
INGLÉS EXAMEN OFICIAL REALIZADO EN LA COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA, CONVOCATORIA PCE UNEDASISS MAYO 2021

We are living in a golden age of ignorance. Has there been a moment in modern history where so many people in free societies have believed such damaging lies? It's easy to point to the US, where nearly 90 percent of people who voted for Donald Trump believe Joe Biden's election victory was not legitimate. No surprise, then, that there is considerable support for the recent violent attempt to prevent the democratic transfer of power. But it's not just the US. In France, a minority of adults are confident that vaccines are safe, which explains why only 40 percent say they plan to get a Covid-19 shot. Meanwhile, across the world, substantial minorities believe that the Covid-19 fatality rate has been "deliberately and greatly exaggerated". The proportion of Covid-ig deniers is 22 per cent in the UK; in many other countries, it is even higher. How did it come to this? The simplest explanation – to repurpose a phrase from former US Treasury secretary Larry Summers – is: "There are idiots. Look around." But while there is a certain visceral satisfaction in that explanation, there is much more going on. Robert Proctor, a historian, coined the term "agnotology" to describe the academic study of ignorance. He became interested in the phenomenon after studying Big Tobacco's all- too-successful effort to seed doubt about the scientific evidence on the risks of cigarettes. Proctor once told me "we are living in a golden age of ignorance". Three elements of it are worth highlighting – none of them entirely new. First, distraction. It's possible for people to spend hours every day consuming what is described as "news" without ever engaging with anything of substance. Some distractions are obvious: doing the sudoku will not help you understand the implications of the post-Brexit trade deal, and neither will gazing at pictures of celebrities. At least such diversions are marketed thus. Others are more insidious. Second, political tribalism. In a polarised environment, every factual claim becomes a weapon in an argument. When people encounter a claim that challenges their cultural identity, don't be surprised if they disbelieve it. It is obvious that political polarisation might shape our beliefs about questions of politics (do you approve of Boris Johnson's handling of the pandemic?) and government (was the US election fair?) and policy (should we provide a universal basic income?). But it also shapes our beliefs about apparently unrelated scientific questions, such as whether humans are causing dangerous climate change, or whether the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is safe. Logically, the answers to these questions should not skew left or right – but they do. My own advice work has a modest goal. Instead of trying to enlighten someone else, I suggest that each of us starts with our own blind spots. We are all distracted. We all have tribes too; social if not political. We are all vulnerable, then, to believing things that aren't true. And we are equally vulnerable to denying or ignoring important truths. We should all slow down, calm down, ask questions and imagine that we may be wrong. It is simple advice, but much better than nothing. It is also advice that is all too easy to ignore.

Part 1. A) Comprehension question of the text. Read the text and choose the correct answer. **You must choose and answer only 2 out of the 3 question below (0,5 points each)**

1. Why does the author think we are living in the golden age of ignorance?

- a) Because people like being ignorant.
- b) Because political debate has become violent.
- c) Because fake news is gaining ground.

2. Distraction is said to be contributing to the spread of ignorance because...

- a) people now spend less time educating themselves.
- b) watching newscasts on TV makes people ignorant.
- c) doing the sudoku has become people's favourite pastime.

3) What is the author's advice?

- a) Everybody should try to be self-critical.
- b) People have to make sure they advise their ignorant mates.
- c) We should just let things be.

Part 1.B) Use of English. Choose the correct answer. **You must choose and answer only 8 out of the 11 questions below (0,4 points each).**

4. The British Prime Minister resides _____ 10 Downing Street.

- a) in
- b) in the
- c) on

5. Choose the right answer: She said, "I'm sorry I lost the book you gave me."

- a) She apologized for losing the book I was given her.



b) She apologised for lose the book I gave her.

c) She apologised for losing the book I gave her.

6. Choose the right option: They didn't score a goal. I wish _____.

a) they had scored a goal.

b) they scored a goal.

c) they could score a goal.

7) Before he _____ for the US, he _____ all his belongings to a second-hand shop.

a) left/sold

b) leaves/sells

c) had left/sold

8. Which word means the same or nearly the same as overall?

a) fragmentary

b) partially

c) general

9. My grandfather got the flu _____ very quickly because he's such a fit man.

a) of

b) off

c) over

10. Be careful when you walk across that old wooden bridge. It _____ be very safe.

a) might not

b) mustn't

c) shouldn't

11. Choose the right answer: They are going to buy a new TV set next week.

a) A new TV set is going to buy next week.

b) A new TV set will buy next week.

c) A new TV set is going to be bought next week.

12. _____ having muscle problems, the defender was able to play.

a) Even

b) Despite

c) Although

13. My parents used _____ the cinema on Saturday evenings.

a) like going

b) to like go

c) to like going

14. _____ broke into the house and stole some paintings.

a) Thief

b) Thieves

c) Thiefs

Part II Write an essay of 150–180 words on ONE of the following subjects (6 points):

A) Have you ever told a lie? How did you feel? Were there any consequences? Provide as much information as possible.

B) What were some of the happiest, saddest or most exciting experiences you had as a child? Provide as much



information as possible?