

## **PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIA LINGÜÍSTICA**

**IDIOMA: INGLÉS**

**NIVEL: B2**

**SEDE:**

**APELLIDOS:**

**NOMBRE:**

**D.N.I.:**

**IMPORTANTE: LAS RESPUESTAS DEBEN IR EN LA  
ANSWER SHEET**

**Listening 1** Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET provided

**1 Listen to the first part of a talk about home education. What do the following refer to?**

1 2,000,000

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2 4%

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3 Australia, Canada, Japan

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4 150,000

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5 1%

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6 16

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7 15%

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8 Spain

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**2 Listen to the rest of the talk and decide if the statements are true or false.**

9. It is quite straightforward to take a child out of state education in the UK. T / F

10. According to UK law a child must be educated by a qualified teacher. T / F

11. School hours are flexible for children who are home-educated. T / F

12. Parents must have their children's work checked by their local school from time to time. T / F

## Listening 2

**Listen to the conversation between two friends and complete the information.**

- 13 Dave's parents are disappointed with their son's \_\_\_\_\_ at school.
- 14 Dave thinks that home-education will be better for his \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15 Dave will continue to meet his friends because of his interest in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 16 The boy believes that children who are home-educated for a long time may have problems trying to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 17 The girl sympathises with Dave's parents' \_\_\_\_\_.
- 18 Neither the boy nor the girl would enjoy home-education because they would \_\_\_\_\_ with their families.

## Listening 3

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 19-25, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

19. You hear a woman on the radio talking about a politician. What is her opinion of the politician?
  - A. He can be trusted.
  - B. He keeps changing his mind.
  - C. He is not like other politicians.
20. You hear a woman talking about a song. What does she say about the song?
  - A. The performer didn't write it.
  - B. It has been recorded by lots of other performers.
  - C. It deserves to be more popular.
21. You hear two characters talking in a radio play. Where are they?
  - A. in a hotel
  - B. at home
  - C. at an airport
22. You hear a writer talking on the radio about criticism. What is his attitude to criticism?
  - A. He rarely pays attention to it.
  - B. He thinks about it.
  - C. He gets upset by it.

23. You hear someone talking about learning to play a musical instrument. What is her main point?
- A. Everyone should learn an instrument.
  - B. Some instruments are harder to learn than others.
  - C. She wishes she could play an instrument.
24. You hear two people talking about a reality TV programme. What do the speakers agree about?
- A. There are too many programmes of that kind.
  - B. It won't be as good as other programmes of that kind.
  - C. It will be very popular.
25. You hear someone talking about a sports stadium. What does he say about the stadium?
- A. It's difficult to get to it.
  - B. It can be hard to get tickets for it.
  - C. It has replaced another stadium.

#### Listening 4

You will hear five different people talking about phone calls they received. For questions 27-31, choose from the list (A-F) how each speaker felt during the phone call. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 26. Speaker 1 _____ | A. annoyed      |
| 27. Speaker 2 _____ | B. relieved     |
| 28. Speaker 3 _____ | C. confused     |
| 29. Speaker 4 _____ | D. disappointed |
| 30. Speaker 5 _____ | E. worried      |
|                     | F. sympathetic  |

## Reading 1

You are going to read an article about swimming holidays. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences (A-H) the one which fits each gap. (1-7). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

### We don't want to sit on a beach!

People have always enjoyed activity holidays. The skiing holiday has been a popular choice for many years, as have hiking or trekking holidays and even holidays on horse back. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ It seems that people just don't want to spend their holidays sitting around. They actually want to use their holiday time to pursue something that is enjoyable, and which also provides something to work towards.

We spoke to Geoffrey Forbes who had recently enjoyed a swimming holiday. I thought most holidays to the sun involved swimming, but not this kind of swimming.

'I took up a fitness regime which involved swimming two years ago. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ I felt more energetic and I could see that I was in much better shape. But I really wanted to get out of the swimming pool! Then I discovered a company called *SwimTrek*. They offer specialized trips for avid swimming fans. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ But you don't have to be a brilliant swimmer you just need to swim a good distance. There are trips which involve swimming from two to six kilometres per day it depends on your capabilities. It's a wonderful way to get to swim in remote places.'

