

centre idiomèsuv

VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA



ENGLISH B2

pàacle

PROVES D'ACREDITACIÓ
DEL CONEIXEMENT DE
LLENGÜES ESTRANGERES

València,

PART 1:
READING COMPREHENSION
TIME: 70 minutes

Instructions

- In this booklet you will find four texts, their set tasks and examples for each one. Read all of them carefully and complete the tasks as required.
- Incorrect answers are not deducted from the final mark for the assessment of this part of the exam.
- You have **70 minutes** to complete this part of the exam. All exam materials will then be collected and additional time is not permitted. Please manage your time well.
- You may use this booklet to make notes. However, it should be noted that these answers **will not be assessed under any circumstances**.
- Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 1**.

Task 1 (Write your answers on Answer Sheet 1 - Task 1)

Instructions

- Read the following texts about food trends carefully and answer the questions (1-6).
- Choose the best option from a-c.

Incorporate cultural foods

A study in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition was released in December 2021 stating that there is a lack of diversity among nutrition professionals. Many dietitians have since come forward expressing a need for representation of all backgrounds in the field of nutrition, and also in the foods that dietitians recommend to their patients and clients.

"Seeking culturally diverse foods continues to be a trend and priority in both retail and institutional food service. This can provide an opportunity to increase dietary diversity through new types of root vegetables or legumes and incorporate more herbs and spices, which are full of polyphenols that act as antioxidants and fuel our gut microbiota. This trend can also help ensure that as many people are included in conversations about nutrition and health as possible because they see their cultures represented and embraced," registered dietitian Christina Badaracco tells us.

Question 0 is an example.

0. Dietitians...

- have argued in favour of food diversity. ✓**
- tend to disagree with the study published in 2021.
- already recommend a variety of different cultural foods.

1. Eating more cultural foods...

- is currently not very popular in retail services.
- provides nutrients from foods we are not used to eating.
- is generally recommended for certain modern diets.

2. According to Badaracco, including culturally diverse foods will help more people...

- become involved in well-being and nutrition.
- dramatically improve their health in general.
- understand other cultures in depth.

Focus on family dinners

Dani Lebovitz, food literacy expert in Franklin, Tennessee, and founder of Kid Food Explorers tells us why family dinners are trending in 2023: "Although the rise of family meals that occurred during the peak of the pandemic has somewhat decreased, an anticipated trend for 2023 is more meals being prepared at home due to rising food costs and inflation," Lebovitz says.

She continues, "As the research suggests, the return to family meals also aligns with another food-related trend: rejecting diet culture to help kids develop healthy relationships with food. Family meals with responsive parenting practices and supportive feeding environments can positively shape children's beliefs, attitudes, and eating habits for a lifetime."

3. Eating with family at home...

- a. is gaining popularity because of increasing prices.
- b. began as a trend before the pandemic started.
- c. has been confirmed as the most common way nowadays.

4. According to Lebovitz, family meals can...

- a. help people diet more effectively.
- b. encourage a positive view of food.
- c. improve children's ability to prepare food.

Opt for a 'homestead lifestyle'

Farm-to-table takes on a whole new meaning here. Homesteading is the practice of growing your own food and raising your own animals at home. During the pandemic, we have seen a huge rise in people moving away from the city. Homesteading, or even home gardening, was on the rise after being home more during the pandemic.

Dietitian Lara Clevenger notes, "I have loved seeing the homesteading trend rise. Growing your own fruits and vegetables, raising your own livestock, and forming a community with other local homesteaders or farmers changes people's lifestyles to a slower pace of life. You can control the quality of the produce, how humanely the animals are raised, and the quality of the meat or dairy you eat.

Adapted from <https://www.eatthis.com/healthy-food-trends-2023/>

5. During the pandemic...

- a. people in cities began to grow their own food.
- b. there was an important increase in rural inhabitants.
- c. people's view of food changed significantly.

6. Clevenger suggests that homesteading...

- a. may be too slow for some families.
- b. makes little difference to the types of food eaten.
- c. can help people to make new connections.

