

Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad (PAU)

Universidad de Extremadura

Curso 2024-2025

Materia: Lengua Extranjera (Inglés)

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: 1h 30 min

INSTRUCCIONES PARA REALIZAR EL EXAMEN

El estudiante deberá elegir UNO de los dos textos propuestos y responder a todas las preguntas de Comprensión únicamente del texto elegido (Preguntas 1-4). No podrán mezclarse preguntas de los dos textos. La pregunta 4, en caso de que haya más de una opción gramaticalmente correcta, deberá responderse siempre con la opción que se ajuste a la información contenida en el texto. En la pregunta de Expresión (Pregunta 5), el estudiante deberá responder a una de las dos opciones propuestas, independientemente del texto elegido. La calificación de la pregunta de Expresión (Redacción) será como sigue: a) Coherencia, cohesión y adecuación a la temática y estilo del texto propuesto: 1.5 puntos; b) Corrección gramatical, léxica y ortográfica del texto producido, así como su presentación: 1.5 puntos.

Text 1: 'Malkovich go home': Actor's play sparks a riot in Bulgaria

In a career on stage and screen spanning almost 50 years, John Malkovich has been honoured with many awards and recognitions. But the Hollywood star did not expect his production of George Bernard Shaw's celebrated play *Arms and the Man* to provoke fury and violence when it was staged in Bulgaria.

The play, set during the Serbo-Bulgarian war of 1885 and being staged in the Ivan Vazov National Theatre in the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, has so enraged nationalists in the country that they have called on the production to be shut down and for Malkovich, 70, its director, to be kicked out of the country.

The riots during last week's premiere were so bad that Vasil Vasilev, general manager of theatre, said he feared for his life. "Everything happened within a split second," he said. "The moment I went out they pushed me and from then on, I only saw disgusting scenes, spitting, insults. They said they were going to kill me and I just felt fear, I'm not going to lie."

The protesters claim the production is an insult to Bulgaria and accused Malkovich of ridiculing the country's history and its citizens. The rioters held up banners that read: "Malkovich, go home!"

The play is meant to be a humorous take on the Serbo-Bulgarian conflict, exploring the absurdity of war while exposing the flaws of heroic adulation and militarism. It is a "charming, light, kind of anti-war" comedy that Malkovich had already staged on Broadway in 1985.

For the pro-Russian, ultra-nationalist Vazrazhdane party, the third-largest force in parliament, "not only is the play mediocre" but the production also had "totally inadequate staging." Bulgaria's conservative writers' union, SBP, said "such works" had no place in the country, criticising what it perceived as the "mockery of the thousands of soldiers who fell at the front for the freedom and reunification of the country."

But those who managed to get in to see the play, called it "fun." Nikolay Hristov, a 66-year-old architect who saw the comedy with his wife on Friday, said there was "nothing anti-Bulgarian" about it, it was "more about love, lies, and misunderstood honour."

Source: *The Times* (adapted). November 2024.

Comprehension Questions

- Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Quote the fragment from the text that justifies your answer. Marks: 2 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
 - John Malkovich has had a mediocre acting career.
 - Protesters abused Vasilev physically and verbally.
 - Arms and the Man* is a tragic play.
 - Members of the SBP think the Bulgarian army is ridiculed in the play.
- Answer **2 of the following 3** questions with one or two sentences. Use your own words as far as possible. Marks: 2 points (1 point per correct answer).
 - What do protesters want?
 - What happened during the premiere, according to Vasilev?
 - What are the main topics of the play?
- Find words in the text as requested. Use one word in each case. Marks: 1.5 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
 - A synonym for *anger, rage*.
 - The city where the government of a country resides.
 - A synonym for *signs or boards with a message*.
- Complete these sentences with one of the options given. Marks: 1.5 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
 - The play deals _____ the Serbo-Bulgarian war of 1885.
 - about
 - with
 - through
 - into
 - The rioters _____ many people into the theatre.
 - prevented
 - let
 - did not let
 - would allow
 - Bulgarian soldiers fought _____ the Serbian army in the late 19th century.
 - without
 - alongside
 - together with
 - against

Text 2: Wales's 20mph speed limit: Why has it become a culture-war battlefield?

Imagine you're a politician running a country. In front of you there is a proposal that in just nine months would save your society more than £45m, prevent almost 500 people being killed or injured, make your residential areas more appealing places to live in and reduce car insurance costs by an average of £50. It is also backed by multiple scientific studies and it has the universal support of all emergency services in your nation.

Yet this is exactly what happened in Wales and it became the single most unpopular and controversial piece of lawmaking in the history of their Senedd (parliament).

In September 2023 the Welsh government introduced the default 20mph (*miles per hour*) speed limit, changing every road in Wales that had a 30mph limit to 20mph. Essentially, almost everywhere people now had slower speed limits. The evidence that this would save lives was unequivocal and overwhelming.

The response from some to the policy was unrestrained fury. A petition on the Senedd website opposing the new measures has reached nearly 470,000 signatures (in a nation of just over 3 million people). Protests sprang up citing the cost of the policy (£32m, mostly on changing the road signs and markings). Some of them were somewhat counterintuitive – many of the 20mph signs were vandalised, meaning they had to be replaced at additional cost.

However, a year on from the scheme's introduction we can see pretty strong evidence that the 20mph limit is very effective in saving lives and preventing injuries. We now have the road collision data for the first three quarters since the policy was introduced and the figures are pretty clear. Compared with the same period the year before, the number of people killed on the affected roads is down 35%, serious injuries are down 14.2% and slight injuries 31%.

The experience in Wales is a lesson for the wider UK and beyond. Evidence-based policy does work. In a world where facts and evidence matter less and less, it is all the more vital that we stand by that evidence to take nations forward (at an appropriate speed).

Source: *The Guardian* (adapted). November 2024.

Comprehension Questions

- Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Quote the fragment from the text that justifies your answer. Marks: 2 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
 - Car insurance is now more expensive because of the new law.
 - Everybody was on board with the new speed limit.
 - A third of Welsh citizens have signed the petition against the new measures.
 - The writer suggests that these measures should be implemented by other countries.
- Answer **2 of the following 3** questions with one or two sentences. Use your own words as far as possible. Marks: 2 points (1 point per correct answer).
 - What are the main advantages of the new traffic regulations in Wales?
 - The application of the new speed limit had some associated costs. Why?
 - Why does the writer emphasise the importance of "evidence" for new policies?
- Find words in the text as requested. Use one word in each case. Marks: 1.5 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
 - A synonym for *clear, not confusing*.
 - A synonym for *contrary to what seems logical*.
 - Susan suffered severe _____ in the accident.
- Complete these sentences with one of the options given. Marks: 1.5 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
 - If you had been a politician running your country, _____ passed the new speed limit?
 - would you have
 - would have you
 - you would have
 - would not have you
 - Protests cite the cost of the measure, _____ is rather high.
 - who
 - which
 - that
 - whatever
 - The scheme was introduced over a year _____.
 - still
 - yet
 - now
 - ago

Written Expression

- Write ONE of the following two compositions. Write between 120-150 words. Marks: 3 points.
 - In your opinion, should certain works of art (e.g., movies, plays, books) be censored? Why or why not?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of reducing the speed limit?