

CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN

OPTION A: SPANISH SCIENTISTS TRY TO FIND THE “CURE” FOR OLD AGE KEY

- 1 Fueled by billions of techno-dollars from Silicon Valley, aging is one of the most exciting areas of scientific research today.
2 One of the most distinguished scientists to come out of Spain, Juan Carlos Izpisua, has spent 25 years working at the Salk
3 Institute for Biological Studies in southern California, which has produced more than a dozen Nobel Prize winners. Leading a
4 research team of 25 scientists, he is developing strategies in cell therapies with a view to trying to reverse the aging process. He
5 believes this research will eventually “change humanity’s evolutionary path.”
6 In 1900 life expectancy in Spain was 35, and now it’s over 83. However, more people die than are born. Armed with data,
7 the molecular biologist and Head of the Spanish National Center for Cancer Research María Blasco forecasts “a very different”
8 society for the future. “There will be fewer of us than there are now, but we will live much longer,” says Blasco. Longevity is a
9 mystery. There will be huge gains if we can solve it. However, Luc Ferry, member of France’s Economic, Social and
10 Environmental Council, believes this field of research needs urgent regulation due to the moral and ethical dilemmas it presents.
11 These include, for example, the possibility of experiments falling into the hands of rich and irresponsible people. Genetics could
12 divide the world into superhumans and inferior humans. “If everything’s permitted,” says Ferry, “we’re in danger of creating
13 monsters, hybrid human beings that are half man, half machine, an animal that has nothing to do with humanity, an idea most of
14 us find terrifying.”
15 So could we be contemplating the death of death? Could we live to 140? Is there a limit?

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points)

CHOOSE AND WRITE THE CORRECT OPTION (A, B, C or D). (0.5 points each)

1. **Juan Carlos Izpisua...**
(a) has won a Nobel Prize in Biology. (b) is trying to find the cure for old age.
(c) works with María Blasco. (d) comes from southern California.
2. **Spanish researcher María Blasco predicts a society that...**
(a) will be cancer-free in the near future. (b) will have to face important moral dilemmas.
(c) will be quite similar to the one we have today. (d) will have a much older population.

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS. (0.5 points each)

3. **There is a lot of money nowadays to fund research on the aging process.** *TRUE (Line 1) “Fueled by billions and billions of techno-dollars from Silicon Valley, aging is one of the most exciting areas of scientific research today.”*
4. **There is a balance between the number of births and deaths in Spain.** *FALSE (line 6) “However, more people die than are born.”*
5. **The studies on longevity must follow some rules.** *TRUE (lines 10-11) “... this field of research needs urgent regulation, (due to the moral and ethical dilemmas it presents.)” / (12-13) “If everything’s permitted,’ says Ferry, ‘we’re in danger of creating monsters.’”*
6. **The text states that research ensures limitless human longevity.** *FALSE (line 15) “(So could we be contemplating the death of death?) Could we live to 140? Is there a limit?”*
7. **FIND IN THE TEXT: (0.5 points)**
7.1. ONE SYNONYM FOR “road” (noun). *path (line 5)*
7.2. ONE OPPOSITE FOR “tiny” (adjective). *huge (line 9)*
8. **FIND IN THE TEXT: (0.5 points)**
8.1. ONE WORD MEANING “an official rule or the act of controlling something.” *regulation (line 10)*
8.2. ONE WORD MEANING “a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two different options.” *dilemma(s) (line 10)*

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; 0.5 points each)

9. **FILL IN THE GAPS WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS:**

- 9.1. “Please, don’t forget... (phone) me tomorrow.” *to phone* 9.2. “You needn’t... (wash) your hands after you eat.” *wash*

10. **FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE CORRECT WORD:**

- 10.1. “Mary applied... (preposition) this job last week.” *for* 10.2. “She has been studying English... (preposition) she was ten.” *since*

11. **THERE ARE TWO MISTAKES IN THIS SENTENCE. FIND THE MISTAKES AND REWRITE THE SENTENCE CORRECTLY.** “She told he not to contacting her again.” *She told him not to contact her again.*

12. **COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL SENTENCE:** “If I had known it, ...” *I would / could / ... have + Past Participle*

13. **TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE:** “That proposal has never been rejected by the committee.”
The committee has never rejected that proposal.

