



Hay dos opciones de examen, A y B. Se debe optar por una de ellas, sin combinar preguntas de una y otra. No se permiten diccionarios ni otros materiales didácticos.

OPCIÓN A

Weddings or holidays?

In Britain, the traditional white wedding in a village church, with in-laws wearing silly hats, is going out of fashion. One in six couples now prefer to get married abroad, and the more exotic or eccentric the location, the better. But are they making a terrible mistake?

First and foremost, a wedding, with all its traditions and rituals, is a rite of passage to be shared with family and close friends. Understandably, there are those who want to avoid the stress and expense of a big wedding and choose a low-key affair instead. I have no problem with that—it's a matter of personal choice. But in my view, a couple who opt for a holiday instead of a wedding, are running away from reality.

Celebrities are known for their short-lived marriages, but not surprisingly, marriages that began in exotic locations have even less chances of surviving. Britney Spears, for instance, married a childhood friend in the Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas and their marriage was over after 55 hours. Photos of Renée Zellweger and her country singer groom exchanging vows on a Caribbean beach looked rather romantic, but they separated after four months. It is worth considering the list of top wedding destinations—Cyprus, Italy, Greek islands, Caribbean, Mauritius. What strikes me is that these are honeymoon destinations and, personally, I think that the honeymoon has a completely different function from the wedding. Honeymoons are for the couple, a welcome escape from everyday life, a once-in-a-lifetime holiday.

A wedding, on the other hand, is all about family and friends. In my opinion, marriages for life need to be rooted in life, not in fantasy. However lavish or modest the wedding, it has no meaning if the people who are there for you every day of your life cannot afford the airfare to the chosen exotic location. My advice to a couple who are tempted to tie the knot on a Caribbean beach is this: don't do it unless you can afford to pay for your nearest and dearest to go with you.

1. Comprehension exercises. (2 points, 0.5 each)

A. The author disapproves of weddings in exotic places because

- a) celebrities have short-lived marriages.
- b) she prefers low-key affairs.
- c) they are more stressful and expensive.
- d) it is better to get married among family and friends.

B. If a couple insists on marrying abroad, they should

- a) wear convenient clothing.
- b) pay for the travel expenses of family and friends.
- c) tie the knot on a Caribbean beach.
- d) return home as soon as possible.

C. The author thinks that those who get married in exotic places are more likely to separate afterwards than those who don't.

Answer 'True' or 'False' AND copy a sentence from the text that supports or contradicts this statement.

D. Most couples in Britain still prefer to get married close to their homes.

Answer 'True' or 'False' AND copy a sentence from the text that supports or contradicts this statement.

2. Grammar exercises. (2 points, 0.5 each)

A. Turn the two sentences into one starting with "Whereas..."

–Honeymoons are for the couple. Weddings are all about family and friends.



– Whereas...

B. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one.

– Marriages that began in exotic locations have less chances of surviving.

– Marriages that didn't...

C. Rewrite the first sentence in reported speech.

– "Are you making a terrible mistake?", she asked him.

– She asked him...

D. Complete the second sentence so that it expresses the same idea as the first one.

– Don't go to the Caribbean unless you can afford to pay for your kin to go with you.

– If you ...

3. Below you will find the definitions of six words occurring in the text. Choose only four of them and indicate the word each definition corresponds to. Write the word and then copy its definition. (1 point)

a) Charming, picturesque, tranquil.

b) The place to which one is going or directed.

c) A holiday or trip taken by a newly married couple.

d) To prevent from happening.

e) Something requiring the expenditure of money.

f) One who is widely known and of great popular interest.

4. Write a summary of the text of about 30-45 words using your own words. (2 points)

5. Write a composition of about 120-150 words on the following topic. (3 points)

Describe a wedding you have recently attended, or have seen in a film.



OPCIÓN B

The dangerous mosquito

When we are young, we learn that tigers and sharks are dangerous animals. We might be scared of them because they are big and powerful. As we get older, however, we learn that sometimes the most dangerous animals are also the smallest animals. In fact, the animal that kills the most people every year is one that you have probably killed yourself many times: the mosquito.

While it may seem that all mosquitoes are biters, this is not actually the case. Male mosquitoes eat plant nectar. On the other hand, female mosquitoes feed on animal blood. They need this blood to live and produce eggs. When a female mosquito bites a human being, it transmits a small amount of saliva into the blood. This saliva may or may not contain a deadly disease. The result of the bite can be as minor as an itchy bump or as serious as death.

Because a mosquito can bite many people in the course of its life, it can carry diseases from one person to another very easily. Two of the most deadly diseases carried by mosquitoes are malaria and yellow fever. More than 700 million people become sick from these diseases every year. At least 2 million of these people will die from these diseases.