Task 2 (Write your answers on Answer Sheet 1 - Task 2)

Instructions

- Read the following text from which sentences have been extracted.
- Read the sentences on the next page (A-H). Match them with their corresponding gaps (7-12).
- There is **one extra sentence** you do not need to use.

Netflix and the rise of binge watching

Everyone has already found themselves in a situation where they could simply not stop watching a TV show, losing all sense of space and time. (0) This phenomenon has a name: binge watching. It is the consumption of episodes of a TV show or movies of a saga within a limited period of time.

This mode of consumption firstly appeared in the 1990s when the VHS was popularised. (7) _____. With the spread of the internet, downloading and video on demand, binge watching has evolved and expanded.

So this is a fairly old situation, not a novelty as such, but the arrival of Netflix has favoured the development of the phenomenon and accelerated it. Indeed, apart from the original productions that were met with great success, Netflix has also implemented several actions to promote consumption.

Firstly, the automatic launch of consecutive episodes. (8) _____. Additionally, it is also possible to skip the credits of the show by pressing "skip intro", which allows the user to jump into the essential: the continuation of the fiction. Finally, the release of complete seasons. Once the new season of a series comes out, all the episodes are available immediately. Big TV channels, in comparison, have a big delay between each episode. By distributing the series by season, the platform limits the frustration of its subscribers and allows them to watch the series without interruptions. This characteristic of the platform revolutionises binge watching, which could only be done posteriori. It was necessary to wait until all the episodes of a series were broadcast to be able to do this.

In December 2013, Netflix conducted a study on binge watching among its subscribers. According to this study, half of the viewers surveyed finish a season in only one week. (9) _____. In June 2016, the streaming platform was interested in the type of series that makes us the most "addicted", so we will watch without stopping. It turns out the consumption of series is different depending whether it is a comedy or a thriller. The US giant analysed the first seasons of 100 series viewed in 190 countries between October 2015 and May 2016 and defined a scale regarding the most addictive content. (10) _____.

Last December Netflix unveiled its statistics for the year 2017 about the habits of its users in different countries. It turns out that subscribers spent 140 million hours a day on the video on demand platform, which represents about 160 centuries or 1 billion hours watched each week. (11) _____. Among the top 3 most binge watched series are American Vandal (3%) and 13 Reasons Why.

We can clearly say that today our consumption patterns of audio-visual productions have evolved and have not escaped the phenomenon of mass consumption. (12) _____. Netflix, with its original series produced at an industrial speed, its fluid and intelligent interface, and its communication strategy tries to follow the movement and it works. In particular, the company grasped all the workings of social networks and places the user at the centre of its strategy making algorithms the heart of its business model.

For the first half of 2018, the sales of the firm Reed Hasting rose by 40%. Almost comparable to Disney's market capitalisation, the value of its stock has increased by 9% on the stock market and now has 12.5 million subscribers worldwide. Will the Netflix saga stop one day?

Adapted from <http://blog.economie-numerique.net/2018/06/09/netflix-and-the-rise-of-binge-watching/>

Sentences

Sentence A is an example.

		POSITION IN THE TEXT
A	This phenomenon has a name: binge watching	0
B	We find that thrillers are at the top of the rank, followed by horror shows, then action series, and finally satirical comedies are the ones we consume the slowest	
C	Another survey carried out in February 2014 reveals that 2% of the 33.4 million US subscribers watched the entire second season of House of Cards the same weekend it was released	
D	Spectators are demanding, want everything faster, and are in search of sensationalism	
E	The previous episode has hardly ended and the platform automatically launches the next episode after a few seconds, pushing the user to chain views	
F	Viewers really dislike participating	
G	Then, with the development of DVDs, people began watching episodes more quickly without the need to rewind	
H	Mexicans are the ones who spend the most time every day of a week	

Task 3 (Write your answers on Answer Sheet 1 - Task 3)

Instructions

- Read the following text carefully and answer the questions (13-18) on the next page.
- Choose the best option from a-c.

