



Pruebas de Acceso a enseñanzas universitarias oficiales de grado  
Castilla y León  
CONVOCATORIA 2014

LENGUA EXTRANJERA:  
INGLÉS

EJERCICIO  
Nº páginas: 2

OPTION A

A GAP YEAR

- 1 A gap year is a period of time when students take a break from formal education to travel, volunteer, study, intern, or work. A gap year experience can last for several weeks up to a year or more. Typically a gap year is taken between high school graduation and starting college, during college, or between college and starting graduate school or a career.
- 6 The gap year is becoming increasingly popular with US students. One reason is that parents are more open to the idea nowadays. Studies conclusively show that students who take a year out before college are more focused and motivated when they arrive on campus than those who don't take this detour. Harvard's admissions department is so convinced of the benefits of a gap year that they offer the option to every admitted freshman in their acceptance letter.
- 12 Taking time out between high school and college used to evoke fear that the student would not follow through with college. Today, the college admissions offices at universities are getting more requests from students who have previously enjoyed a gap year. This trend is great news for both colleges, students and parents. Given the fact that the dropout rate amongst US college freshman is nearly 30 percent, the gap year option is fast becoming a viable alternative for many students.

QUESTIONS

[1] FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS, ANSWER QUESTIONS A, B, C  
(3 POINTS AS A WHOLE).

A. Answer the following question using your own words (10 to 20 words) (1 point).  
What do people do during a gap year?

B. Are the following statements *true* or *false*? Indicate the line(s) in the text supporting your choice (1 point as a whole: 0.5 points each).

B1. A gap year is always a period of 12 months.

B2. Students take a gap year before high school graduation.

C. Choose *a*, *b* or *c* in the question below. Only one choice is correct (1 point as a whole: 0.5 points each).

C1. Students who take a gap year ...

- a) follow an American invention.  
b) study at Harvard, as this is the leading university in offering gap year enrolment.  
c) are described by some researchers as "more focused and motivated".
- C.2. Parents ...
- a) are always willing to send their kids abroad.  
b) feel different about the concept of a gap year now.  
c) are always reluctant to send their kids abroad.

[2] COMPLETE TASKS a, b, c, d ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN  
(2 POINTS AS A WHOLE: 0.5 EACH).

- a) Write a question for which the underlined words are the answer: Harvard's admission office is happy to offer the benefits of a gap year to freshmen because they feel it is beneficial for the students.
- b) Transform into the passive voice: The college admissions offices at universities are getting more requests from students who have previously enjoyed a gap year.
- c) Combine into one sentence containing a relative clause: A gap year is a break from formal education. A gap year can last different timespans.
- d) Complete: *The dropout rate amongst US freshmen wouldn't be so high if ...*

[3] VOCABULARY (1 POINT AS A WHOLE: 0.2 EACH).

- Find one word in the text for each of the following meanings:

a) first year student

b) cause reaction or feeling

- Find synonyms in the text for each of the words below:

c) concentrated

d) advantages

e) tendency

[4] WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 100-120 WORDS  
(4 POINTS).

What would you do if you were to take a gap year?



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OPTION B

WHAT IS LAUGHTER THERAPY?

- 1 Ramsey Campbell once spoke to the BBC about people's fear of clowns, which he believes is due to a clown's unchanging mask of forced comicality. Yet advocates of laughter therapy believe that laughing is what helps us rid ourselves of our own masks of fear and pain. From workplaces to therapists' offices to hospitals, laughter coaches aim to get people laughing in an effort to get them to be their best selves. By laughing, the theory goes, you're able to keep your cool in a stressful work situation, make peace with the hurt and pain in your past or deal with the stress of a serious illness.
- 10 That doesn't mean miserable days are completely gone. Laughter therapy can't take the place of conventional therapies entirely, but there is increasing evidence that a few hearty laughs can help you along the road to recovery. Laughter is believed to be beneficial to patients because it reduces anxiety and stress, renders pain manageable and bolsters the immune system.
- 15 Yet humor is highly subjective -what gives one person the giggles might just as easily put another to sleep. Part of laughter therapy is figuring out exactly what stimulates your funny bone, so that getting some healing laughs can be just as easy as popping in a DVD.

QUESTIONS

[1] FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS, ANSWER QUESTIONS A, B, C  
(3 POINTS AS A WHOLE).

A. Answer the following question using your own words (10 to 20 words) (1 point).

Why does the author relate clowns to laughter?

B. Are the following statements *true* or *false*? Indicate the line(s) in the text supporting your choice (1.5 points as a whole: 0.5 points each).

B1. Laughing can make you benefit from your best nature.

B2. Although laughter therapy does not replace other standard aids, it does improve recovery.

B3. Laughter therapy is utterly about determining people's subjective sense of humor.

C. Choose *a, b* or *c* in the question below. Only one choice is correct (0.5 points).

If you get sick you can take advantage of laughing since...

- a) it will make other conventional therapies unnecessary.
- b) it will boost your unmasked pain.
- c) it can make you less worried.

[2] COMPLETE TASKS a, b, c, d ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN  
(2 POINTS AS A WHOLE: 0.5 EACH).

- a) **Complete:** If waves of laughter had been sweeping the land, waves of violence...
- b) **Rewrite into the passive voice:** You may ease the conflict by saying something light and unexpected.
- c) **Write a question for which the underlined words are the answer:** In our frenzy to succeed and to have it all, we have shortened everything.
- d) **Transform into reported speech:** 'Weren't the first human beings born serious?' **Begin with:** All along yesterday's talk the lecturer kept asking herself...

[3] VOCABULARY (1 POINT AS A WHOLE: 0.2 EACH).

- Find one word in the text for each of the following meanings:

- a) established by accepted usage or general agreement
- b) able to be dealt or controlled easily

- Find synonyms in the text for each of the words below:

- c) proof
- d) vigorous
- e) curative

[4] WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 100-120 WORDS  
(4 POINTS).

Why do we need to laugh more nowadays and how can it help us enjoy a happier life?