



EMBAJADA DE ESPAÑA  
EN REINO UNIDO

CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN

INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL  
VICENTE CAÑADA BLANCH

# EXÁMENES DE ADMISIÓN

Cañada Blanch  Spanish School  
Founded 1972



## INGLÉS

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## Contenido

PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLES PARA ACCESO A 1ºESO .....	3
PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLES PARA ACCESO A 2ºESO .....	4
PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLES PARA ACCESO A 3ºESO .....	5
PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLES PARA ACCESO A 4ºESO .....	7
PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLES PARA ACCESO A 1ºBACHILLERATO .....	9
PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLES PARA ACCESO A 2ºBACHILLERATO .....	11



## PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLÉS PARA ACCESO A 1ºESO

NAME:

SURNAME:

MARK:

### READING

Read the following text say if the sentences are true (t) or false (f)

London is the capital of Britain and it's the multicultural centre of Europe. People in London come from all over the world. There are 7.3 million inhabitants and they speak over 300 languages. Ishani, Yan and Qiu live in London. Hello! My name's Ishani and I'm British Asian. I was born in Britain, but my grandparents are from Pakistan. My dad's parents live in London with me, my mum and dad and my two brothers. My grandparents' first language is Hindi but for me it's English. My grandpa can't speak English, just a little. We speak Hindi with him. Hi! I'm Yan and this is my sister Qiu. We belong to a multicultural family in London. Our dad's Chinese and our mum's Spanish, but we were born in Britain. There are a lot of children in Britain today that are mixed-raced. My brother and I are trilingual. We speak English, Spanish and Chinese. In London there's a big Chinese community. We love the Chinese New Year celebrations!

1. London is the capital of Europe
2. People speak lots of languages in London
3. Ishani is from India
4. Ishani's grandparents are in Pakistan now
5. Mixed-raced means your parents have the same nationality

### WRITING

Write 30/50 words about you and your family

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**PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLES PARA ACCESO A 2ºESO**

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>SURNAME:</b>	<b>MARK:</b>
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**READING**

Read the text and write true or false

Big Cat Live

*Big Cat Live* is a popular TV programme which follows the adventures of 'big cats' – lions, leopards and cheetahs – and tells you their stories. The programme's production team of 60 and its four presenters travel around the Masai Mara in Kenya for several months, photographing the cats in their natural habitat. They give the cats names, and viewers can soon see the animals' personalities. The programme's viewers feel that they know the animals and develop a strong interest in what happens to them. Often the animals are in dangerous situations, and it's very exciting to watch. The programmes are on TV every day, and many viewers never miss one! One of the most popular animals is a powerful lioness called Red. She often protects the younger family members.

Lions can make a very loud noise when they roar. You can hear them far away – they are the loudest of all the big cats. All the cats are meat-eating carnivores and have to kill other animals to survive. Their sight is much more sensitive than humans' eyes. They can see well in the dark, and usually hunt together for food at night. Special night-vision cameras film them. Sometimes it's sad when they kill other animals, but this is our natural world.

See Big Cat Live on BBC1, every evening this week 8–9 p.m.

Learn more at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bigcat/>

- a) Lions are the only animals on the Big Cat Live TV programme. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) African animal workers give the cats their names. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) People who watch the programme can see how each animal is different. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Big Cat Live is a weekly TV programme. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) The viewers like Red, the lioness. \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Lions usually sleep all night. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITING**

Write a short description (50-70 words) of you and your family. Include the information below:

- names and ages
- jobs or studies
- appearance and personality
- interests and current activities



## PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLÉS PARA ACCESO A 3ºESO

NAME:

SURNAME:

MARK:

### READING

Read the text and circle the correct answers.

Hi Lana,

I've been revising for my school-leaving exams all morning and I need a break, so I thought I'd write to you! I'm looking forward to the holidays. I'm going to spend a week with my cousins near Marseille and then I have to be at home here in Leeds for a week to look after my little sister, Salina, who's 11. She can be a bit annoying, but we get on OK most of the time. I'm taking part in a school football match then, too. Sorry, I know you can't stand football, but I love it! Will we be able to meet in August? I could come over to see you in Berlin! The flights will be expensive, so I might find out about the trains. I'd need to change at London and Paris.

It's been a good year. I've made friends with a really interesting girl at school, Amy. She's generous and sensitive, and she plays football too, although she's not especially good at it. But she's an incredibly talented guitarist (and a terrible singer!) Her band had an audition last week. A record company wants to give them a contract! But Amy won't sign, because she's determined to stay independent.

