



GOBIERNO DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN, CULTURA Y DEPORTE

ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS DEL PRINCIPADO DE ASTURIAS

**PRUEBA ESPECÍFICA DE CERTIFICACIÓN DE
NIVEL C1
DE INGLÉS
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**COMPRENSIÓN DE
LECTURA**

**MODELO DE
CORRECCIÓN**

HOJA DE RESPUESTAS

EJERCICIO 1: LATEST BOOK REVIEWS

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| 1. | A | B | C | D | <input checked="" type="radio"/> E |
| 2. | A | B | C | <input checked="" type="radio"/> D | E |
| 3. | A | B | <input checked="" type="radio"/> C | D | E |
| 4. | A | <input checked="" type="radio"/> B | C | D | E |
| 5. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> A | B | C | D | E |
| 6. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> A | B | C | D | E |
| 7. | A | B | <input checked="" type="radio"/> C | D | E |
| 8. | A | B | C | <input checked="" type="radio"/> D | E |
| 9. | A | <input checked="" type="radio"/> B | C | D | E |
| 10. | A | B | C | D | <input checked="" type="radio"/> E |

EJERCICIO 2: THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT

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| 1. | A | B | C | <input checked="" type="radio"/> D |
| 2. | A | B | C | <input checked="" type="radio"/> D |
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| 4. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> A | B | C | D |
| 5. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> A | B | C | D |

EJERCICIO 3: THE LEGEND OF THE BATTLE OF MONS

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| 1. | A | B | C | <input checked="" type="radio"/> D | E | F | G |
| 2. | A | B | C | D | E | <input checked="" type="radio"/> F | G |
| 3. | A | B | C | D | <input checked="" type="radio"/> E | F | G |
| 4. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
| 5. | A | B | C | D | E | F | <input checked="" type="radio"/> G |

EJERCICIO 1**LATEST BOOK REVIEWS***Adapted from The Guardian "Latest book reviews"*

You are going to read some book reviews. Match sentences 1-10, to their corresponding review (A-E). DON'T FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

A. THE HUSBAND'S SECRET by Liane Moriarty

Cecilia is leading the perfect suburban life but everything falls apart when, while her husband is away on a business trip, Cecilia accidentally finds a note on which her husband has written "Only open this if I am dead". His alarmed reaction to her discovery and immediate early return from his trip pique Cecilia's curiosity, especially when she asks him about it and he rather shiftily says: "Oh, err, it's nothing – don't open it." Of course, she opens it. That is the initial hook, and it's a powerful one.

The unsettling words that she read forever changed the life of this once contented wife and mother; yet this well-intended posthumous missive also becomes the spur that enables Cecilia to connect with two other women recently pushed towards crossroads.

What's great about this novel is that it makes you care absolutely equally about the plot and the characters. It's a moving story about relationships, redemption, guilt, love and just about every other important thing but Moriarty also questions more mundane ideas. Simultaneously a page-turner and a book one has to put down occasionally to think about and absorb.

B. HOUSE OF FUN by Simon Hoggart

Simon Hoggart's work is a collection of his finest political sketches, taken from the past 21 years. He was more than just witty; he was wise. His sketches provided a kind of translation service, converting politicians' jargon into intelligible English - invariably to the politicians' disadvantage -.

Although knowledgeable about politics, he never made you feel like an ignorant outsider; you always felt that in Simon you'd found a kindred spirit, albeit one far hilarious and sharper than you could ever be.

This book will have you chuckling, giggling, sniggering, and sometimes despairing. It is instant history with added cracks.

Taken as a whole, *House of Fun* amounts to a sort of light-hearted alternative political history of the past two decades. The book is divided into eras rather than chapters, each named after the reigning prime minister: John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron.

C. I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER by Sophie Kinsella

This novel is totally irresistible: tightly and boldly plotted, hilarious, romantic, witty and clever. It is so well-written that you fall in love with the hero as if he were a real person, and root for the heroine as if she were your dearest friend.

