

**ENGLISH
B2**

PACLE

PRUEBAS DE ACREDITACIÓN DEL CONOCIMIENTO DE LENGUAS EXTRANJERAS

PROVES D'ACREDITACIÓ DEL CONEIXEMENT DE LLENGÜES ESTRANGERES

MODELO DE EXAMEN. INGLÉS B2

- Parte 1. Comprensión lectora
- Parte 2. Comprensión auditiva
- Parte 3. Expresión e interacción escritas
- Parte 4. Expresión e interacción orales. Materiales para los candidatos (A y B)

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Lloc i data d'examen

PART 1: READING COMPREHENSION

TIME : 70 minutes

Draft

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Instructions

-In this booklet you will find three 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 any answers **will not be assessed under any circumstances**.

-Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 1**.

Task 1

Instructions

- Read the following text from which 8 sentences have been extracted.
- Read the 9 sentences on the next page (A-I) and match them with their corresponding gaps (1-7).
- Decide which sentence does not fit in any of the gaps.
- Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 1(Task 1)**.

Impact of immigration in the UK.

For centuries the British Isles have been a destination for immigrants, and a source of emigrants. **0** _____. Peel back the history of any aspect of life in Britain today – our language, laws, political system, the Monarchy, religion – and you will find the influence of immigrants down the years. **1** _____.

So the benefits of migration are not in doubt. Our country – just like any other – would be much the poorer but for the contribution that immigrants have made here, and that Britons have made overseas.

Our concern is not the principle of immigration, but its scale. In recent years we have seen an entirely new phenomenon: very large scale immigration, the impact of which has become a matter of increasing public concern. Official figures show that, over the last ten years, nearly 2.5 million immigrants have arrived and almost three quarters of a million British people have left, thus adding 1.6 million directly to our population. **2** _____.

This situation is not mainly due to the recent influx of East Europeans from new EU member states. **3** _____. Nor is this influx due to globalisation. It is largely the result of government policies dating back more than a decade.

The Government are now setting in train the most far-reaching reform of the immigration system for a generation, but it lacks an absolutely essential element – a limit on numbers.

According to official figures, immigration will add to England's population about the equivalent of seven cities the size of Birmingham over the next 25 years. Doing nothing is simply not an option. **4** _____. At the same time, we strongly believe that we must ease the pressures that immigration is placing on our public services, environment and, indeed, on the cohesion of our society.

We have asked Migrationwatch to prepare some constructive proposals that we can put forward as a basis for a sensible debate. **5** _____. The technical data on which this paper is based is available from www.migrationwatchuk.com.

The proposal for Balanced Migration, set out here, points to a positive way forward. This idea is based on a simple principle: **6** _____. We are not seeking to reduce the number of people who come to work here for a few years and return home.

This approach builds on the recommendations of the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs, which recently conducted a major inquiry into the economic impact of immigration. It suggested that "The Government should have an explicit and reasoned indicative target range for net immigration and adjust its immigration policies in line with that broad objective."

Balanced Migration should be that target. As always, the devil will be in the detail but we believe that this proposal strikes the right balance between the needs of industry and the growing strains on society. We put it forward as a basis for reasoned debate on an issue which we recognise is of great sensitivity. **7** _____. We seek constructive responses to this new approach to controlling immigration and will, of course, consider other suggestions that might be made and other research that might be contributed.

Text adapted from <http://www.migrationwatchuk.com/pdfs/balancedmigration.pdf>

Sentences

Sentence I is an example

	POSITION IN THE TEXT
A We must, of course, ensure that British business has access to the skills it needs to meet fierce international competition.	_____
B This booklet is the result and, for the first time, brings together in one place all the arguments for limiting immigration.	_____
C Leaving aside the movement of British citizens, two thirds of immigrants in 2006 were from outside the EU.	_____
D Government talks with other EU states have proved very little productive to advance on this matter.	_____
E That the number of immigrants who are given permission to settle permanently in this country should be kept to approximately the same level as the number of British citizens who are emigrating.	_____
F This rate of arrival is 25 times higher than during any previous influx of immigration in nearly a thousand years of our nation's history.	_____
G In the months ahead, we will be discussing with industry, politicians, and community leaders how this concept might work in practice.	_____
H Likewise, Britons have emigrated across the world, taking with them their skills and our customs, traditions and, of course, our language.	_____
I This flow of people has contributed to one of the strongest societies and most dynamic economies in the world	_____ 0 _____

Task 2

Instructions

- Read the following text carefully and answer the questions 8-15 on the next page.
- Choose the best option from A-C.
- Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 1 (Task 2)**.

