

APELLIDOS / COGNOMS: _____

NOMBRE/ NOM: _____

DNI o PASSAPORT / DNI o PASAPORTE: _____

Núm EXPEDIENT / N° EXPEDIENTE: _____

LLOC D'EXAMEN / LUGAR DE EXAMEN: **EOI** _____

PROVA PER A L'OBTENCIÓ DEL / PRUEBA PARA LA OBTENCIÓN DEL

CERTIFICAT DE NIVELL AVANÇAT – IDIOMA ANGLÉS

CERTIFICADO DE NIVEL AVANZADO – IDIOMA INGLÉS

DELS ENSENYAMENTS OFICIALS D'IDIOMES / DE LAS ENSEÑANZAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS

READING COMPREHENSION		DURACIÓ /DURADA: 70 min.
PUNTUACIÓ/PUNTUACIÓ TOTAL: 60 60%= 36 50%= 30		
NOTA: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> APTE / APTO	<input type="checkbox"/> NO APTE / NO APTO CONDICIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NO APTE / NO APTO
Corrector/a		

USE THE ANSWER SHEET TO WRITE YOUR ANSWERS

TASK 1

Read the following text "Cheer up: Positive people live longer" **and choose the expression which best fits each gap from the list supplied. Then write the corresponding letter (A–N) in the appropriate white box provided on the answer sheet. Three of these chunks are not to be used. Expression 0 is an example. (11 x 2 = 22 marks)**



_____ **0** _____ Are pessimists merely destructive? Positive psychologist Nick Baylis and feature writer Mary Braid _____ **1** _____.

Nick: Optimism means taking the attitude that things will improve if we just put some effort in. This highly learnable attitude to everyday life is widely regarded by psychologists as one of the most beneficial personality characteristics – hundreds of studies demonstrate that optimists are not only higher achievers, both at work and on the playing field, but they also enjoy better physical health, faster recovery from illness, and suffer much less anxiety and depression.

Put simply, if we take 10 attempts at something, we'll generally do a lot better than the person who takes just two goes _____ **2** _____. Optimism isn't blind perseverance at what doesn't work, but it is a spirit of 'I'm sure I can find a way forward'.

Mary: Just imagine a world populated entirely by optimists. Shiny, happy people everywhere. I think it would be absolute hell. I'm not against optimism. In fact, I have my fair share of involuntary positive feelings. But pessimists have their place. They exist for reasons of balance. They function as reality checks. That's why organizations factor them in when building teams. Without pessimists – and their inherent scepticism – the human race would be seeing the world as it might like it to be, _____ **3** _____.

I'm not sure I see your connection between optimism and sticking at things. I don't think pessimists are any more likely to give up in the face of problems. In fact, _____ **4** _____ better because they have spent a good deal more time anticipating their arrival.

Nick: The trouble with considering all the negative possibilities is that this seemingly sensible strategy invariably runs out of control. Though we tell ourselves we'll look at the negative 'what ifs' just to be on the safe side and then return quickly to the positives, our brain has evolved to err towards 'high alert' and neuroticism, so we all too easily get stuck in the doom and gloom gear. In trying to predict what bad things might happen, we can inadvertently _____ **5** _____.

Studies have shown that pessimism leads to a fatalistic attitude to life, whereby the gloomy individuals put themselves in harm's way (by drink-driving for instance) because they assess how many ways life could go wrong. This can lead to an attitude of '_____ **6** _____'.

By contrast, the by-product of thinking the future could be rosy is that we then tend to put ourselves in situations with a high risk of good things happening: we join social clubs, keep active and take on positive challenges.

All your time spent anticipating what can go wrong has been described as an 'ageing accelerator' by the Harvard University medics Tom Perls and Margery Silver, who studied individuals that have reached 100 years of age in exceptionally good health. The study

suggests that anxiety produces the ____ **7** ____ that, if the worrying is prolonged, can be harmful.

Mary: If our brains have evolved to err towards neuroticism, then the evolutionary argument would be that there was a good reason for that. I'm only going down the evolutionary path as a courtesy to you, incidentally. I'm suspicious of theories that link the behaviour of mammoth-hunting cavemen with the actions of people in complex 21st-century society. Still, if we must spat on evolutionary grounds, then pessimism is there for reasons of survival. And there's no reason to think that it is ____ **8** ____ today than it was in the past. I simply don't believe people are inherently pessimistic or optimistic – as this surely varies with their social, economic and personal circumstances.

Nick: The bottom line is (and I know this rubs against our reserved British upbringing) that daring to invest ourselves adventurously in life will dramatically increase the likelihood that our investments will pay handsome dividends. As long as we have the mental flexibility to err on the side of caution at those times when ____ **9** ____ (when taking a life or death decision or dealing with our finances), looking on the bright side of life is the truly sensible thing to do. It's by no means the only conscious attitude that will greatly assist us, but it well deserves its place in the top 10 of any self-respecting self-help book.

