



Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura

Curso 2013-14

Asignatura: Inglés

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: 1h.30 min.

El alumno deberá escoger una de las dos opciones, A o B, y responder en inglés a todas las preguntas que se formulan en la opción elegida, sin mezclar preguntas de una y otra. En el caso de la primera pregunta (la redacción), deberá escribir tan sólo sobre uno de los dos temas propuestos.

Opción A

Earthquakes in Japan

The Japanese archipelago is located in an area where several continental and oceanic plates meet. This is the cause of frequent earthquakes and the presence of many volcanoes and hot springs across Japan. Sometimes, earthquakes take place below or next to the ocean, which often causes tidal waves. These waves, called *tsunami*, can often be more destructive than the earthquakes originating them.

Many parts of the country have experienced devastating earthquakes and tidal waves in the past. The Great Kanto Earthquake, the worst in Japanese history, took place near Tokyo in 1923 and resulted in the death of over 100,000 people. In January 1995, a strong earthquake hit the city of Kobe and surroundings. Known as the Southern Hyogo Earthquake, it killed 6,000 and injured 415,000 people. 100,000 homes were completely destroyed and 185,000 were severely damaged.

The *Shindo* scale for measuring earthquakes is more commonly used in Japan than the Richter scale. *Shindo* refers to the intensity of an earthquake at a given location (what people actually feel in that place), while the Richter scale measures the magnitude of an earthquake (the energy an earthquake releases at the epicentre). The *Shindo* scale ranges from *Shindo* one, a slight earthquake felt only by people who are not moving, to *Shindo* seven, a severe earthquake.

All Japanese citizens know that certain things are essential in every home: a survival kit with a flashlight, a radio, a first aid kit and enough food and water to resist for a few days after an earthquake strikes. They avoid placing heavy objects in places where they could easily fall during an earthquake and cause injury or block exits. Moreover, they always have a fire extinguisher at hand and are familiar with the designated evacuation areas in their neighbourhood.

- Write a composition about **one of the following topics** (maximum 4 points):
 - Do you think that it is necessary to be well prepared for earthquakes in Spain? Why or why not? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
 - Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with** this sentence: "*In Kim's house, everything was ready in case an earthquake happened*". Remember that **the 11 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
- Answer the following **two** questions:
 - Does the writer say that Japan has never suffered any terrible earthquakes in its history? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
 - According to the text, are Japanese houses prepared to help people to survive after earthquakes? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
- Imagine your friend is planning to travel to a Japanese town where a terrible earthquake took place a short time ago. Advise him/her not to do so and give him/her a good reason for it (maximum 2 points).
- Grammatical transformation.
 - Rewrite the following sentence in the past simple tense (maximum 1 point):

Sometimes, earthquakes take place below or next to the ocean, which often causes tidal waves.
 - Rewrite the following sentence in the passive voice (**do not omit any part of it**) (maximum 1 point):

In January 1995, a strong earthquake hit the city of Kobe and surroundings.

Opción B

Hackers

Due to the influence of the mass media, the word "hacker" has a bad reputation nowadays. The word makes us think of malicious computer users finding new ways to attack companies, steal personal information, destroy the economy or even start a war by infiltrating military computer systems. However, although it is true that hackers with bad intentions exist today, these make up only a small percentage of the hacker community.

In the 1960s, a hacker was a programmer, someone who could break computer code. Hackers were visionaries who could see new ways to use computers, creating programs that no one else could conceive. They were the pioneers of the computer industry, building everything from small applications to operating systems. In this sense, people like Bill Gates or Steve Jobs were all hackers, because they saw the potential of what computers could do and created ways to achieve that potential. These hackers were proud of their ability not only to create new programs, but also to learn how other programs and systems worked. When a program stopped working, hackers could often create small sections of code called "patches" to solve the problem.

In the 1970s and 1980s, as computers evolved, computer engineers began to connect individual machines together into networks. Soon, the term "hacker" had a new meaning: a person using computers to explore a network to which he or she did not belong. Usually hackers did not have any malicious intentions. They just wanted to know how computer networks operated and saw any barrier between them and that knowledge as a challenge.

In fact, that is still the case today. Although there are many stories about malicious hackers sabotaging computer systems and spreading computer viruses, the truth is that most hackers are just full of curiosity, because they want to know all the intricacies of the computer world. Some even use their knowledge to help corporations and governments construct better security systems.

1. Write **one of the following two** compositions (maximum 4 points):
 - a. Do you think hackers are dangerous people? Explain your answer in at least 80 words.
 - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **ending with** this sentence: "*This is why Caroline decided to become a hacker*". Remember that **the 9 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
2. Answer the following **two** questions:
 - a. Does the writer say that all hackers like doing bad things nowadays? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
 - b. According to the text, have hackers always been computer users who can get in and out of any network? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
3. Imagine your sister is considering the possibility of studying computer science. Advise her to do so and give her a good reason for it (maximum 2 points).
4. Grammatical transformation.
 - a. Rewrite the following sentences in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words *He said* (maximum 1 point):

That is still the case today because most hackers just want to know more.
 - b. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative form of the simple present tense (maximum 1 point):

A hacker was a programmer, someone who could break computer code.