Ray Bradbury, The Art of Fiction

Bradbury was born in 1920 in Waukegan, Illinois, the son of a lineman for the local power company. As a child, he developed a passion for the books of L. Frank Baum and Edgar Allan Poe and immersed himself in popular culture, from cinema to comic strips to traveling circuses. Because Bradbury's father was often out of work during the twenties and thirties, the family repeatedly moved between Illinois and Tucson, Arizona. His sense of uprootedness and dislocation was compounded by the death of his beloved grandfather when he was five, and his baby sister's death from pneumonia two years later. The experience of great loss appears frequently in his work.

By the spring of 1934, lured by the prospects of sunshine and steady employment, the Bradbury family moved to California, where Bradbury has lived ever since. As a teenager, he roller-skated all over Hollywood, collecting autographs and taking photos with stars like Jean Harlow, Marlene Dietrich, and George Burns. After he graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1938, he joined the Los Angeles Science Fiction League, befriending writers Robert Heinlein and Leigh Brackett. In 1940, with the help of Heinlein, he made his first professional sale, to a West Coast literary magazine called *Script*. Bradbury's poor eyesight stopped him from being recruited for the Second World War, and it was during those years that he established himself in the pages of pulp-fiction magazines like *Weird Tales* and *Astounding Science Fiction*. *The Martian Chronicles*, his second book, was embraced by the science-fiction community as well as critics, a rare achievement for the genre. Christopher Isherwood hailed Bradbury as "truly original" and a "very great and unusual talent." Three years later Bradbury published the novel for which he is best known, *Fahrenheit 451*.

In all, Bradbury has written more than fifty books, including *The Illustrated Man*, *Dandelion Wine*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and his 2009 story collection, *We'll Always Have Paris*. He has worked often in television and film, writing teleplays for *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and the screenplay for John Huston's 1956 adaptation of *Moby-Dick*. In 1964, he established the Pandemonium Theatre Company, where he started producing his own plays—he is still actively involved with the theater today. He has also published several poetry collections, including *When Elephants Last in the Dooryard Bloomed*. He has even worked in architecture, contributing to the design of San Diego's Westfield Horton Plaza and the interior of Spaceship Earth at Disney's EPCOT Center.

Despite recent setbacks—a stroke in 1999 and the death of Marguerite, his wife of fifty-six years, in 2003—Bradbury has remained extraordinarily active. He continues to write and he remains charming and filled with boyish jubilation. When dining out he regularly orders vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce for dessert. He has just completed a new collection of short stories, tentatively titled "Juggernaut." He recently told me he still lives by his lifelong credo, "Jump off the cliff and build your wings on the way down."

Adapted from: <http://www.theparisreview.org/interviews/6012/the-art-of-fiction-no-203-ray-bradbury>

Questions

Question 0 is an example.

0. **Bradbury...**
- a) worked and lived in a power company
 - b) was born in Arizona
 - ✓ c) **was born in the early 20th century.**
8. Bradbury, at an early age,...
- a) was immersed in a wide range of popular culture.
 - b) actively participated in circus life.
 - c) became a passionate collector of a variety of artwork.
9. His feeling of uprootedness...
- a) was mainly due to the death of close family members.
 - b) was exacerbated by the loss of family members.
 - c) was solely due to dislocation brought about by frequent house moves.
10. As a teenager, he...
- a) was a roller skater star in Hollywood.
 - b) enjoyed collecting Hollywood star memorabilia.
 - c) became an uprising Hollywood star photographer.
11. He joined the Los Angeles Science Fiction League...
- a) when he went into high school in 1938.
 - b) shortly after graduating from high school.
 - c) in 1940, where he made friends with a number of writers.
12. In his early career,...
- a) he studied the works of Heinlein and Brackett whom he much admired.
 - b) he sold his first Script to a West Coast literary magazine.
 - c) his first professional sale was bought up by Script.
13. The author points out that Bradbury...
- a) wasn't conscripted to war because he was an active writer.
 - b) didn't join the Vietnam war because of his eyesight.
 - c) was kept out of war due to his poor eyesight.
14. Throughout the text, the author portrays Bradbury as someone who is...
- a) gregarious and multi-talented.
 - b) a consolidated author specializing in Sci-Fi.
 - c) to this day, full of boyish energy.
15. The author mentions that...
- a) Bradbury's wife died at the age of 56.
 - b) Bradbury's wife died of a stroke.
 - c) Bradbury's marriage to his wife had lasted 56 years until she passed away.

