

PROVES D'ACCÉS A LA UNIVERSITAT

PRUEBAS DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD

CONVOCATÒRIA: JUNY 2018	CONVOCATORIA: JUNIO 2018
Assignatura: ANGLÈS	Asignatura: INGLÉS

Please answer on a separate sheet of paper

OPCIÓ A / OPCIÓN A

Part A. Reading Comprehension

Read the following text:

NO HUGGING: ARE WE LIVING THROUGH A CRISIS OF TOUCH?

When did you last touch someone outside your family or intimate relationship? Touch is the first sense humans develop. But somewhere in adulthood what was instinctive to us as children has come to feel awkward. In countless ways social touch is being eliminated from our lives.

In the UK, doctors were warned last month to avoid comforting patients with hugs to avoid legal action. Teachers hesitate to touch pupils. And in the UK, in a loneliness epidemic, half a million older people go at least five days a week without touching a person.

What do humans risk losing, when we lose touch? Francis McGlone, a leader in affective touch, is worried: "We have demonised touch to a level at which it provokes hysterical responses, and this lack of touch is not good for mental health", he says.

McGlone says: "The pleasantness of touch encourages us to keep touching, pleasing babies and connecting adults. Last year, researchers from London showed that slow, gentle stroking by a stranger reduced feelings of social exclusion. As a society, we instinctively understand the power of touch. Caressing slows down heart beats and blood pressure, gives people better control over their stress hormones. Being touched also increases the number of natural killer cells".

"You just don't see people touching each other these days," Tiffany Field, founder of the Touch Research Institute, complains. There is still no scientific data to connect declining touch to mobile technology or social media, but Field's descriptions of people wrapped in their own worlds rather than each other, sitting in isolation, are evocative and familiar.

Excerpt from an article by Paula Coccozza, *The Guardian*, March 7th 2018

I. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points: 1 point each)

- a. Why is McGlone worried about humans losing touch?
- b. Why may mobile technology be related to less touching among people?

II. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage on the answer sheet. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

- a. We start touching people as soon as we become adults.
- b. People who are touched feel less isolated.
- c. Humans intuitively feel the benefits of touching.

III. Find a synonym for each of the four words below from these six options. (1 point: 0.25 each)

awkward eliminated hesitate provokes gives connect

- a. provides
- b. strange
- c. link
- d. triggers

IV. Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

1. In the UK loneliness epidemic...
 - a. older people only touch other people at weekends.
 - b. older people do not touch other people five days a week or more.
 - c. older people do not touch other old people at least five days a week.

2. The feelings associated with touch...
 - a. are negative and generate negative reactions.
 - b. are positive and can lead to long-term relationships.
 - c. are positive and can lead to more touching.

3. A gentle stroking by a stranger...
 - a. can lead to a strong relationship with that person.
 - b. can make you feel like you are not so isolated.
 - c. can make you be willing to caress that stranger as well.

Part B. Composition (130 to 150 words approximately) (4 points)

Why do we touch each other less nowadays?

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OPCIÓ B/OPCIÓN B

Part A. Reading Comprehension

Read the following text:

SHOP HIRES ROBOT ASSISTANT... THEN FIRES IT AFTER JUST A WEEK

Fabio was the first robotic retail assistant employed at upmarket store Margiotta (Edinburgh), but was let go after one week.

At first it got off to a good start, charming customers with hugs and greetings of “hello gorgeous”. But it wasn’t long before Fabio began irritating and confusing shoppers at the store. When one asked which aisle the beer could be found, Fabio gave a vague answer: “It’s in the alcohol section”. And despite its efforts, the background noise in the busy supermarket made it difficult for the robot to understand customers.

Aware that the first day at a new job can be stressful, its understanding bosses moved Fabio from the aisles to a sampling role. But the robot became too enthusiastic when asked to hand out portions of pulled pork. “We thought a robot could show the customers that we are always wanting to do something new and exciting”, said Elena Margiotta, who runs the chain of shops. But it wasn’t long before Fabio was noticeably outperformed by its human colleagues. While it managed to persuade two people to try a pork snack, its colleagues scored a total of twelve. People seemed to actually avoid it.

Sadly Elena was left with no other choice than to let it go. And when she told Fabio that she would not renew its contract, the robot asked: “Are you angry?” It was an emotional moment for the staff and some were reduced to tears when Fabio was packed away. In its short time at the store, Fabio had clearly become a well-liked member of the team.

Adapted from an article by Fiona Parker, *The Daily Mail*, January 2nd 2018

I. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points: 1 point each)

- a. What went wrong soon after Fabio started working in the aisles of the store?
- b. Why did Ms Margiotta hire the robot?

II. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage on the answer sheet. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

- a. At the beginning Fabio did well in its job.
- b. Fabio could understand the customers despite the noise in the supermarket.
- c. The staff was sad when Fabio was fired.

III. Find a synonym for each of the four words below from these six options. (1 point: 0.25 each)

despite aware stressful understanding noticeably actually

- a. in fact
- b. conscious
- c. full of tension
- d. sympathetic

IV. Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

1. At the sampling section...
 - a. Fabio performed its task as expected.
 - b. Fabio performed its task better than expected.
 - c. Fabio performed its task worse than the other employees.

2. When Fabio was fired, ...
 - a. it was sad.
 - b. the staff was sad.
 - c. Elena was angry.

3. The staff...
 - a. had become attached to Fabio.
 - b. felt Fabio was competing for their job.
 - c. were packed away.

Part B. Composition (130 to 150 words approximately) (4 points)

Do you think that robots will perform human roles better than us in the future?