

Solución del examen de Inglés de la PAU25 de la Comunidad Valenciana. Convocatoria de mayo de 2025

TEXT

Should cars be banned from cities?

Like natural ecosystems, our cities were public spaces used for many purposes: work, trade, play, socialising, and transportation, organised around citizenship and participation in public life. That is how it once was, but now our urban environment is dominated by cars.

Before cars, public opinion dictated that cities should give preference to pedestrians. But this idea changed when the city had to accommodate cars. When cars first appeared in cities, they dramatically changed the way urban spaces were used.

They disrupted traditional modes of transportation and altered daily life. Traders were not allowed to sell their products on the streets, only in markets. Children stopped playing outside, and pedestrians had to walk on the pavement. Nowadays, streets no longer seem to welcome neighbours gathering or children playing. As a solution, some cities are starting to reclaim public space to include urban patios and parks. What would happen if we banned cars from cities? It is possible to do so. In fact, some cities have already done so successfully and some others have always been car-free.

It is time to restore our cities to the social centres they once were. Imagine looking out of your window and seeing a communal garden, where neighbours get together, grow vegetables, or simply chat while they share a barbecue, and children play in a safe area free from the dangers of traffic. With less cars, and eco-friendly forms of transportation, the air would be cleaner, and the natural ecosystem of the cities would be restored.

Adapted from a newspaper article by Thalia Verade and Marco te Brömmelstroet, *The Guardian*, 11 July 2022.

QUESTIONS

1.- State in your own words what the text means by (paragraph 1) (2 marks):

"Like natural ecosystems, our cities were public spaces used for many purposes: work, trade, play, socialising, and transportation, organised around citizenship and participation in public life."

In the past, cities were designed for many human activities, where people lived together, worked, interacted socially, and moved freely, similar to how natural ecosystems work in harmony.

2.- Decide whether the following statements are true or false, according to the text. Write T or F. If the answer is not mentioned in the text, mark it false (F). (2 marks; -0.5 for each wrong answer).

- a) In the past, our cities did not allow people using public spaces. F
- b) Before cars, people organised their urban spaces dramatically. F
- c) There are cities without cars. T
- d) The text suggests that cities should prioritize human interaction. T

3.- There words and expressions are found in the text: CITIZENSHIP, ENVIRONMENT, ACCOMMODATE, ALLOWED, GATHERING, BANNED, RESTORE, COMMUNAL. Choose the ones that mean the same as the following (2 marks).

- a) adapt ACCOMMODATE
- b) collective COMMUNAL
- c) prohibited BANNED
- d) permitted ALLOWED

4.- Choose the best option (a, b or c), according to the text. Only one answer is correct (2 marks).

- 1. What were cities used for before cars dominated the streets?
 - a. For very few different activities.
 - b. For work, trade, play, transportation and socialising.
 - c. For trade and markets simply.
- 2. When cars first started to exist in cities in the past...
 - a. Cars had preference.
 - b. People or pedestrians had preference.
 - c. Only cars or people selling their products were allowed.
- 3. When we look at our streets now...

- a. we see children playing.
 - b. we see people congregated.
 - c. we see cars.
4. Cities try to solve the problem with cars...
- a. by building more markets.
 - b. by allowing children to play on the streets
 - c. by creating more recreation areas.

5.- Answer the questions using your own words (25 to 50 words for each question). (2 marks; -0.3 for each question if too many or not enough words).

1. What do you think about banning cars from cities? Would it be a good idea?

Yes, I think it would be a good idea. Banning cars can reduce pollution, improve public health, and make cities safer and more pleasant. Public spaces could be used for social and recreational activities again, and people would enjoy a better quality of life.

2. Could you live without having a car and rely on a different form of transport?

Yes, I could live without a car. I would use public transport, bicycles, or walk. Many cities offer good alternatives like buses, metros or bike lanes. It's healthier and more sustainable, and it helps reduce traffic and noise in urban areas.