TEXTO A

A New BBC Period Drama

The BBC is to make its first prime-time period drama that will have Asian actors in all the leading roles. Filming is due to start this summer on an adaptation of Vikram Seth’s A Suitable Boy, which at 1,349 pages is one of the longest novels in the English language.

It will be directed by Mira Nair, the Indian-American film-maker behind Monsoon Wedding. Andrew Davies, best known for adapting Pride and Prejudice for the BBC, has been drafted in for the screenplay.

To be broadcast next year, the series is expected to have more than 100 characters. All the main roles will be played by Asians – many from India – while the handful of white characters in Seth’s book will appear only as bit parts. It contrasts with ITV’s current Sunday night offering, Beecham House, which stars Tom Bateman playing a former member of the East India Company in the leading role. Previous hit dramas set in Asia, such as The Far Pavilions and The Jewel in the Crown, have also focused on white characters.

Davies acknowledged it was a big departure for the BBC, but believes viewers will still tune in. “It is exciting,” he said. “Not many of the leading players will be known to a British audience. But it is also like a Jane Austen novel in that it’s got a lovely, easy-to-relate-to central plot.”

A Suitable Boy revolves around the desire of a middle-class Indian mother, Rupa Mehra, to marry off her youngest daughter, Lata. The Indian actress Tabu, who starred as the mother in Ang Lee’s Life of Pi, is expected to play Mehra, while a Bollywood star has been cast as Lata.

Adapted from “All-Asian cast is most suitable for BBC’s Vikram Seth drama,” The Times, 30 June 2019. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/all-asian-cast-ismost-suitable-for-bbc-s-vikram-seth-drama-t6qwj57f>

QUESTIONS

A.1 (2 puntos) Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

a) This will be the first production by Mira Nair. FALSE “It will be directed by Mira Nair, the Indian-American film-maker behind Monsoon Wedding”
b) There will be no white characters in the new BBC series. FALSE “. All the main roles will be played by Asians – many from India – while the handful of white characters in Seth’s book will appear only as bit parts”

A.2  (2 puntos) In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

a) How does Andrew Davies think the audience will react to this new series and why? HE THINKS THAT THEY WILL LIKE IT, THE ACTORS ARE NOT FAMOUS BUT THE PLOT WAS WRITTEN BY THE FAMOUS AUTHOR JANE AUSTEN

b) What is the plot of the new BBC series? THE PLOT IS ABOUT A WOMAN WHO WANTS TO MARRY ONE OF HER DAUGHTERS TO A YOUNG MAN.

A.3  (1 punto) Find the words in the text that mean:

a) screened (paragraph 3) BROADCAST

b) present (paragraph 3) CURRENT

c) change (paragraph 4) DEPARTURE

d) wish (paragraph 5) DESIRE

A.4  (2 puntos) Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

a) Vikram Seth ___WAS BORN___ (born) in India, but ___SPENT___ (spend) most of his life in the UK.

b) I’d ___RATHER___ (rather) watch a period drama than ___READING___ (read) a book.

c) If I had ___THE___ (the) opportunity to travel to India, I ___WOULD VISIT___ (visit) Vikram Seth’s relatives.

d) After ___WATCHING___ (watch) the last thriller on Netflix, I couldn’t sleep ___FOR___ (for) a couple of nights.

A.5  (3 puntos) Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic.

What do you prefer, films or TV series? Justify your answer.

PERSONALLY I PREFER SERIES BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I LOVE BOTH, SO IT IS DIFFICULT TO CHOOSE.
SINCE I WORK LONG HOURS, SERIES ARE ESPECIALLY ATTRACTION FOR ME, BECAUSE
CHAPTERS LAST SHORTER THAN A FILM SO I CAN RELAX WATCHING ONE AND I CAN GO TO
BED EARLY. WHEN I SEE FILMS, I HAVE TO BE PAYING ATTENTION TO THE TV FOR A LONG
PERIOD OF TIME AND, DUE TO THE ADVERTISEMENTS I GO TO SLEEP LATE AND I AM
ALWAYS TIRED THE NEXT DAY. THIS IS THE MAIN REASON WHY I PREFER SERIES.

ANOTHER DRAWBACK IS THAT SOME FILMS ARE VERY NOISY, THE SPECIAL EFFECTS ARE
APPEALING TO SEE BUT THEY CAN BE ANNOYING BECAUSE THE SOUNDS ARE REALLY LOUD.

IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT I LIKE SERIES, SOME OF THEM ARE REALLY LONG OR THE PLOT IS
VERY COMPLICATED SO YOU HAVE TO LEARN A LOT OF NAMES AND YOU CAN’T LET YOUR
MIND WANDER OR YOU JUST GET LOST, SO COMEDIES CAN BE A GREAT OPTION IF YOU
DON’T WANT TO ENGAGE WITH A SERIE FOR A LOT OF SEASONS OR YEARS.

TEXT B
The Carbon Footprint of your Inbox

Your annual work email could be adding the same amount of warming carbon dioxide to the
atmosphere as a flight between London and Bruges. Email has a carbon footprint because of
the power demands to create and run the computers, servers and routers that transmit each
message.

The average email reportedly adds an extra 4 grams of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere –
but this can increase 12 fold in email chains or with big attachments. Office workers on
average process over 34,000 emails each year and can spend around 13 hours a week working
on their inboxes. “This amount of carbon dioxide is equivalent to a customer having used
16,800 plastic bags in a single year,” a spokesperson for CWJobs said.

Not every email is equal, however, as adding a single 1MB attachment is predicted to raise its
carbon output up to 19 grams. Larger attachments use up more energy in turn. “A particularly
long email chain produces more than just hot air – it can generate as much as 50 grams in CO2
emissions,” CWJobs said. With global email traffic predicted to rise by 18 per cent in 2023, it
would result in an extra 620 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

A series of recommendations for how people can cut down on their communicative carbon
footprints have also been published. These include only adding necessary people in email
chains, replacing attachments with links to material online, and talking to people in person. In
addition, due to the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation, the total number of
unwanted emails have been reduced by 1.2 billion messages a day, which is the equivalent of
360 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions cut every single day.

Adapted from “How big is the carbon footprint of your inbox?” Daily Mail, 8 July 2019. <
https://dailym.ai/2tw2ws >
QUESTIONS

B.1 (2 puntos) Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

a) The carbon footprint of emails is not related only to the electricity consumed by computers. TRUE “Email has a carbon footprint because of the power demands to create and run the computers, servers and routers that transmit each message.”

b) The number of spam emails has been reduced thanks to the introduction of specific policies. TRUE “In addition, due to the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation, the total number of unwanted emails have been reduced by 1.2 billion messages a day, which is the equivalent of 360 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions cut every single day.”

B.2 (2 puntos) In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

a) What is the relationship between the size of an attachment and its carbon emission? BECAUSE YOU NEED MORE ELECTRICITY AND TIME OF CONNECTION TO UPLOAD AND SEND THEM.

b) What can we do to reduce the carbon footprint of emails? Mention two ideas. WE CAN REDUCE THE EMAILS THAT WE SEND AVOIDING CHAINS OR JOKES AND ALSO GOVERNMENTS CAN INTRODUCE LAWS TO DECREASE SPAM EMAILS

B.3 (1 punto) Find the words in the text that mean:

a) yearly (paragraph 1) ANNUAL

b) additional (paragraph 2) EXTRA

c) quantity (paragraph 2) AMOUNT

d) consume (paragraph 3) USE UP

B.4 (2 puntos) Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

a) Researchers said domestic travel was a bigger cause of CO2 emissions FROM______ international travel. In fact, air travel was one of ____THE MOST IMPORTANT____ (important) causes.

b) ____AVOIDING___ (avoid) natural disasters or extreme temperatures, __WHICH____ can damage the environment, we must keep the level of greenhouse gases at their natural levels.
c) Some people think that the greenhouse effect WOULDN’T HAVE BECOME such a big problem if we HADN’T CUT so many trees in the past.

d) Rewrite the following sentence so that it means the same: We are consuming natural resources so fast that the Earth does not have time to renew them.

Natural resources are being consumed so fast that the Earth does not have time to renew them.

B.5 (3 puntos) Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic.

Would you agree to have limited Internet access to help reduce carbon emissions? Justify your answer.

I think that this is a very controversial issue, I know many people with different opinions about reducing carbón emissions and it is really difficult to get an agreement about this topic.

From my point of view it is better to sabe the planet instead of having unlimited Access to internet and I think that way for many reasons.

First of all, I have to admit that it can be attractive to think that you have Access to internet whenever and wherever you want, but the consequences can be very bad. Secondly and according to experts and other people’s thoughts I reckon that we only have one planet to live in so we have to protect it.

In addition to this I believe that internet is an addiction for a lot of people so reducing its use can be good for our health.

In spite of the fact that many people support my opinion, there are others who think in a different way and all of us should respect their ideas too.