But what exactly does a trip like this involve? 'Basically, you choose a destination and join a group of swimmers. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ You can either choose a trip which allows you to swim from island to island for example in Greece or Croatia, or you swim along the coast of a country like, for example in the Red Sea in Egypt. (5) \_\_\_\_\_' We asked Geoffrey if it was dangerous but he said it wasn't. 'A boat is always close at hand so if you are having trouble, for example you feel too tired or your muscles start to cramp, or you get too cold, then you get picked up. It can get very cold in deep seas and a lot of people choose to use wetsuits, but I find that ruins the experience a bit.'

And how do you know where to swim? 'Well, there's a guide and you swim in a group, not particularly close together but close enough for the other members to set the pace.'

The swim guide also gives advice on technique so that you can improve your swimming style and feel more comfortable in the water.’

Geoffrey said he had been on three *SwimTrek* holidays already. He said that what made him keep going back was the sense of achievement and the pleasure of meeting like minded people. We asked him if the swimming on the trips was at all competitive. ‘For most of the people that come on the trips it’s really not about being the best or winning. It’s about enjoying what you can do with your body, feeling the vastness of the sea around you and just finding your own pace. Swimming in the sea is very different to swimming in a pool. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ If you’re always trying to beat someone, you lose strength fast.

Geoffrey’s told us that his favourite trip so far had been in the UK in the Isles of Scilly. ‘It was cold but it was spectacular. There was a whole underwater world. (7) \_\_\_\_\_ ’ Now Geoffrey wants to try wild swimming in the Scottish Lochs. I think he might need his wetsuit for that!

**A** I could see the walls of ancient settlements on the sea bed below me.

**B** You’re more buoyant but sometimes you have to swim against the pull of the sea.

**C** Which is nice because you meet people who enjoy the same hobby as you.

**D** I gradually built up the distance I could swim and realized that I really found the exercise enjoyable.

**E** So I wouldn’t have to smell the chlorinated swimming pool.

**F** But now, in an era of fitness and active lifestyles, even more diverse holidays are being offered which make a sport or favourite pastime the focus of the holiday.

**G** Naturally, if I hadn’t trained for two years I’d never have been able to go on a holiday like that.

**H** It’s just like a walking holiday only obviously you can’t go as far and you’re travelling in water.

## Reading 2

Read the entertainments page and chose the best answers a, b, c or d.

### This week in Entertainment

<p><b>1</b> In this weeks episode of <i>Falon's Ranch</i>, all your burning questions will be answered. Falon said that the baby wasn't Geoff's. But whose is it? Find out the answers to this and much more. This weekly installment is the first in an extended three week episode so don't miss it. And because the producers of the series like to keep their Wednesday night viewers on the edge of their seats expect another intricate twist in the plot. You'll be seeing someone come back back from the distant past. Who can it be? Don't forget to text your votes rating the episode. Entertainment quality rating: *** for all the family <i>Falon's Ranch</i> Wednesday 8pm Channel 5</p>	<p><b>2</b> Tune into <i>Musicmania</i> this week for a daily dose of quality sounds. DJ Jez Hurley is spending an hour of his show <i>Discography</i> every day on music retrospectives. He'll be playing music memorabilia from the 50s all the way up to present day. You can pick up Jez's show on 25.9 FM. But if you can't be listening, download the show from the Musicmania website. All radio broadcasts are available for one week after the show has been aired live. Entertainment quality rating: ***** for the memories <i>Discography</i> by Jez Hurley on 25.9 FM Monday-Sunday 9-11pm</p>
<p><b>3</b> Witty, critical and hilariously funny, Seth Goss will be hosting a stellar show this week. As usual he'll be sharing news and views on music, cinema and the stars. No doubt he'll have plenty to say about Sophia Coppola's new film. But also, for his pre-Christmas show he has a line-up</p>	<p><b>4</b> Back by popular demand. It's no wonder this epic series has been a winner both literally and metaphorically. If you missed out on a few episodes, this is your chance to fill in any gaps in the story. Lost will be shown again this week in a bumper broadcast of the whole of series</p>

