

ACCESO MAYORES DE 25 AÑOS-UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE-AÑO 2010-INGLÉS

OPCIÓN A

On going to Britain

I think it was Mozart who said he enjoyed himself in Great Britain, although too many of the natives suffered from a curious disease known as cold.

Indeed, everyone is aware that Great Britain is a mysterious country inhabited by a mysterious idea of people. It lies across the water, undoubtedly. It is the last of Europe. It is concealed by rain and fog. Its people are pallid from lack of sun. They are bad tempered, reserved and silent. Of these foggy, phlegmatic islanders, several millions are confined to the one large city of London, where the fogs are thicker, more yellow, more dirty, more enduring than elsewhere. People have this traditional idea of Great Britain.

The reality is different. You will not find the people uncommunicative, phlegmatic and suspicious but quite the reverse, even in the remotest parts. Accommodation- there is plenty of it, from cheap to expensive, from cottages, small inns, farmhouses and Youth Hostels to guests-houses and hotels. As for food, there is enough. I shall not pretend that English food is uniformly excellent; but it is not, uniformly disgusting. Coffee is badly made as a rule: if you cannot swallow it, drink English tea and beer. You can only buy alcohol at midday and in the evening, unless you are staying in a hotel. English people go early to bed, they lack the comfortable, easy going café like of Continental Europe; but you will not die of thirst, or starve.

Geoffrey Grigson

1. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text answer these questions. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

- a) What do people think about Great Britain?
- b) What does the author say about the idea people have of Britain?

2. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Write down the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

- a) People in England are, according to the author, reserved and silent.
- b) Accommodation in Britain is expensive.

3. Find a synonym in the text for the following words or phrases. (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto).

- a) Concentrated (paragraph 1).
- b) Places to live in (paragraph 2).

4. Follow the instructions for each part of this question. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

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a) Rewrite the sentence in the passive.

You can only buy alcohol at midday and in the evening, unless you are in a hotel.

b) Rewrite the sentence in reported speech.

The author said: "the traditional idea people have of Great Britain is different from reality".

c) Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

If you (go) to Britain, where you (prefer) to stay?

d) Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition

In London-----a million people -80% -----the workerslive in the outer fringes and travel daily to their work.

5. Write about 80 to 100 words on ONE of the following topics. (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos).

a) Does climate influence the character of a nation? How does it influence the life of the people?

b) Write about the different kinds of accommodation, food and drink in your country.

OPCIÓN B

In the parks

In London you are never very far from one of its large parks –those peaceful areas of fresh grassland, spreading trees and flowers that form an oasis of calm in an otherwise extremely tiring metropolis. You rarely see the notice "Keep off the grass", for really they are pieces of natural countryside which the town has not been permitted to swallow up. So, if there are paths, you are not expected to keep to them. You can walk where you will, until in some places you can imagine yourself in the country, though you are really only ten minutes from your office.

To discover Britain, you must learn to walk. Walking is a fine art. It does not come automatically, without training. There must be, no schedule, no determination to arrive at a particular place at a particular time. To enjoy walking, there must be silence.

But London parks, and in fact most parks in other towns of Great Britain, are also centres of entertainment. In the provinces, nearly all have a number of tennis courts, a children's corner and other amusements. In London there is the Open Air Theatre, famous for its productions of Shakespeare in a parkland setting. There are as well sporting events (races and competitions) symphony concerts, light orchestras, ballet, puppet shows, Punch and Judy shows*- in fact the London County Council prepares every summer a programme of 1,500 summer entertainments.

*Punch (the husband) and Judy (the wife) are two famous puppet characters who are always fighting and quarrelling

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1. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text answer these questions. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

a) Why can you rarely see the notice “keep off the grass” in London parks?

b) According to the text, what should one do to enjoy walking?

2. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE. Write down the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

a) In the parks you do not walk on the grass.

b) Few parks are centres of entertainment.

3. Find a synonym in the text for the following words.

a) Stretches (paragraph 1).

b) Environment (paragraph 3).

4. Follow the instructions for each part of this question. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

a) Rewrite the sentence in the passive.

The Home Service carries out the functions on information and education.

b) Rewrite the sentence in reported speech.

He said “If you want to enjoy walking, you have to leave your watch home”.

c) Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions.

Some programmes aim-----those whose taste enable them to derive enjoyment-----serious programmes.

d) Fill in the blanks with comparatives and/or superlatives of the adjectives given in brackets.

Londoners are the----- (hospitable) of people, anxious to do everything to make your stay as (pleasant)----- possible.

5. Write about 80 to 100 words on ONE of the following topics.

a) Why are parks important in a large city?

b) Are you in favour of organised entertainments in parks or opposed to them. Why?