Go on Two Wheels

“Beat the Tube strike, get a bike!” During the 48-hour shutdown of London Underground in February 2014, thousands did just that and took to two wheels. During the General Strike of 1926, the middle-class volunteers who drove trains were strike breakers. Similarly, these two-wheeled commuters were trying to beat the Tube strike.

With every turn of a bicycle wheel, human freedom is advanced. Cyclists do not have to face timetables; through their own sweat, they make their way in the world, free from following rigid lines of steel and electricity. The bike is individualism in action.

The bicycle is a reminder of the freedoms people enjoyed in the lost Victorian days. You pay no taxes or duties; you need no licence, permit or certificate of proficiency - you just get on your bike. And any cyclist with road sense will have a relaxed attitude towards highways regulations. It is absurd to give dog-like obedience to a red light when your eyes and ears tell you it is safe to go.

The bike has always pedalled individual freedom forward. The Lady Cyclists’ Association, founded in 1892, knew that it not only gave women an escape from home and husband, but also a reason to throw off constricting dresses. Many lady cyclists, for practical reasons, made cause with the Rational Dress Society who opposed “the introduction of any fashion in dress that either deforms the figure or impedes the movement of the body”.

The car is no longer a symbol of freedom, so if you want to feel free, go on two wheels.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.
   a) According to the text, traffic lights are essential for the safety of cyclists.
   b) Nowadays, driving gives you more liberty than cycling.
   (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

2. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.
   a) Explain how Londoners reacted to the transport strike in 1926 and in 2014.
   b) How did cycling affect women in the past?
   (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

3. Find the words in the text that mean:
   a) exactly (paragraph 1)
   b) schedules (paragraph 2)
   c) created (paragraph 4)
   d) get rid of (paragraph 4)
4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.
a) I remember _______ (bike) with my friends when I was a teenager in the village _______ I was born.
b) The Lady's Association to protect women’s health _______ (found) by Victorian women, who were much more advanced _______ you can imagine.
c) “Cyclists _______ wear a helmet”. This statement appears in UK parks where it is compulsory _______ (do) so.
d) Complete the following sentence to report what was said.
   “Why don’t we go for a walk tomorrow if the weather is fine?”
   John suggested ______________________________________________

5.- Write about 100 to 150 words on the following topic.
What are the advantages and disadvantages of cycling in big cities?
(Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)
1.- a) False; It is absurd to give dog-like obedience to a red light when your eyes and ears tell you is safe to go.
   
   b) True; The bike has always pedaled individual freedom forward.

2.- a) They took their bikes and tried to do a break in the Tube strike.

   b) Years ago going by bicycle was the only opportunity for women to go away of their housekeeping responsibilities.

3.- a) just
   
   b) timetables
   
   c) founded
   
   d) escape

4.- a Biking/ where

   b) was founded / than

   c) must/ to do

   d) Going for a walk the following day if the weather is fine.

5.- There are lots of advantages on biking in a big city; first of all, it is an important economic advantage. Nowadays, especially in the big cities, public transports have increased considerably their prices, that’s why we can affirm that is a great economic benefit. Secondly it is a great method to do exercise every day; going to work by bike can suppose the same than a cardio class in the gym! And finally, it is a wonderful way to contribute with the decrease of air pollution emissions. But it’s true that there are too some disadvantages in the use of bikes in the big cities; there are places like Madrid where there isn’t a suitable infrastructure for going by bike, and this fact can turn dangerous an activity that must be safe and healthy. Spite of this, I’m a fervent defender of biking in the city!!

EXAMEN DE INGLÉS SELECTIVIDAD SEPTIEMBRE 2015 OPCIÓN B

Use or Abuse of Technology

People in Britain now spend more time watching TV, gaming, and using their mobile phones and computers than they do sleeping. Research by a British communications agency found that the average UK adult uses technology for eight hours and 41 minutes a day, 20 minutes longer than they spend sleeping. One of the biggest reasons for this is Wi-Fi. People can get online almost anywhere, so they spend more time online. Nowadays, it is very common that
people make telephone calls or surf the web while watching television.

The study, which examined the use of technology by different age groups, also found that six-year-olds understand how to use gadgets such as tablets and mobile phones at the same level as 45-year-olds. Another finding was that people understand digital technology better when they are 14 or 15.

According to Dr. Arthur Cassidy, a social media psychologist, technology is changing the way people communicate with each other. He warned that we are becoming more and more anti-social and we are moving away from face-to-face conversations because of technology. He added that people are now saturated with digital technology and are becoming psychologically dependent on their smart phones.

Dr. Cassidy linked the increasing cases of Internet and social media addiction among youngsters with problems in mental and physical development. Perhaps we should think of recreational screen time as a form of consumption in the same way that we think of sugar, hours of sun, ... – measured in units of hours per day.

QUESTIONS

1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.
a) An expert said that we are having more in-person conversations now than we used to in the past.
b) Dr Cassidy believes that the overuse of technology by young people only damages their brain.
(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.
a) Why do British people make more use of technology nowadays?
b) What are the research findings regarding children and teenagers?
(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

3.- Find the words in the text that mean:
a) nearly (paragraph 1)
b) discovery (paragraph 2)
c) due to (paragraph 3)
d) associated (paragraph 4)
(Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.
a) She uses her computer, _______ is in her living room, to keep _______ touch with her family.
b) People _______ (not communicate) so easily if the Internet _______ (not exist).
c) After _______ (get) home, she found out that her son _______ (use) the PlayStation while she was out.
d) Complete the following sentence to report what was said.
They shouldn’t have sent the report off for printing yet.
The report ______________________________________________
(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

5.- Write about 100 to 150 words on the following topic.
What differences do you find between the use of technology by teenagers and by adults?
(Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)

1.- a) False; He warned that we are becoming more and more anti-social and we are moving away from face-to-face conversations because of technology.

    b) True; Dr Cassidy linked the increasing cases of Internet and social media addiction among youngsters with problems in mental and physical development.

2.- a) Because thanks to the Wi-fi connection they can be linked everywhere.

    b) They are discovering that young children are able to use laptops and gadgets better than adults, and they are getting more unsociable because of the use of electronic devices.

3.- a) study

    b) according to

    c) linked

4.- a) when / in

    b) wouldn’t / wasn’t exist

    c) got / had used

    d) The report shouldn’t have been sent off for printing then.

5.- Nowadays, there is a compulsive use of technology, both by young people and by grown up, but the use of the devices, is not the same at different ages, and that’s why adults use it, in a great percentage, in their jobs. Secondly, young people have not got the same control than adults, in the use time, that means, young people can be playing and using the laptop, tablet... for hours, but adults, can control the time they are playing and measure how many time is healthy and safe use it. Finally, adults are more conscious about the “dangers” on the web, meanwhile children can watch unsuitable contents or contact with dangerous people. These are the main reasons why children must always use electronical devices, mainly if these ones have internet connection, under parental control and during previous estimated time.