<p>of special guests and live bands performing in the studio. Expect a rare interview with actor Tom Hanks, and meet the band Green Day.</p> <p>For a chance to be a part of the live audience go to:</p> <p><a href="http://www.sethgosslive.com">www.sethgosslive.com</a></p> <p>Entertainment quality rating **** not to be missed</p> <p>The Seth Goss Show</p> <p>Saturday 9pm</p> <p>ITV</p>	<p>4. No doubt we'll soon be seeing <i>Lost</i> 5 on our screens, until then make the most of these repeats of the popular show filmed on location in Hawaii.</p> <p>Entertainment quality rating ***</p> <p>Lost 4</p> <p>Daily 7-9 pm</p> <p>Channel 4</p>
<p><b>5</b> The Harry Potter Phenomenon is coming to TV screens. Whether you made it to cinemas or not, don't miss the first showing of <i>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</i>. Fantastic special effects and great suspense. Find out who the mysterious Half-Blood Prince is. What happens to Albus Dumbledore? Can Harry, Ron and Hermione save the day again? Not suitable for children under 12.</p> <p>Entertainment quality rating *****</p> <p>Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince</p> <p>Sunday 4pm</p> <p>BBC1</p>	<p><b>6</b> Part 4 of Richard Tannenbaum's award-winning documentary <i>Inside Africa</i> is quality viewing for all the family. Tannenbaum has collected hours of footage to document the movements of the rare creatures of Madagascar both by day and nocturnally. This week he opens a window onto the behaviour of the many species of Lemur, the Fossa and the Aye-Aye. As with all of Tannenbaum's documentaries, the photography is spectacular and the commentary is enlightening. Even if you saw this classic documentary in 2008, it's worth watching it again.</p> <p>Entertainment quality rating *****</p> <p>Inside Africa</p> <p>Monday 7pm</p> <p>National Geographic</p>

8. Which entertainment options involve music?  
a 1 and 2    b 5 and 3    c 6 and 4    d 2 and 3
9. What can you also find online?  
a 1    b 3    c 2    d 4
10. Which forms of entertainment are part of a series?  
a 3, 5 and 6    b 1, 4 and 6    c 2, 4 and 5    d 1, 3 and 5
11. In which program can you participate?  
a 2    b 3    c 6    d 1
12. You have a young child of eight what shouldn't they watch?  
a 5    b 1    c 3    d 6
13. Which programs are repeats?  
a 1 and 5    b 2 and 6    c 4 and 6    d 3 and 5
14. Which program may have a surprise for audiences?  
a 1    b 2    c 5    d 6
15. Which programs have won a prize?  
a 1 and 4    b 3 and 5    c 1 and 2    d 4 and 6
16. Which program required patience to make?  
a 3    b 5    c 2    d 6
17. Which program is an important TV premiere?  
a 5    b 3    c 1    d 6
18. Which program has celebrity guest stars?  
a 4    b 2    c 3    d 1
19. Which programs are available for audiences more than once in a week?  
a 1 and 5    b 2 and 4    c 2 and 1    d 6 and 3

### Reading 3

You are going to read a magazine article in which four people talk about their careers in engineering. For questions 20-35, choose from the people (A-D). The people may be chosen more than once.

## THE WORLD OF ENGINEERING

### A THE SNOWBOARD DESIGNER

*Liza Brooks, 24, is still studying for her engineering doctorate in advanced snowboard design, but she is already technical director of the UK's biggest snowboarding company, True Snowboards.*

I'm a keen snowboarder so it seemed like a good idea to specialize in building great snowboards. I set up True Snowboards in 2006 with two other colleagues, so now I'm an engineer and an entrepreneur. We now sell snowboards throughout Europe and, next season, we'll be launching in North America. True Snowboards now sponsors some of the best UK snowboarders, including 17-year-old Samantha Rogers, who took silver medal at this year's British Big Air Championships, a key snowboarding event. Riders at the event who used our boards achieved a 74 per cent medal rate, which says something about how good they are. Our specialty is designing boards that can cope with dry slopes. These surfaces are very abrasive, so they can cause a lot of friction and literally melt conventional boards. I used my engineering skills to come up with a workable solution to dissipate the heat so that the boards don't melt and so that they last longer. Right now, I am experimenting to find new shapes to make the boards perform even better. And I get to go outside and play with the prototypes.