Many scientists are working on safer and better ways to kill mosquitoes, but so far, there is no sure way to protect everyone in the world from their deadly bites. Mosquito nets can be placed over beds to protect people against being bitten. These nets help people stay safe at night, but they do not kill any mosquitoes. Mosquitoes have many natural enemies like bats, birds, dragonflies, and certain kinds of fish. Bringing more of these animals into places where mosquitoes live might help to cut down the amount of mosquitoes in that area. This is a natural solution, but it does not always work very well. Mosquitoes can also be killed with poisons or sprays. Even though these sprays kill mosquitoes, they may also harm other plants or animals.

Although mosquitoes may not seem as scary as larger, more powerful animals, they are far more dangerous to human beings. But things are changing. It is highly likely that one day scientists will find a way to keep everyone safe from mosquitoes and the diseases they carry.

1. Comprehension exercises. (2 points, 0.5 each)

A. It can be understood that the introduction of dragonflies might reduce the number of mosquitoes in a given area because dragonflies

- a) work together with mosquitoes.
- b) kill mosquitoes.
- c) cannot be killed by poisons or sprays.
- d) attract bats.

B. Which of the following best summarizes the information in paragraph 4?

- a) Mosquito nets provide adequate protection from deadly mosquitoes.
- b) Poisons and sprays provide adequate protection from deadly mosquitoes.
- c) The introduction of the mosquito's natural enemies provides adequate protection from deadly mosquitoes.
- d) There is no perfect solution to the mosquito problem.

C. Male mosquitoes and female mosquitoes have different eating habits.

Answer 'True' or 'False' AND copy a sentence from the text that supports or contradicts this statement.

D. Some people are more afraid of tigers and sharks than mosquitoes because tigers and sharks kill more people than mosquitoes.

Answer 'True' or 'False' AND copy a sentence from the text that supports or contradicts this statement.

2. Grammar exercises. (2 points, 0.5 each)

A. Turn the two sentences into one starting with "While male..."

- Male mosquitoes eat plant nectar. On the other hand, female mosquitoes feed on animal blood.
- While male...



- B. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one.
- A mosquito can bite many people in the course of its life.
 - Many people...
- C. Complete the second sentence so that the meaning remains the same.
- These nets help people stay safe at night, but they do not kill any mosquitoes
 - Although these nets...
- D. Complete the second sentence so that it expresses the same idea as the first one.
- Mosquitoes can also be killed with sprays, but these sprays may also harm other plants or animals.
 - Mosquitoes can also be killed with poisons or sprays, which...

3. Below you will find the definitions of six words occurring in the text. Choose only four of them and indicate the word each definition corresponds to. Write the word and then copy its definition. (1 point)

- a) Cartilaginous fish chiefly carnivorous and marine, with a streamlined torpedo-like body.
- b) A slight swelling or lump.
- c) Lethal, mortal.
- d) Causing fright or alarm.
- e) A skin wound or puncture produced by an animal's teeth or mouthparts.
- f) To keep from being damaged, attacked, stolen, or injured; guard.

4. Write a summary of the text of about 30-45 words using your own words. (2 points)

5. Write a composition of about 120-150 words on the following topic. (3 points)
What are the animals you fear most? Why?



CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN

OBSERVACIONES

- 1) La prueba tiene una duración de hora y media.
- 2) No se permiten diccionarios ni otros materiales didácticos.
- 3) Se escribirá en tinta negra o azul.
- 4) Hay dos opciones de examen, A y B. Se debe optar por una de ellas, sin combinar preguntas de una y otra.

CRITERIOS DE CORRECCIÓN

A) Pregunta 1. Las cuatro cuestiones de esta sección pretenden evaluar la comprensión del texto. Se evaluará con un máximo de 2 puntos (0,5 puntos por cuestión).

B) Pregunta 2. Tiene como objetivo evaluar los conocimientos morfosintácticos del alumno. Se evaluará con un máximo de 2 puntos (0,5 puntos por cuestión).

C) Pregunta 3. Tiene como objetivo evaluar la riqueza léxica. Se valorará la capacidad de deducir el significado de las palabras en su contexto, así como la habilidad de encontrar en el texto las palabras cuyas definiciones se ofrecen. Se evaluará con un máximo de 1 punto (0,25 puntos por cuestión).

D) Pregunta 4. Se valorará la capacidad de sintetizar las ideas más importantes del texto. Se evaluará con un máximo de 2 puntos.

E) Pregunta 5. La redacción se evaluará con un máximo de 3 puntos. Se valorarán especialmente los siguientes aspectos:

La corrección morfosintáctica y ortográfica.

La riqueza léxica.

Claridad y eficacia en la presentación de ideas; coherencia y cohesión (conectores, organización del texto, etc.).