Task 3

Instructions

- Read the following text carefully and answer the questions 18-25 on the next page.
- Say whether the statements are true or false, and justify your answer.
- Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 1 (Task 3)**.

The Accidental History of the @ Symbol

Once a rarely used key on the typewriter, the graceful character has become the very symbol of modern electronic communication.

Called the “snail” by Italians and the “monkey tail” by the Dutch, @ is the sine qua non of electronic communication, thanks to e-mail addresses and Twitter handles. @ has even been inducted into the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art, which cited its modern use as an example of “elegance, economy, intellectual transparency, and a sense of the possible future directions that are embedded in the arts of our time.”

The origin of the symbol itself, one of the most graceful characters on the keyboard, is something of a mystery. One theory is that medieval monks, looking for shortcuts while copying manuscripts, converted the Latin word for “toward”—*ad*—to “a” with the back part of the “d” as a tail. Or it came from the French word for “at”—*à*—and scribes, striving for efficiency, swept the tip of the pen around the top and side. Or the symbol evolved from an abbreviation of “each at”—the “a” being encased by an “e.” The first documented use was in 1536, in a letter by Francesco Lapi, a Florentine merchant, who used @ to denote units of wine called amphorae, which were shipped in large clay jars.

The symbol later took on a historic role in commerce. Merchants have long used it to signify “at the rate of”—as in “12 widgets @ \$1.” (That the total is \$12, not \$1, speaks to the symbol’s pivotal importance.) Still, the machine age was not so kind to @. The first typewriters, built in the mid-1800s, didn’t include @. Likewise, @ was not among the symbolic array of the earliest punch-card tabulating systems (first used in collecting and processing the 1890 U.S. census), which were precursors to computer programming.

The symbol’s modern obscurity ended in 1971, when a computer scientist named Ray Tomlinson was facing a vexing problem: how to connect people who programmed computers with one another. At that time, each programmer was typically connected to a particular mainframe machine via a phone connection and a teletype machine—basically a keyboard with a built-in printer. But these computers weren’t connected to one another, a shortcoming the U.S. government sought to overcome when it hired BBN Technologies, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, company Tomlinson worked for, to help develop a network called Arpanet, forerunner of the Internet.

Tomlinson’s challenge was how to address a message created by one person and sent through Arpanet to someone at a different computer. The address needed an individual’s name, he reasoned, as well as the name of the computer, which might service many users. And the symbol separating those two address elements could not already be widely used in programs and operating systems, lest computers be confused.

Tomlinson’s eyes fell on @, poised above “P” on his Model 33 teletype. “I was mostly looking for a symbol that wasn’t used much,” he told Smithsonian. “And there weren’t a lot of options—an exclamation point or a comma. I could have used an equal sign, but that wouldn’t have made much sense.” Tomlinson chose @—“probably saving it from going the way of the ‘cent’ sign on computer keyboards,” he says. Using his naming system, he sent himself an email, which travelled from one teletype in his room, through Arpanet, and back to a different teletype in his room.

Tomlinson, who still works at BBN, says he doesn’t remember what he wrote in that first e-mail. But that is fitting if, as Marshall McLuhan argued, “The medium is the message.” For with that message, the ancient @, once nearly obsolete, became the symbolic linchpin of a revolution in how humans connect.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-accidental-history-of-the-symbol-18054936/?no-ist>

Questions

Question 0 is an example.

- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| <p>0. The @ symbol is not considered to be a refined symbol.
JUSTIFICATION
<u>“the graceful character has become the very symbol of modern...”</u></p> | T | <u>F</u> |
| <hr/> | | |
| <p>18. According to the text, the @ symbol will remain in the Museum of Modern Art collection.
JUSTIFICATION</p> | T | F |
| <hr/> | | |
| <p>19. The origin is probably due to a time-saving method.
JUSTIFICATION</p> | T | F |
| <hr/> | | |
| <p>20. Computer programming was first used in the US census.
JUSTIFICATION</p> | T | F |
| <hr/> | | |
| <p>21. Before the 1970s printing from the teletype machine was not possible.
JUSTIFICATION</p> | T | F |
| <hr/> | | |
| <p>22. The US government wanted the issue of connections to be dealt with.
JUSTIFICATION</p> | T | F |
| <hr/> | | |
| <p>23. In order for the problem to be solved Tomlinson was told an address needed a particular name.
JUSTIFICATION</p> | T | F |
| <hr/> | | |
| <p>24. Tomlinson states that there were few other options to choose from.
JUSTIFICATION</p> | T | F |
| <hr/> | | |
| <p>25. The writer concludes that if it hadn't been for Tomlinson messages might have become obsolete over time.
JUSTIFICATION</p> | T | F |
| <hr/> | | |

Draft

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PART 2: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TIME: approximately 30 minutes

Instructions

-You will hear **three recordings**.