How super are supermarkets?

Buying the week's groceries is not what they call shopping therapy. You want to get it over and done with quickly, so you head for the nearest supermarket, you find everything you need under one roof, and you feel glad that those days of going in and out of different shops in the high street are over, and that terrible music they play doesn't even bother you any longer. Supermarkets seem to be a big plus. There is a downside, though.

In the UK 90% of all the food people consume is bought at 5 different supermarket chains. This makes these companies extremely powerful, especially when it comes to determining the terms of contracts with the smaller companies that supply them. Supermarkets use their huge buying power to squeeze suppliers to get the best deal. Milk is a good example. Supermarkets like to use things like milk and bread, which are at the top of almost everyone's shopping list, to attract customers. To offer the lowest price possible to the consumer, the supermarkets force dairy farmers to sell milk at less than the cost of production. On average, most UK dairy farms operate at a loss and can only survive with the help of subsidies. Supermarkets keep their profit margin while farmers are left struggling to make ends meet, and the taxpayer unknowingly pays to support the system.

It would be nice if local grocers supported local agriculture. But for the big supermarkets this just doesn't make sense. You don't want little farmers thinking they can dictate prices. So supermarkets have started a global search for the cheapest possible agricultural produce. In many supermarkets it is difficult to find anything which is produced locally. The consumer might just be happy to get a reasonably priced meal, but we should also bear in mind the impact on local producers, local retailers and the environment (transporting all that produce around the world does nothing to limit the production of greenhouse gases).

There is also the question mark over the quality of the supposedly fresh food sold by supermarkets. To store produce so that it can be sold at a higher price out of season or to keep it "fresh" while it is being transported across entire continents, suppliers inevitably use preservatives to inhibit the natural rotting process.

Because the biggest and newest supermarkets are big outside town centres where land is cheaper and it is easier to build the adjacent car park, the rise of the supermarket has helped to worsen the situation of the British town centre. Judging by the number of shops that have closed in English town centres you would think that the economy has hit an all-time low. It hasn't. It's just that the shopping has moved out of town. What's left behind is, quite frankly, ugly. Anyone who dispassionately weighed up the pros and cons of supermarkets would quickly come to the conclusion that drastic measures need to be taken. Perhaps even demolition. But this is unlikely to come about. The modern world is all about shopping, and the freedom to buy whatever you want, so it would be outrageous for our political leaders to try to stop people shopping at some particular kind of shop, and without the political will to change public opinion people will just carry on shopping wherever it is most convenient for them, even if jobs are lost, agriculture and local producers suffer, sea levels rise and the health of the nation deteriorates. Who cares about all that anyway when there is a free car park and so many special offers?

Adapted from <http://fullspate.digitalcounterrevolution.co.uk/archive/supermarkets.html>

Questions

Question 0 is an example.

- 0. The article starts off by describing.....**
✓ a) **how people probably feel about going to supermarkets.**
b) the disadvantages of supermarkets for the population.
c) the benefits of shopping therapy when it comes to groceries.
- 13. The writer states that...**
a) most food in the UK seems to be consumed at major chains.
b) smaller companies supplying supermarkets may suffer economically.
c) supplying supermarkets seems to be a very profitable business.
- 14. The example of milk is provided...**
a) to show how supermarkets can take advantage of dairy farmers.
b) to demonstrate how taxpayers are aware of how the system works.
c) to support and defend the low production costs of basic products.
- 15. Regarding the origin of their products, supermarkets...**
a) tend to work with local producers to get the best price.
b) look for the cheapest agricultural produce regardless of origin.
c) seem to be willing to offer local agricultural produce to help farmers.
- 16. According to the article, fresh products...**
a) are usually only available when in season.
b) are mostly provided by local producers.
c) may not be as fresh and healthy as we think.
- 17. Out-of-town supermarkets...**
a) have contributed to the closure of shops in city centres.
b) are one of the reasons for recent economic problems.
c) are more expensive to build than traditional ones.
- 18. The writer thinks that...**
a) people will continue to shop at the most convenient places.
b) politicians will soon change the situation of supermarkets.
c) the benefits of supermarkets far outweigh the problems.