It's worth noting that not just optimism but positive emotions (happiness, curiosity, pride and love) aren't just a result of life going well, ____ **10** _____. Our brains, bodies and relationships tend to function far better when we're feeling positive. Let's get the best from ourselves and those we love, and keep our spirits up – come what may.

Mary: Seems you are going to remain an unreconstructed, die-hard optimist in the face of all reason. Not a single little negative thought is going to be allowed to sneak in. I think Scientologists practise something similar. Don't worry. I was utterly resigned to that. Like I say – sometimes ____ **11** _____.

Source: www.psychologies.co.uk

EXPRESSIONS	<p>Example: X. are optimists deluded?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. trigger a myriad of counterproductive symptomsB. they may even handle setbacksC. they actively cause it to do soD. there's a great deal at stakeE. take sidesF. struggle not to miss a single workoutG. sort of 'battle-ready' chemicalsH. so what's the point of taking care?I. rather than the way it isJ. it just pays to be a pessimistK. bring the bad things into beingL. before throwing in the towelM. as it happens to be the caseN. any less useful an attitude
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TASK 2

Read the following NEWS IN BRIEF and choose the most suitable headline(A, B, C) from the 3 options provided. Write your answers on the separate answer sheet as in the example 0. (Total: 11 X 2 = 22 marks)

Example 0: Five American Muslims have been arrested in Pakistan on suspicion of making contact with an al-Qaida-funded militant group and were believed to be on their way to Afghanistan to fight with the Taliban against US forces.

- a) Five American Muslims shot dead in Pakistan
- b) Five American Muslims held in Pakistan
- c) Five American Muslims charged with attempted murder

1. Texans concerned with the widespread problem of childhood obesity lauded first lady Michelle Obama's bold call Tuesday to eliminate the problem within a generation. In addition to encouraging more physical exercise and better nutrition, goals outlined on new Web site LetsMove.gov include billions of extra dollars over a 10-year period for schools to buy better food and incentives to bring grocery stores to underserved areas.

- a) Texans urge Obama to tackle child obesity
- b) Texans put off keeping fit
- c) Texans praise Michelle Obama's call on child obesity

2. After nearly a week wandering through the rugged and frigid Gila Wilderness, Bob Sumrall, the El Paso hiker missing since Nov. 28, was found alive Friday afternoon, with his dog, Zulu, by his side. Sumrall, 67, was flown to University Medical Center, where he's now conscious.

- a) Missing hiker saved by pet
- b) Missing hiker recovering after 6-day ordeal in wilderness
- c) Missing hiker 6-day plea in wilderness

3. A consortium including Royal Dutch Shell PLC and Malaysia's Petronas was awarded a contract to redevelop Iraq's Majnoon oil field, Iraqi Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahristani said Friday. Majnoon is one of the largest oil fields in the world and although the companies' fee for raising output is slim, it represents an important foothold in a country that potentially has massive untapped oil resources, said ING analyst Jason Kenney. Anglo-Dutch Shell and Petronas' offered to redevelop the field for a remuneration fee of \$1.39 for each extra barrel of oil they can extract from the field above current production.

- a) Shell wins bid for Iraq Oil Field
- b) Shell raises funds for Iraq Oil Field
- c) Shell barred from Iraq Oil Field

4. Seven countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) signed a convention on cooperation in combating international terrorism, transnational crime and drug trafficking at a ministerial meeting in Nay Pyi Taw Friday, official report reaching here said. The 12th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting, chaired by Myanmar, was attended by representatives from all the BIMSTEC countries.

- a) BIMSTEC countries vow to cooperate in combating international terrorism
- b) BIMSTEC countries summit to be held on Friday over international terrorism
- c) BIMSTEC countries clash over international terrorism

5. Up to two million passengers could see their flights grounded from December 22 to January 2 - one of the busiest periods of the year for the airline. British Airways cabin crew voted 92.5% in favour of the planned industrial action following a long-running row over changes to working practices, including a pay freeze and job cuts.

- a) Threat of strike by BA staff looms closer
- b) Strike over lay-offs leaves millions stranded
- c) Dispute over working conditions likely to be settled soon

6. Social welfare officers will be able to inspect the bank accounts of people they suspect of fraud under new powers included in the Budget. The range of tough new measures being brought in include increased fines of €2,500 and the ability of welfare officers to stop cars and question drivers without police present. The aim is to save €533m in false claims.

- a) Tough fines to deal with welfare fraud
- b) New Budget measures to tackle welfare fraud
- c) New Budget measures to boost welfare fraud

7. Three more people have died in Wisconsin from the H1N1 virus. The state Department of Health Services reported Thursday that 43 people have died from the virus so far this fall. The news comes even though the department also says Wisconsin is following the national trend with a decline in overall cases. However, swine flu cases are expected to be seen throughout the flu season, and another wave could occur.

