

Estructura y formato de la prueba de inglés

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/3607482.stm

Is reality TV harmful?

The BBC presenter Humphrys has described British reality TV as "cynical and harmful" to society. In his speech Humphrys said that shows such as *Big Brother* "eroded the distinction between the public and the private". He also warned that there was a battle on TV between those who were concerned about society and those who wanted to make programmes that make money. Here are two different opinions:

a) I think the intolerance shown by those who choose to damn "reality TV" is surprising. I would identify with people who can see reality TV shows, such as *Big Brother*, as a form of entertainment among those on offer. I would certainly not consider myself an arbiter of others' tastes, nor would I have the arrogance to insult those who do not share my own tastes. Those that choose to watch reality TV would seem to be a far more balanced and non-judgemental group of people than those who dismiss it and its viewers.

C. Leeds. London

b) Yes indeed! But also so boring, and obviously designed for a small minority of sad people who have no life. The standard of television programmes has deteriorated severely over the last two decades. Why are people prepared to sit and watch such mundane and amateurish productions? Why are television producers prepared to sink to such low depths to gain an audience?

B. Basildon. Essex

Broadcaster Lord Bragg, who is controller of arts at London Weekend Television, argued that those programmes reflected a "lack of intellectual ambition" and said there was a growing audience for more intelligent programming; and that more programmes like Lord Winston's acclaimed BBC. One documentary *The Human Body* should be made since there was a big audience "ready to follow intelligence onward and upward". He accused the BBC of having a policy of ignoring the arts in the search for ratings. And he made a plea that *BBC One* bring back arts programming to prime time TV. Lord Bragg said that *BBC One*, as the BBC's "standard bearer" TV channel, had an obligation to reflect the culture of the society. We are all, although we seem to hate to admit it, getting less dumb.

QUESTION 1: State in your own words what the author means when he says: "*Those programmes reflected a lack of intellectual ambition*" (aprox. 3 lines maximum) (2 marks):

QUESTION 2: Say in each case whether the statement is true or false according to the text. Write **T** (True) or **F** (False). If the answer is not mentioned in the text, mark it as false. (2'5 marks)

1. People with different ideas fight for the control of TV ____ T ____

2. C. Leeds hates programmes such as *Big Brother* because they are entertainment __ F __
3. According to C. Leeds, arrogant people shouldn't judge other people's tastes ____ F _
4. B. Basildon considers these type of programmes as examples of low quality productions.
____ T _
5. Lord Bragg believes that prime TV is mostly controlled by politicians

QUESTION 3: (2'5 marks) These words/ expressions are all found in the text: *upward, speech, public, battle, acclaimed, arbiter, deteriorated, harmful, entertainment, lack*. Choose the ones that mean the same as the following (three words do not fit with any of the definitions.)

- i) injurious to physical or mental health _____
- ii) a formal spoken communication to an audience _____
- iii) a combat, a conflict, a struggle _____
- iv) A person with the power to decide a dispute _____
- v) open, popular, general _____

QUESTION 5: (2 marks) Choose **a, b, c**, after each statement. Only one answer is correct.

1. Reality TV, according to Humphrys **A**
 - a) is insincere
 - b) helps Britain to make a lot of money
 - c) makes people feel sick
2. Leeds considers programmes such as *Big Brother*:
 - a) as a way of enjoying herself
 - b) as an example of trash television
 - c) as a new type of programme
3. Basildon thinks that those programmes:
 - a) show a deterioration of sad people
 - b) are examples of lack of intellect
 - c) are made in order to raise audience ratings
4. According to Lord Bragg
 - a) Arts come first in the programming of BBC One
 - b) Audiences demand that they include more documentaries for prime TV
 - c) There would be audiences for good programmes.

QUESTION 5: Discuss using your own words. Should programmes such as *Big Brother* be banned from (prohibited) TV? Why? (1 mark) (aprox. 2 lines)