



**Pruebas de Acceso a las
Universidades
de Castilla y León**

INGLÉS

**Texto para
los Alumnos
1 página**

TEXT

HALLOWEEN

Halloween, also called All Hallows' Evening is the eve of All Saints' Day, October 31st. In ancient Britain and Ireland, a Celtic festival was held at the end of the summer with huge bonfires set on hilltops to frighten away evil spirits. The date was connected with the return of herds from pastures. The souls of the dead were supposed to revisit their homes on this day, and the autumnal festival acquired sinister significance, with ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, black cats, fairies, and demons of all kinds roaming about.

But Halloween was also thought to be the most favourable time for divinations concerning marriage, luck, health and death. It was the only day of the whole year on which the help of the devil was invoked for such purposes.

Gradually, Halloween has become a secular observance, and many customs and practices have derived into commercial motives such as ghost disguises, pumpkins of all sizes, and plastic witches that are sold at department stores and small shops everywhere. Our consumer society has appropriated the traditional motives of Halloween, very much like it did with Christmas traditions, and turned them into designs for the decoration of homes. Children have been used as potential consumers of all these objects by society.

QUESTIONS

1. Read the text and, according to it, answer the questions. Use your own words. Your answers will be assessed 0 to 1 each (3 as a whole).

- a) Explain the origin of the celebration of Halloween
- b) How was divination connected to Halloween?
- c) How does the consumer society make use of Halloween tradition?

2. Transform the following sentences according to the instructions. Answers will be assessed 0 to 0.5 each (2 as a whole).

- a) Transform into reported speech: "I have always felt great when I put on my clown disguise." Begin: *Joss said...*
- b) Transform this sentence into the active: *Children have been used as potential consumers of all these objects by society.*
- c) Complete: *If I were to organise a Halloween party...*
- d) Join the following sentences into one: *I have been to Rio and Carnival celebrations were just fantastic. I had read a lot about it before travelling there. I should have gone years ago.* Begin: *I should...*

3. Find one synonym in the text for each of the words below. 0 to 0.25 each (1 as a whole).

- a) phantom b) size c) seized d) regarding

4. Write about one of the following topics, use 70-100 words (0-4 marks).

- a) In Spain, would you rather celebrate Halloween or Carnival, and why.
- b) Do you like disguising? How do you feel when transformed into another character?