

Instrucciones:

a) Duración: 1 h.30m. b) No se permite el uso de diccionario. c) La puntuación de las preguntas está indicada en las mismas. d) Los alumnos deberán realizar completa una de las dos opciones A o B, sin poder mezclar las respuestas.

OPTION B

“The hardest language”

1 People often ask which is the most difficult language to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are
2 many factors to take into consideration. Regarding first languages, the differences are unimportant, as people learn
3 their mother tongue naturally. So the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a
4 second language. Some people seem to learn languages without any effort, while others find it very difficult. Besides,
5 people learn languages that they need to use professionally much faster than languages that have no direct use in
6 their everyday life.

7 Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning
8 the Chinese writing system and by the fact that the pronunciation of Chinese appears to be very difficult for many
9 foreign learners. For example, Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, find
10 learning Chinese writing less difficult than speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet. So, generally, people
11 seem to think that languages which are related to our first language are easier because learning a completely
12 different writing system is a huge challenge. However, it can be argued that this is not the only factor making learning
13 one language more difficult than learning another. In fact, quite surprisingly, British diplomats and other embassy
14 staff have found Hungarian to be the most problematic language. So, in the end, it doesn't seem possible to say that
15 there is one language which is the hardest language in the world.

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

1. **Why is learning a second language different from learning our mother tongue?**
2. **Is motivation relevant to learning a second language? Why?**
3. **Why is Chinese easier to learn for Japanese speakers?**

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

4. **Most people believe that learning a different way of writing is hard.**
5. **Everybody agrees that Hungarian is the hardest language.**

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

6. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS “**appear**” (verb).
7. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR “**important**” (adjective).
8. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: “**Conventional marks, signs or symbols used in writing.**”
9. WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING?: **Look into / investigate / look after / inspect.**
10. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: **Tom learnt Spanish when he was a child.**
11. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE: **She has always been considered as a beautiful person by her partners.**
12. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL SENTENCE: **If I had more money _____**
13. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS: **He is looking forward to _____ (read) your letter.**

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:
Do you think learning other languages is important nowadays? Why?