I should carry on revising. I think I did OK in my French exam, but it's history tomorrow and I still haven't learnt most of the important dates! Then it's maths, which isn't so bad, and my last exam is English. Fortunately, that's my best subject!

Speak soon, Yasmin x

- 1.- How do Lana and Yasmin know each other?  
a they're friends from school  
b they're cousins  
c they're friends in different countries  
d they play football together
- 2.- Where does Salina live?  
a Berlin      b London      c Marseille      d Leeds
- 3.- What's Yasmin planning to do this summer?  
a travel to Berlin      c revise for her school-leaving exams  
b go on holiday with her sister      d travel to France
- 4.- What does Yasmin tell us about her friend Amy?  
a she understands other people's feelings  
b she doesn't spend much money on her friends  
c she's good at everything  
d she doesn't have enough determination
- 5.- Which exam is Yasmin most worried about?  
a French      b history      c English      d maths

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## WRITING

Write about your interests and hobbies (70-90 words). Think about these things:

It is active, sporty, arty, creative, practical, expensive, easy or hard to do; How and why did you become interested in them; do them at home, in a club, with friends, alone; entered any competition; advice you would give someone who is interested in starting your hobby.

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## PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLÉS PARA ACCESO A 4ºESO

NAME:	SURNAME:	MARK:
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### READING

1.- Read an article about education. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 According to the article,  
a almost all Finns go to college.  
b more than half of Finns go to college.  
c all Finns graduate from high school.
- 2 Forty years ago,  
a Finland had the best educational system in the world.  
b Finnish students were among the best in the world at mathematics.  
c the Finns decided to change their educational system.
- 3 According to the article, Finnish teachers ...  
a are highly educated.  
b make as much money as doctors and lawyers.  
c are not employed full time.
- 4 About 30 per cent of Finnish school children ...  
a have free meals while they are at school.  
b need transport to school.  
c receive extra support during their time at school.
- 5 Finnish children ...  
a never do tests at school.  
b start school later than English children.  
c wear a uniform to school.

2.- Read the article again. Write true (T), false (F) or not mentioned (NM).

1. It is not easy to become a teacher in Finland.
2. There are no private schools in Finland.
3. In England, most children are five years old when they start school.
4. Children in industrialised countries have more homework than children in developing countries.
5. In Finland, children have to do tests in their first six years at school.



### **Finnish school children don't use their teachers' surnames**

If you were asked which country had the best schools in the world, what would your answer be? The United States? Germany? Japan? In fact, the country that is generally regarded as having one of the most successful educational systems in the world is Finland. Here are some facts:

~93 per cent of Finnish students graduate from high school.

~66 per cent of students go to college when they finish school.

~According to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Finnish students have been among the best in the world at reading, mathematics and science for the last ten years.

Finland's schools weren't always so good, but about 40 years ago, the Finns decided to reform their educational system and create one in which every child would have an equal chance to realise their potential. The result was an educational system that differs in many ways from that of most other countries.

Firstly, in Finland, teachers enjoy a high social status – as high as that of a doctor or lawyer – and the work they do is respected and appreciated. Furthermore, in order to be employed as a full-time teacher, a person needs to have a Masters degree and only the best candidates get teaching positions.

Secondly, almost all children in Finland get a free education in a state school. There are almost no private schools. They also get free school meals, books, materials and transport to school. All children are put in the same class, but if a child is struggling, they are supported. This is not unusual; nearly 30 per cent of Finnish children get some kind of extra tuition or other help at some point of their schooling.

Given the fact that Finnish students are high achievers, you might imagine that they are under a lot of pressure to do well, and that they have to study for many hours and do many exams. In fact, the opposite is true. Finnish children don't start school until they are seven years old. Compare this with what happens in English schools, where children start school when they are five or even younger. Finnish children also have less homework than students in any industrialised country. What's more, there are no compulsory tests during the first six years of school. Children also have a lot of lessons in subjects like music, art and home economics. They learn how to cook, sew and make things, and sports are also considered important. They wear their own clothes to school, they call teachers by their first names, and the school environment is relaxed.

These facts sometimes puzzle foreigners, but no one can deny that the Finns are doing something right. It might be time to take a leaf out of their book.

## **WRITING**

You have received an email from an English friend. He / She would like to visit your country and would like your advice about the following: What is the best time of year to visit your country? Which places of interest would you recommend? What clothes should he / she bring? WRITE an email to your friend (90-120 words) answering his / her questions and suggest that you could meet up.