- a) Swine flu cases bound to drop during flu season
- b) N1H1 death toll at 43
- c) Death toll from N1H1 rises to 46

8. Firefighters rushed to the scene of a shed fire early Thursday morning in Orange County. Authorities said the fire ignited next to a single-family home on the property and it is believed to have been caused by a toaster that was being used as a heat source. For some reason, the fire engulfed the shed, and the two people inside were seriously burned.

- a) Two injured in shed blaze
- b) Two injured in shed blast
- c) Two injured in shed arson

9. Microsoft is expected to announce a major revamp of its phone software at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona Monday, in an attempt to regain momentum in a crucial market where it's been overshadowed.

The new software comes as Microsoft, dominant when smartphones were young, has taken a back seat to Research in Motion's BlackBerry devices among corporate users and Apple's iPhone among consumers.

- a) Microsoft, seeking comeback, to show phone software
- b) Microsoft boasts about phone software
- c) Apple and Blackberry catch up in phone software race

10. A public-school teacher who works with sick kids at a Bronx hospital says the city fired her after a student attacked her so viciously that she had to take more than 30 days off for medical treatment. Chaniqua Cassandra Phillips filed a suit against the city saying the student -- a big, mentally ill, 17-year-old boy -- kicked and punched her in September 2008.

- a) Teacher sued over kid attack
- b) Bully attacks teacher over lawsuit
- c) Axed teacher sues over kid attack

11. Wall Street finished the week on a sour note. At the end of Friday trading the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 100.75 points or 0.94 percent to 10,609.80 while Nasdaq dropped 28.75 points or 1.24 percent to 2,287.99. Both exchanges fell slightly short of where they were last week when the Dow closed at 10,618.19 and Nasdaq at 2,317.17.

- a) Stocks plunge by noon Friday
- b) Interest rates soar by Friday close
- c) Exchanges to recover slightly by Friday

USE THE ANSWER SHEET TO WRITE YOUR ANSWERS

TASK 3

Read How to Save your Home from Repossession . **Match headings A-L with paragraphs 1-8. Write the appropriate LETTER in the boxes on the answer sheet. There are three extra headings. Paragraph 0 is an example. (8 x 2 = 16 marks)**

A GET ANOTHER DEAL.

B YOU COULD BE ENTITLED TO AN ALLOWANCE.

C TAKE IN A LODGER.

D SWITCH TO A DIFFERENT LOAN DEAL.

E STRETCH OUT THE TERM OF YOUR PAYMENTS.

F SELL UP AND DOWNSIZE.

G SEEK HELP.

H MEET YOUR PAYMENTS.

I GET RENTAL GUARANTEE.

J GET A NEW LENDER.

K CUT DOWN.

L AVOID SPENDING SPREES.

How to Save your Home from Repossession

- 0 "If you are on a standard variable rate or another rate without penalties, you could ask your lender what other rates they have to offer," Cornell says. Many lenders have reduced their short-term fixed rates, while tracker rates have also been coming down over the past few weeks so you may find that you can now get a cheaper deal.
- 1 If you are on a low income, you may be eligible for help with housing costs or council tax payments. If you have children, further help is available, in the form of child benefit (payable to all parents with children under 16, regardless of income), as well as the working family's tax credit, which is means-tested.
- 2 "If you miss a mortgage payment, this will be recorded on your credit file and may make it more difficult to get a mortgage, or to remortgage, in the future," says Melanie Bien, of the mortgage broker Savills Finance. Your home could even be repossessed. Jonathan Cornell, of Hamptons Mortgages, says: "Maintaining your mortgage payment should be your main priority."
- 3 Luxuries should be sacrificed. Check that you are getting the cheapest phone, energy and broadband deals, and paying the lowest insurance premiums without compromising on cover.
- 4 Changing from a repayment to an interest-only mortgage will reduce your monthly payments. "You must ensure that you go back to a repayment deal as soon as you can afford to do so, otherwise the capital will not be repaid by the end of the mortgage term," Bien says.
- 5 Standard mortgage loans run for 25 years, but you can arrange to pay off your loan over 30 years or more: this reduces the monthly repayments, although it will of course increase the total amount of interest that you pay. Once again, this may be a good short-term solution: you could always reduce the length of the loan again once you can afford to do so.
- 6 Speak to your lender immediately. Under the Financial Services Authority's treating-customers-fairly initiative it must attempt to work with borrowers who are suffering financial hardship. You could also speak to the Citizens Advice Bureau, which provides free advice.
- 7 Letting a room is a tax-efficient way to boost your income: under the terms of the rent-a-room scheme, you are entitled to earn up to £4,250 a year tax-free by renting out a furnished room in your own home.
- 8 If all else fails, you could put your property on the market and either switch to a smaller, cheaper property or rent for a while until house prices fall and you can once again afford to get back on the property ladder.