14. **GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS:** “Ruth stayed in Rome for weeks.” *(For) How long did Ruth stay in Rome?*

III * WRITING (3 points)

15. **WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:**
Would you like to live for ever? Why?

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OPTION B:

THE PLANT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD **KEY**

- 1 Nutritionally, potatoes are a complete package. They are low in fat and full of complex carbohydrates, vitamins and
2 minerals. Besides, they also contain a surprising amount of protein. Studies have shown that people can live healthily for
3 months on an all-potato diet, although this requires eating as many as 3.5 kilograms of potatoes a day, which would be very
4 monotonous.
- 5 It's often hard to define a plant's origin, and cultivated potatoes are an especially difficult case because they have many
6 wild relatives (at least 169) over a very wide geographic area. The potato appeared in Europe during the 16th century, but the
7 question of who brought it here remains unresolved. Some say it was Sir Francis Drake, some say Sir Walter Raleigh, but
8 some people doubt both versions. Researchers suggest that Spanish conquerors brought potatoes from the Americas as early
9 as 1562. However, they might have kept the discovery of this novel food source secret from their European neighbours for a
10 while.
- 11 Potatoes are more productive than grains. If the head of a plant such as wheat or rice grows too big, the plant will fall over.
12 Potatoes do not have that problem because they grow underground. For example, in 2008 a Lebanese farmer dug up a potato
13 that weighed nearly 13 kilograms. It was bigger than his head.
- 14 Today the potato is the fifth most important crop worldwide after wheat, corn, rice and sugar cane. But in the 17th century
15 it was a surprising novelty —part of a global ecological revolution that gave rise to modern industrial agriculture.

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points)

CHOOSE AND WRITE THE CORRECT OPTION (A, B, C or D). (0.5 points each)

1. The plant that changed the world...

- (a) is a surprising protein. (b) originated in Europe.
(c) is a good nutritional combination. (d) was first grown by Sir Francis Drake.

2. According to the text, people who eat only potatoes...

- (a) take fewer complex carbohydrates. (b) can stay in good condition for weeks and weeks.
(c) eat more fat per day than other people. (d) should eat other vegetables.

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS. (0.5 points each)

3. Potatoes belong to a well-spread family. **TRUE** (lines 5-6) "... because they have so many wild relatives (at least 169) over a very wide geographic area."
4. As soon as Spaniards brought potatoes from America, they shared their discovery. **FALSE** (lines 9-10) "(However,) they might have kept the discovery of this novel food source secret from their European neighbours for a while."
5. Large size can influence the growth of wheat negatively. **TRUE** (lines 11-12) "If the head of a plant such as wheat or rice grows too big, the plant will fall over."
6. Potatoes brought a change in farming. **TRUE** (lines 14-15) "(But in the 17th century it was a surprising novelty) —part of a global ecological revolution that gave rise to modern industrial agriculture."
7. FIND IN THE TEXT: (0.5 points)
7.1. ONE SYNONYM FOR "need" (verb). require(s) (line 3)
7.2. ONE SYNONYM FOR "source" (noun). origin (line 5)
8. FIND IN THE TEXT: (0.5 points)
8.1. ONE WORD MEANING "feel uncertain about." doubt (line 8)
8.2. ONE WORD MEANING "plants grown for food usually in a farm." crop (line 14)

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; 0.5 points each)

9. FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE CORRECT WORD:

- 9.1. "He's not very good... (preposition) gardening." at 9.2. "I don't get... (preposition) well with her." on

10. FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE CORRECT OPTION:

- 10.1. "Some people believe... ghosts." on / about / at / in in
10.2. "Not... students knew the answer." each / all / any / every all

11. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY. "The jewellery has been stolen recently. It belongs to Queen Mary." The jewellery which / that belongs to Queen Mary has been stolen recently. // The jewellery which / that has been stolen recently belongs to Queen Mary.

12. USE THE WORDS IN THE BOXES TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL SENTENCE. USE ALL AND ONLY THE WORDS IN THE BOXES WITHOUT CHANGING THEIR FORM. She was carrying a pile of textbooks.

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13. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: "I lost all my money by buying bitcoins," he said.

He said (that) he had lost all his money by buying bitcoins.

14. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: "Tom's father injured his hand when doing the washing-up." Who injured his hand when doing the washing-up?

III * WRITING (3 points)

15. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Which are your favourite inventions / discoveries in history? Explain.