### B THE SPACE EXPERT

*Maggie Aderin, 39, is a scientist for Astrium Ltd, the UK's largest space systems and services company. With a background in mechanical engineering, she oversees projects for the European Space Agency as well as NASA.*

My job is great fun. I head up a team that makes optical instruments for space satellites. We are currently working on an amazing instrument for the Aeolus Satellite which is going to measure wind speed through the Earth's atmosphere. It has to be tough and very accurate, so we need to design and build it with great care. It will need to withstand temperatures that range from between minus 50 and plus 50 degrees centigrade, and will help us to understand more about global warming. I knew I wanted to work in space technology when I made my first telescope at the age of 15. When I left school I studied physics at Imperial College London and then did a PhD in mechanical engineering. I have been engineering instruments ever since. Now I use my engineering skills to solve problems and I am aware of how my job can help preserve the planet in the future.

## C THE RELIEF WORKER

*Engineer Andrew Lamb, 26, works for the not-for-profit organization RedR, which specializes in disaster relief. Lamb was keen to use his skills for the greater good.*

Did you know that 40 per cent of people who work for the international aid organization Médecins Sans Frontières are engineers and not doctors? That's because engineers are absolutely essential in a crisis. They are the ones who can make the water run again and get the power on. They can construct roads and shelters. Aid agencies really value engineers for their management skills in stressful situations, because we work as a team. We are also taught how to break down problems into smaller pieces. Workers who can contribute to disaster relief plans are increasingly sought after as earthquakes, floods and conflict destroy communities. It is vital we get young people into this sector. They can help save lives. It's extremely rewarding when you help get people back on their feet.

## D THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

*Vicki Stevenson, 37, is a chartered energy engineer specializing in renewable energy.*

I love the fact that I am doing something practical which makes a difference. I research practical ways to reduce carbon emissions and use sustainable energy sources instead of fossil fuels. My latest project is working on a solar air heater that captures the heat that strikes off the walls of buildings and uses it to heat offices and to provide ventilation. When I went to university, I was torn between studying astrophysics and laser physics. Lasers won because I attended an open day at an engineering company which showed how the use of lasers and fibre optics made equipment safer for people working in mines. The results of the work I do will have far-reaching relevance, meaning we could all benefit in the long run. Knowing that what I do is useful really keeps me motivated.

Which person...

20. talks about how important engineers in general can be? \_\_\_\_\_
21. gives evidence of the success of something he/she was involved in creating? \_\_\_\_\_
22. was not sure which subject to choose at one point? \_\_\_\_\_
23. mentions being the leader of a group of people? \_\_\_\_\_
24. refers to having two roles at the same time? \_\_\_\_\_
25. made a decision as a result of going to a certain event? \_\_\_\_\_
26. has not yet completed his/her studies? \_\_\_\_\_
27. gives reasons why engineers have a high reputation? \_\_\_\_\_
28. mentions the need to attract certain people to engineering? \_\_\_\_\_
29. says that creating something led to a desire for a certain career? \_\_\_\_\_
30. is currently trying to produce different versions of something? \_\_\_\_\_
31. refers to always doing the same kind of work after completing his/her studies? \_\_\_\_\_
32. says that the demand for people who do what he/she does is growing? \_\_\_\_\_
33. enjoys using something that he/she produces? \_\_\_\_\_
34. says why he/she has not lost enthusiasm for his/her work? \_\_\_\_\_
35. had difficulties choosing between two degrees at University? \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING

In this section you must produce **two different texts** (1-2).

1. Write and answer to **ONE** of the following questions (A-B) in this part. Write your answer in **150-180 words** in an appropriate style.

A. Your teacher has asked you to write a story. The story must begin with the following words: *When he found his seat on the plane, Sam recognized the person who was sitting in the seat next to his.*

Write your **story**.

- B. You have recently had a discussion in your English class about different age groups. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay, giving your opinion on the following statement.

*The young can learn a lot about life from older people.*

Write your **essay**.

2. Your English-speaking friend, David, recently came to stay with you for a week. Read David's letter and the notes you have made. Then write a letter to David, using **all** your notes (in brackets). Write your answer in at least **150 words**.

*Thanks very much for having me to stay with you. It was very kind of you and your family and I'm very grateful.* (No problem)

*I really enjoyed my stay with you. We went to lots of interesting places and I saw lots of fascinating things. We certainly did a lot in one week!* (Come for longer next time)

*It was great meeting your family. Please say hello from me and thank them for looking after me so well. I've got some really good photos of them and of the things we did while I was there - would you like me to send them to you?* (Yes please)

*As I said, I hope you'll come and stay with me soon. Let me know when you want to come.* (Yes, arrange later)

*All the best,*

*David*

Write your **letter**. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.