-You will hear each one **twice**. Listen to them carefully and complete the tasks as required.

-Before listening for the first time, you will have time to read the questions that correspond to each recording.

-**Incorrect answers** are not deducted from the final mark for the assessment of this part of the exam

-Once you have heard the last recording, you will have time to complete the answer sheet. Once this time has finished, all exam materials will be collected and additional time will not be permitted.

-Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 2**.

-You may use this booklet to make notes. However, it should be noted that any answers written in the booklet **will not be assessed under any circumstances**.

Task 1

You will hear **Professor Clive Upton**, emeritus Professor of Modern English Language, giving a talk on accents.

Instructions

- Listen carefully and answer the following questions (1-8) according to what the speaker says.
- You must choose one answer from the three options given for each question.
- Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 2 (Task 1)**.

From: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p020wmlw#play>

1. According to *Professor Clive Upton*, what role do accents play?

- They demonstrate people's social expertise.
- They indicate who we are and where we are from.
- They demonstrate our ability to pronounce differently.

2. According to the *Professor*, what is a change of accent often used for?

- Entering public places.
- Relaxing social tension.
- Joining in with other people.

3. According to the *Professor*, what can a change of accent also be used for?

- Hide our intentions.
- Threaten people.
- Mark differences.

4. How does the *Professor* view people with a single style of speech?

- Worse off.
- Reinforcing their social status.
- Highly advantaged.

5. Which style of speech may result in being less demotic on streets?

- A British accent.
- Received pronunciation.
- A foreign pronunciation.

6. What are the effects of 'time depth' according to the *Professor*?

- It has divided English into three main international varieties.
- It has increased variety in the UK more than elsewhere.
- It has reduced the quality of English worldwide.

7. According to the *Professor*, where did 'the great vowel shift' originate?

- In the UK.
- In the USA.
- In Australia.

8. According to the *Professor*, why did people probably choose to change vowel sounds?

- To distinguish social classes.
- To sound friendlier.

Task 2

You will hear an interview with **Kate Hudson**, a Hollywood actor who is starring in a new film called 'Wish I Was Here'.

Instructions

- Listen carefully and complete the statements (9-15) below with **one or two** words, according to what the speaker says.
- The wording of the sentences below **may be** slightly different from what you hear.
- However, the word(s) you write must be exactly the same as what you hear.
- Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 2 (Task 2)**.

From: <http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice/outlook/>

Statements

9. Kate was _____ when she received the film script.
10. Kate and the character were _____ in a similar religious background.
11. Kate thinks Jewish people can _____ clichés portrayed in the film.
12. Kate thinks people might have their _____ about religion as they grow up.
13. Kate believes forgiving makes it possible to _____.
14. Kate couldn't see her own situation _____.
15. Kate states her family provided plenty of _____.

Task 3

You will hear five people talking about a book they have read and its author.

Instructions

- Choose which option (A-F) corresponds to each speaker (16-20).
- The comments have been rephrased and summarized and may not contain the actual wording of the speakers.
- There is one opinion you **do not need to use**.
- Write your answers on **Answer Sheet 2 (Task 3)**.

From: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02vdzjs>

Comments

- A** The book is a collection of short stories that reminds the speaker of his/her past family life.
- B** The speaker loves the book so much that she/he always keeps this book with him/her.
- C** The speaker points out that the author is good at writing about philosophy and maths.
- D** The book is about a newly recruited officer who has a unique gift.
- E** The speaker thought the book presented ideas that she/he had never encountered before.
- F** The main character of the book is a teenager during war time.

	Speakers	Comments
16.	Speaker 1	_____
17.	Speaker 2	_____
18.	Speaker 3	_____
19.	Speaker 4	_____
20.	Speaker 5	_____



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PART 3: WRITING

Time: 70 minutes

Draft

A large rectangular box containing 25 horizontal lines for writing.

Instructions

-This part of the exam consists of **two tasks**.

-Please read the instructions for each task.

-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 and drafts. However, it should be noted that these notes and drafts **will not be assessed under any circumstances**.

