

PROVA D'ACCÉS A CICLES FORMATIUS DE GRAU MITJÀ
JUNY 2016
PART COMÚ: Apartat A2 LLENGUA ESTRANGERA (ANGLÉS)
Duració: 45 minuts

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

Channel Tunnel is a 50 km long undersea rail tunnel that connects south-eastern England with northern France. At its lowest point it lies 75 metres under the ocean floor. The tunnel is operated by the Eurotunnel Group, a British-French company.

Three types of trains travel through the tunnel: trains for road vehicles, international **freight** trains and high-speed Eurostar passenger trains. The Eurostar high-speed passenger trains bring people from Paris to London in 2 hours and 15 minutes and passengers from Brussels to London in 1 hour and 55 minutes. Only 20 minutes are actually spent in the Channel Tunnel. The speed limit in the tunnel is 160 kilometres per hour. The rest of the journey is spent through south-eastern England and northern France speeding at a maximum of 300 kilometres per hour.

Building the tunnel was a difficult engineering task which began in 1988. It was finished and officially opened in 1994. During its construction, teams from both sides used special machines. At times, almost 15,000 workers were employed by Eurotunnel. As construction progressed, Eurotunnel realized that total costs would be much bigger. The project, which was financed with private money, cost almost 15 billion Euros, more than twice the estimated cost.

Since its official opening, about 15 million people have travelled through the tunnel every year. Even though it is a real alternative to air travel, Channel Tunnel trains have not carried as many passengers as its operator, Eurotunnel, expected. The company lost millions of Euros over the years.

Although safety is a top priority for Eurotunnel there have been three big fires that forced the tunnel to close down. The last one occurred in 2008 and lasted for 16 hours. Nobody was killed but many people had to be taken to hospitals. In December 2009 over 2000 passengers were trapped in the tunnel because electricity failed in the cold weather.

Vocabulary: freight = cargo, goods, products, not people

Adapted from: <http://www.english-online.at/travel/channel-tunnel/channel-tunnel-train-link.htm>

Read the instructions carefully and answer the questions according to the text (Total score:10 points)

1. Answer the following questions. Write complete sentences. (1 point each = 2 points)

a) Has the high-speed passenger train service been cost-effective for the Eurotunnel company? Why?

b) How long and how deep is the tunnel?

2. Find a synonym in the text for these words (0.5 points each = 1 point):

a) happened:

b) Maximum transcendence:

3. Are the following sentences true or false? Underline the correct option (0.5 points each = 1 point)

a) People can travel through the tunnel by train and by car. TRUE / FALSE

b) The building of the tunnel doubled the estimated cost of 15 billion €. TRUE / FALSE

CRITERIS D'AVUACIÓ I QUALIFICACIÓ

La qualificació d'esta Part o Apartat s'adaptarà al que establix la RESOLUCIÓ de 20 de maig de 2016, de la Direcció General de Formació Professional i Ensenyaments de règim especial, per la qual es convoquen proves d'accés als cicles formatius de Formació Professional (DOCV 25-05-2016).

4. Underline the correct option (0.5 points each = 1 point)

a) To travel through the tunnel takes...

- 1- two hours and fifteen minutes.
- 2- one hour and fifty-five minutes.
- 3- twenty minutes .

b) The building of the tunnel took...

- 1- six years.
- 2- sixteen years.
- 3- sixty years.

5. Choose one of the following topics and write a text approximately 80 words long (5 points):

- Have you ever travelled to any European country? Write about your favourite trip.
- **According to your experience, write about advantages and disadvantages of travelling by car, train or plane.**

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