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) Unusual, strange or difficult to explain. (0.25)

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2) The action of returning to a previous situation or condition. (0.25)

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3) A button or a key that controls the electrical supply to a light, piece of equipment, machine, etc. (0.25)

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4) The condition of being reasonable and mentally healthy. (0.25)

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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 (like) to have a smart home?

B: Yes, I'd love it. That way I (can) control many electronic gadgets and systems while sitting comfortably on the sofa.

4.2. Complete the following sentences with an appropriate word (Use only ONE word in each blank). (0.5)

a) They do not have a smart home because they think it is not it.

b) I'd really like to have one of these laundry robots that wash and iron your clothes for you. I really hate the laundry!

4.3. Join the following two sentences with a relative pronoun. (0.5)

The switch wasn't working. They repaired it.

They

4.4. Rewrite the following sentence in reported speech. (0.5)

'Why are smart speakers so popular nowadays?', he asked me.

He asked

5. Look at the highlighted 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) they B) aid C) aisle D) great (0.25)

5.2. A) web B) tomb C) noble D) cabbage (0.25)

5.3. A) bought B) sofa C) August D) fall (0.25)

5.4. A) lied B) peeled C) saved D) graded (0.25)



6. Write a composition of 120-150 words on the following topic. Answer **ALL** the questions (4 points):

What is your opinion about smart houses? Do you think technology has helped to improve our quality of life? Explain.

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Total number of words:

Assessment criteria:					
Task fulfilment:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Grammar:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Organisation:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Vocabulary:	0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1
Total :					