-Use **Answer Sheet 3** for your final drafts.

Task 1**Instructions**

- You have been surfing the web for scholarships to study English abroad and this one looks promising. You need to write a letter stating why you are eligible for this particular scholarship.
- Use between **120 and 140 words** following the instructions that are indicated.
- Use **Answer Sheet 3** for your final draft.

Mosaic Scholarships in Vancouver Canada

Vancouver English Centre encourages English language students from all over the world to enjoy a cultural immersion experience in Canada. Although we normally have students from up to 30 different countries, we constantly try to improve the diversity of our student body. Consequently, we frequently offer scholarships to students from specific countries.

Eligibility

A number of criteria are involved in the evaluation of target countries. Primarily, we offer scholarships to students who could not otherwise study in Canada for financial reasons. We also try to attract academic achievers from a number of language backgrounds.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement and do not have to be repaid.

This scholarship includes the Application Fee, Materials Fee, and Tuition (4 weeks). Other services, such as Homestay, Medical Insurance and Airport Reception are not included. All decisions by the VEC Scholarship Selection Committee are final.

www.vec.ca/english/8/mosaic/cfm

Please include the following information:

- make a brief introduction of yourself
- state your financial situation
- discuss your academic achievements
- make a closing statement

Task 2

Instructions

- Read both of the options below.
- You must write a text between **180 and 200 words** following the instructions indicated below.
- Choose **ONE option**.
- Use **Answer Sheet 3** for your final draft. Do not forget to mark your chosen option (A or B) in the space indicated.

Option A

Argumentative essay

You have been asked to write an argumentative essay for the *Eye on Spain* forum www.eyeonspain.com on the following topic:

Due to the brain drain, is working abroad the right choice for Spanish young people?

Please include the following information:

- introduce the topic to capture the readers' attention
- discuss the current situation in Spain
- mention positive and negative aspects
- make a conclusion and state your opinion

Option B

Narrative

You have seen a post for a blog contest and would like to participate. The topic is about **a summer experience**.

Please include:

- begin with: "I will never forget the summer of _____ (e.g. 2009). It all started when..."
- use narrative tenses: past simple, past continuous, past perfect, past perfect continuous
- use appropriate time expressions and vocabulary
- use an informal style

Draft

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PART 4: SPEAKING

INSTRUCTION SET FOR CANDIDATE A

Task 1. Monologue. (3 minutes)**INSTRUCTIONS**

Choose **2** or **3** of the following open-ended questions to create a **3-minute** monologue. One question is recommended to be included. You will have a few minutes to prepare in advance and you will be provided with a blank sheet of paper in which you may write some ideas. However, full sentences or long phrases are not permitted. Please submit your notes to the examiners on completion of the oral exam.

Time management

- How do you organise your time when you are faced with study or work deadlines?
- How do you avoid distractions?
- What do you do to avoid stress while under pressure?
- Discuss a situation in which you didn't have enough time to do an important task.
*(recommended)
- How could you improve your time management skills?
- Do you agree? "Never leave till tomorrow that which you can do today." – Benjamin Franklin

Task 2. Interaction. (5 minutes)

INSTRUCTIONS

- In this section of the exam, you will have **5 minutes** to work together with your partner to discuss the following task using the visual aids provided below.

Using the pictures below, please discuss the advantages and disadvantages that technology has on relationships.



Google images

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PART 4: SPEAKING

INSTRUCTION SET FOR CANDIDATE B

Task 1. Monologue. (3 minutes)**INSTRUCTIONS**

Choose **2** or **3** of the following open-ended questions to create a **3-minute** monologue. One question is recommended to be included. You will have a few minutes to prepare in advance and you will be provided with a blank sheet of paper in which you may write some ideas. However, full sentences or long phrases are not permitted. Please submit your notes to the examiners on completion of the oral exam.

Healthy lifestyle

- In your opinion what stops people from having healthy habits?
- Explain a situation in which you or someone you know tried to change a bad habit.
*(recommended)
- What are some benefits and drawbacks of not following a healthy diet?
- How are lifestyles changing in today's world?
- What role does exercise play in your life?
- Do you agree? "A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor's book".
– Irish Proverb

Task 2. Dialogue. (5 minutes)

INSTRUCTIONS

- In this section of the exam, you will have **5 minutes** to work together with your partner to discuss the following task using the visual aids provided below.

Using the pictures below, please discuss the advantages and disadvantages that technology has on relationships.



Google images