

Convocatoria extraordinaria 2024
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Read the instructions for the questions very carefully and write all your answers in English. Answer **ONLY 2 OF THE 3 QUESTIONS**. If you answer more than two questions, **only the first two will be marked**.

QUESTION 1. READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW. (5 POINTS)**TEXT A**

Juana Ramírez was eager to know about everything from her earliest years and throughout her life. As a female, she had little access to formal education and would be almost entirely self-taught. Juana was born out of marriage to a family of modest means in San Miguel Nepantla around 1650. She learned to read very early. Apparently, she had read all her grandfather's books before eight, and these seem to have included many classic works. When she was six or seven, her desire for learning was so intense that she begged her mother to let her dress up in men's clothes and allow her to go and study in Mexico University, which only men were allowed to attend. At eight, she was sent to Mexico City to live with her aunt and uncle. There she started learning Latin grammar, which enabled her to read philosophical and theological works in the language, and she came to be considered a child prodigy. She began to be praised in high society for her intelligence and also for her famed beauty. When she was 17, she was famously tested by 40 university professors, all of whom were shocked by her deep knowledge of philosophy, mathematics, and history.

Uninterested in marriage, Juana entered a convent in 1669, just before her twentieth birthday, officially becoming Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. Convent life afforded Sor Juana her own apartment, time to study and write, and the opportunity to teach music and drama to school girls. She also functioned as the convent's archivist and accountant. In her convent cell, Sor Juana amassed one of the largest private libraries in the New World, together with a collection of musical and scientific instruments. She was also able to continue her contact with other scholars and powerful members of the court.

Yet by 1694 Sor Juana had succumbed in some measure to external and internal pressures. She reduced her literary pursuits and abandoned her secular studies. Her library and collections were sold for charity. Sor Juana died while nursing her sister nuns during an epidemic.

1.1. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (T/F) according to the text. Copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1.5 points)

- Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz couldn't go to school when she was a child.
- She went to university disguised as a young man.
- In Mexico City she studied with university professors.
- Thanks to her joining a religious order she could continue with her learning and writing.
- Living in a convent prevented her from contacting other contemporary intellectuals.
- She ended up her life totally involved in her literary writings.

1.2. For each of these words find a word or phrase in Text A with the same meaning. (1 point)

- had a great desire;
- to go to;
- admired;
- performing art;
- however.

1.3. Write a new sentence that has the same meaning as the given one. You must use the word or expression in brackets. (2 points)

- Probably thanks to her joining a convent, Sor Juana managed to continue with her literary writings. (*if*)
- It was very a funny play. Everyone wanted to see it. (*such*)
- Unfortunately I left school when I was 16. (*I regret*)
- They gave him a 90-day visa. It made him very happy. (*he*)
- I must take my car to the garage because it broke down last night. (*repaired*)

1.4. Pronunciation. (0.5 points)

- Which pair of words does not rhyme? wit – white, play – stay, reign – rain, piece – peace.
- In which word are the letters "ch" pronounced differently? charge, punch, choice, machine.
- In which **two** words do the underlined letters sound like the "th" in "that"? healthy, mother, path, thanks, tooth, thorough, though, thought.
- In which word is the letter "l" pronounced? calm, could, half, climb.

QUESTION 2. READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW. (5 POINTS)

TEXT B

I am always both amused and annoyed when I hear foreign people criticize English food. "It's boring, it's tasteless, and it's chips with everything and totally overcooked vegetables". When I ask these visitors where they have experienced English cooking, I am astonished by their reply. "In Wimpy and MacDonald's Hamburger restaurants", they often say. I have won my case. Their conclusions are inexcusable.

I have a theory about English cooking, and I was interested to read that several famous cookery writers agree with me. Our basic ingredients, when fresh, are so full of flavour that we haven't had to invent sauces and complex recipes to disguise their natural taste. What can compare with fresh peas or new potatoes just boiled (not overboiled) and served with butter? Why should one drown spring lamb in wine or cream or yogurt and spices, when with just one or two herbs it is absolutely delicious?

It is interesting to speculate about the roles that geography and climate play in the creation of a country's food. We complain about our wet and changeable weather, but it is the rain which gives us our rich soil and green grass. "Abroad", says Grigson, "poor soils meant more searching for food, more discovery, more invention, whereas our ancestors sat down to plenty without having to take trouble".

If you ask foreigners to name some typically English dishes, they will probably say "Fish and chips" and then stop. It is disappointing, but true, that in England there is no tradition of eating in restaurants, because our food doesn't lend itself to such preparation. English cooking is found in the home, where it is possible to cook dishes perfectly well. It is for these reasons that we haven't exported our dishes, but we have imported a surprising number of them from all over the world. In most cities in Britain you'll find many international restaurants. Cynics will say that this is because we have no 'cuisine' ourselves, but, well, you know what I think!

2.1. Indicate whether the following statements are true or false (T/F) according to the text. Copy that part (and ONLY that part) of the text which justifies your answer. (1.5 points)

- Foreigners often underrate English food.
- The writer believes that foreigners don't really know English food.
- British recipes are very complicated and elaborate.
- The poorer the soils the more varied and creative the recipes of a region.
- The writer likes the fact that English food is not eaten in restaurants.
- The text suggests that it is difficult to serve English food at a restaurant.

2.2. For each of these words find a word or phrase in Text B with the same meaning. (1 point)

- a. bland; b. hide; c. unpredictable; d. abundant; e. everywhere.

2.3. Write a composition answering this question: (2.5 points)

Do you think cooking should be taught at school? Why? (Approximately 120 words)

3. QUESTION 3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW. (5 POINTS)

3.1. Write a new sentence that has the same meaning as the given one. You must use the word or expression in brackets. (2 points)

- I wish he spent the whole summer with me. (*want*)
- "Enjoy a free regular drink with any burger purchase." (*the promotion said that*)
- These boiled potatoes are tasteless. You definitely have to add some more salt and some herbs. (*unless*)
- I don't like horror films. Peter doesn't like horror films. (*neither*)
- This restaurant is very popular. They have delicious fish and chips. (*because of*)

3.2. Pronunciation. (0.5 points)

- In which word does the stress fall on the first syllable? calendar, photography, astonished, July.
- In which **two** words is the ending "-ed" pronounced /d/ as in "earned"? decided, asked, answered, called, kissed, watched, invited, vexed.
- In which word do the underlined vowels sound like the vowel in bird? hurt, heart, head, hard.
- Which pair of words rhymes? sheep – ship, sit – seat, worm – term, cold – call.

3.3. Write a composition answering this question: (2.5 points)

What period of history would you like to live in? Why? (Approximately 120 words)