Task 4 (Write your answers on Answer Sheet 1 - Task 4)

Instructions

- Read the reviews in which critics give their opinion on books about time travelling.
- Match the sentences below (19-25) to sections A-D.
- The sections may be chosen more than once but there is only **one** correct answer for each sentence.

Which review...

Question 0 is an example:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 0. describes how the novel mixes themes from other works? | A |
| 19. states that the timing of the novel is just right? | ___ |
| 20. says that they liked the development of specific characters' stories? | ___ |
| 21. states that the novel is suitable for all ages? | ___ |
| 22. describes how the author successfully manages a complex topic? | ___ |
| 23. mentions how they liked the way the characters speak? | ___ |
| 24. says that the setting is described in a realistic way? | ___ |
| 25. emphasises that the novel includes a wide range of different characters? | ___ |

A *The Orion Chronicles: Book 1 - The God Stones* by R. L. Keck

R.L. Keck's *The Orion Chronicles: Book 1 - The God Stones* is a fantasy adventure pirate story packed with sci-fi time travel and an epic segment of action and suspense. In a story that is sure to keep you reading until the very end, Keck's writing is thrilling and engaging for readers young and old. If you love stories like *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Back to the Future*, *Uncharted*, or *Time Machine*, you will love this story because it's a perfect combination of all those themes. Keck's writing reminds me of *Pirates of the Caribbean* with a modern New Age twist. Keck's *The God Stones* draws you in from the beginning to the end and I can't wait to see what Keck has in store for the Orion crew in the next book.

B *The McCarron's Destiny: Charlie's Story* by Sharon K Middleton

Filled with romance, drama, and charm, *The McCarron's Destiny: Charlie's Story* is an engaging time-traveling tale that readers will find plenty to enjoy. Author Sharon K. Middleton builds a world full of beautiful noblewomen, chivalrous knights, and devious generals to immerse yourselves in. The early 19th-century setting feels genuine and lived-in, and I found the description of the English aristocratic lifestyle authentic. The characters are well-developed, with distinct personas and idiosyncrasies that charm their way into your heart. I thoroughly enjoyed the relationship between Charles and Kelly, as well as the romance between Lord Winston and Lady Annabelle. If you're a fan of historical fiction romance or time-traveling stories, I suggest *The McCarron's Destiny: Charlie's Story*.

C *The Great Trespass* by Steve Teets

Time-related mysteries and timeline-based plots are not easy, but author Steve Teets handles this extremely well to craft a fascinating, fast-paced, and largely logical science fiction novel. One of the features which I found particularly impressive about this piece was the author's confident narrative and rhythm, giving the audience exactly what they need to know and never overdoing it or making it too detailed and complex. This keeps the work fast-moving for the action element and also allows us some space to get to know Robert as a character, along with his friends and family. Overall, I'd certainly recommend *The Great Trespass* to science fiction readers seeking an exciting new series and a talented author to discover.

D *Ring Fold* by Scott Swisher

For an exciting and action-packed new science fiction novel, readers need to look no further than author Scott Swisher. One of the features I especially liked about *Ring Fold* was the diversity of the central characters, including different eras with distinctly different attitudes, but also across the spectrum of personality types and backgrounds. I also really enjoyed the dialogue, which was totally distinctive for the different characters, and provided some great humor and emotion to balance out the intricacies and seriousness of the plot. Overall, I wouldn't hesitate to recommend *Ring Fold* to young adult fans seeking their next wild and wonderful time travel adventure. A truly unmissable sci-fi read.

Adapted from <https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/>

B2 Reading web key

Task 1

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. b
5. b
6. c

Task 2

7. G
8. E
9. C
10. B
11. H
12. D

Task 3

13. b
14. a
15. b
16. c
17. a
18. a

Task 4

19. C
20. B
21. A
22. C
23. D
24. B
25. D