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**PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLÉS PARA ACCESO A  
1º BACHILLERATO**

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>SURNAME:</b>	<b>MARK:</b>
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**READING**

Read an article about teenagers and money. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 A week after Tim has been paid, he ...  
a still has most of his money.  
b has spent half of his money.  
c has usually spent most of his money.
- 2 Tim and his friends ...  
a have to have money management lessons.  
b have chosen to have money management lessons.  
c have to have money management lessons if they want to apply for a credit card.
- 3 Helen says that she ...  
a doesn't have good spending habits.  
b manages her money reasonably well.  
c should save more money.
- 4 Helen prefers to buy ...  
a fewer things at higher prices.  
b lots of things at lower prices.  
c expensive clothes and accessories.
- 5 In Andy's opinion, teenagers today ...  
a need to become more financially aware.  
b should follow the financial advice their parents give them.  
c are prepared to take the time to find good deals.



### Spend, spend, spend?

A lot of UK teenagers have part-time jobs and often have an average weekly income of about £35. So what do they spend their money on, how are they managing their finances and how good are they at using their money wisely?

Tim (17)

Tim is at school full-time and works part-time in a local restaurant. He says: 'It's great. I can earn up to £350 a month if I do extra shifts. I'm not very good with my money, though. As soon as I get paid, I spend most of it. I don't usually have much left after a week.' Tim spends most of his money eating out with friends and buying trainers and new clothes, and he finds it difficult to save. His school has just started offering lessons in money management. They are not compulsory, but Tim and a lot of his friends have been attending regularly and are beginning to show an increasing awareness of the value of money. 'It's made me really think about being 18 and officially becoming an adult,' says Tim. 'I could apply for a credit card next year, take out a loan or have an overdraft on my bank account. That's a bit scary! The lessons have helped me to look at money in a more responsible way.'

Helen (18)

Helen has just left school and she hopes to go to college in September. She doesn't have a part-time job and relies on her parents for a weekly allowance. She says: 'They give me about £40 a week and I get a bit more if I do jobs around the house, like ironing or cooking meals. I love having money and if I see something I want, I buy it. I suppose you could say I have a bit of a spending problem. It's like an addiction. I'm definitely an impulse buyer and I spend most of my money on clothes, hair products, earrings, stuff like that. I never go to really expensive shops; I go to cheaper shops where I can get more for my money.' When Helen was at school, she wasn't offered any advice or given any lessons on financial matters, which she thinks was a big mistake. She wishes that she had had the opportunity to learn about that sort of thing.

Andy (49)

Andy has two teenage children and thinks they are financially aware about certain things in a way that he and his wife aren't. 'If it hadn't been for my kids, I'd have paid loads more for certain things. For example, when I wanted a new mobile, I didn't know where to start. I talked to the kids about it, they went online and started looking for deals and within half an hour they had told me which phone contract to get. It was the same with our holiday last summer. We couldn't agree where we wanted to go with a limited budget. I asked the kids for their opinion and again they looked online, found some great deals on flights and accommodation and we booked it. They seem to have a lot more patience doing that sort of thing than me and people of my generation and they don't mind spending hours online trying to get the best deal and the cheapest prices.'

## WRITING

You see an online advertisement asking for volunteers to work on a city farm this summer. You would be interested in volunteering. WRITE a formal email (100-110 words) asking for more information. Use these questions to help you.

- What dates would volunteers be expected to work?
- What hours?
- What qualifications or experience do you need to be a volunteer?
- What will the job involve?
- Will you be given any training?
- Why are you interested in being a volunteer on the city farm?

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**PRUEBA DE COMPETENCIAS INGLÉS PARA ACCESO A  
2ºBACHILLERATO**

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## READING

Read the article about older people in Britain on the following page and circle the best option, a, b, c, or d.

- The writer says that the programme's message was that...
  - older people tend to have a false idea of what the past was really like.
  - older people do not really dislike the things they complain about.
  - the complaints of older people do not need to be taken seriously.
  - the attitude of older people is different from what it used to be.
- The writer gives mobile phone use as an example of something that...
  - was constantly mentioned in the programme.
  - was not discussed in enough detail in the programme.
  - relates to a larger problem.
  - many people complain about.
- Which word from the first three paragraphs best sums up the writer's view of the series?
  - trivial
  - thought-provoking
  - inevitable
  - serious
- The writer says that the new study shows that...
  - people suddenly become what is known as 'grumpy' at a certain age.
  - women are capable of becoming just as 'grumpy' as men.
  - the word 'grumpy' is being used more and more to describe older people.
  - more people are becoming 'grumpy' at a certain age than in the past.
- The conclusions of the study were based on...
  - analysis of the reasons why people laugh at certain things.
  - comparisons of what annoys people in different age groups.
  - the connection between frequency of laughing and being 'grumpy'.
  - information people provided about how they felt at different ages.
- In the final paragraph, the writer suggests that...
  - society's attitude towards older people is a shame.
  - older people intensely dislike being called 'grumpy'.
  - many younger viewers share the opinions of the 'old' people in the series.
  - the complaints of older people annoy many younger people.



### Just grumpy?

Not so many years ago a series called *Grumpy Old Men* was a TV hit in Britain. It was followed by spin-off books and a series called *Grumpy Old Women*. The formula was simple: a host of celebrities (of varying degrees of fame) were filmed talking about what annoyed them about modern life and society. The definition of 'old' was pretty elastic, and appeared to range from people in their early forties to people in their fifties and beyond. It was not meant to be a serious or thought-provoking programme, and the sources of complaint from the talking heads on it were essentially trivial. The aim was to entertain through recognition – the viewer was assumed to be of a similar age and disposition, and to laugh while sharing the speaker's annoyance with, say, modern gadgetry, terminology, or behaviour.

*Grumpy Old Men's* message was the unchallenging one that, as you get older, you get irritated by facets of modern life because the world changes and you don't like the way it changes. The sort of things you didn't care about or even notice when you were younger now send you into a frenzy of fury. All of this is both inevitable and amusing. The programme was *played* for laughs, the views regarded as silly and amusing. There was no suggestion that older people may actually have a point: that any facets of modern life may actually be unwelcome, that what older people complain about really is bad. There was no attempt to make a meaningful comparison between the present and the past, no attempt to properly evaluate issues in modern life that really need addressing. The speakers weren't being invited to put a perspective on these issues; they were simply there to portray themselves as amusingly intolerant of things that younger people do and take for granted.

Big issues weren't on the agenda either; the focus was on the minutiae of life that most people would regard as not really mattering anyway. Thus, people talked about how irritating it is to hear people talking loudly into mobile phones, but not about the general lack of good manners in modern society. The former could be delivered to the audience with amusing disapproval; the latter would have required serious analysis and discussion, spoiling the light air of the programme.

As a result of the series, the phrase 'grumpy old man' entered the national language, a means of dismissing with a shrug and a laugh just about any complaint from anyone over the age of about 39. Now a new study has pinpointed the age at which people start to become 'grumpy'. According to scientists it's 52; at this point apparently people start to rapidly lose their sense of humour and become increasingly annoyed about the world around them. Furthermore, this grumpiness affects men more than women, and by the time they are in their sixties, men are four times as grumpy as women.

The study reached these conclusions partly by looking at sense of humour and laughter. It found that people in their teens laugh twice as much as people in their fifties. Tracking the amount of laughing people do through life, it found that small children laugh as often as 300 times a day. By the time they are in their teens this has gone down to just six times a day. In their twenties, people laugh about four times a day, contrary to the widely held belief that this is the most carefree period in people's lives. There's a slight rise to five times a day in their thirties, perhaps because more people have children then, but by the time they reach 50, they are down to three times a day, going down to 2.5 in their sixties. The study also looked at complaining and found that people in their fifties were much more likely to spend time complaining than younger people. They wrote on average 2.5 letters of complaint in a year, and this went up to 3.5 when they reached their sixties. People in their twenties write an average of 1.5 of these. The over-fifties were also the most likely to have disputes with neighbours and they worry more than other people, spending an average of one hour 41 minutes doing that.

It is now regarded as inevitable that older people will find much in modern life that worries and annoys them, but in the youth-obsessed society that we live in, this is regarded as something amusing. There is no concern that the complaints may be valid, that the complainers should be listened to. The views are not respected; the idea that the older members of society are the ones driving what happens in that society long ago vanished. They are, after all, just 'grumpy' old people.

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## WRITING

Write 100-150 words.

You have just started a course at university and you have received an email from a friend asking you how you are getting on. Write an email back to your friend and include the information below.

- Your first impressions of the university
- How you feel about the course in general
- What your social life is like
- What you think will happen during your course

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