Everything starts when Poppy Wyatt loses her priceless antique engagement ring - which has been in her fiancé's family for three generations - during a pre-wedding brunch at a fancy hotel and a few minutes later, her phone is nicked by a mugger. However, in a hard-to-believe twist of fate, she ends up finding a perfectly good phone in the garbage bin in the hotel lobby. Anxious to get the ring back, she takes the phone and gives out the new number to the concierge and all her friends. But the phone has an owner and, understandably, he wants it back.

Kinsella's latest should be exactly what her fans are hankering for. And physical therapist Poppy is easily as charming and daffy as her previous loved character, shopaholic Rebecca Bloomwood.

D. FARTHING by Joe Walton

Farthing begins like an English country-house murder mystery. The story opens in 1949 when Lucy, the sole surviving child of the family that owns Farthing estate, comes back to her girlhood home with her husband, David, a Jewish who escaped Hitler's France. David is cordially loathed by all present - the Farthing set - who tolerate him with hypocritical good cheer but, when a member of the family is found murdered, all suspicion turns to David.

Walton paints the scene evoking the period when country-house mysteries were at their height, and raises the expectations of a typical mystery among the social elite. Gradually the reader comes to discover that this is not in fact our universe; in this one, England's portion of WW II never really happened, because in 1941 the government, currently led by political conservatives nicknamed the Farthing Set, made peace with Hitler.

What distinguishes Walton's *Farthing* is her gift for taking a familiar storyline and crossing it with an unexpected twist to present something new. Few books have moved me as much as *Farthing*; it's one of those novels I'll be returning to many, many times.

E. THE WOMAN UPSTAIRS by Claire Messud

"How angry am I?" asks the narrator at the beginning of this novel. "You don't want to know. Nobody wants to know about that." It's a bravura opening that dares the reader to say: "Fine, then," and put the book to one side; Actually, I was a little put off by this opening, on the old-fashioned grounds that I would prefer to be shown, rather than told of, this woman's anger.

But after the explosive opening the book settles down, and we learn that our narrator is called Nora Marie Eldridge, that she is 42 and that until recently she taught third-grade children at a school in Massachusetts.

Into her life, five years before that angry opening, had come a family: Reza Shahid, a beautiful young boy of exotic background and faulty English, joins her class and Nora gets to know his family.

This is not, you intuit fairly quickly, a novel rich in incident. I think about four things happen in it, maybe five. When eventually we get to see why Nora was so angry, we discover it's because an extraordinary betrayal that comes out of the blue. So this is, after all, a very grown-up novel, and it doesn't have one of those clichéd covers that are foisted on female authors these days.

About which book are the following statements true?

- 1 An unexpected ending
- 2 It explores an alternative reality
- 3 A character loses a family heirloom
- 4 It does not patronise, quite on the contrary
- 5 Its themes are ordinary nevertheless gripping
- 6 Some characters face a turning point in their lives
- 7 At some point, the plot does not come across as convincing
- 8 It takes a well-known theme and deals with it in a unique way
- 9 The author comes out as an expert with a sharp sense of humour
- 10 The overall quality of the book makes up for a disappointing beginning

EJERCICIO 2**THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT**

Adapted from the short story "The Birthday Present" by Rita Mavis

You are going to read an extract from a short story. For questions 1 to 5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

DON'T FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

"Happy birthday, dear!" Lucy held the small package. She was incredulous, a birthday present! She couldn't remember ever having a present to open. Lucy held the small package in her hand, wondering what a wonderful surprise awaited. She shook it close to her ear, only a soft thud, and turned it over and over. The wrapping paper had the name of the shop. She knew that it was a jeweller's. She loved window shopping at it, dreaming of being a star, wearing precious emerald stones around her neck and silver bangles around her tiny wrists.

Lucy couldn't believe how important she was to have a birthday present bought the best jeweller's in town. She smiled at her stepmother. Lucy had misjudged her; here she was holding a little box, a dream! She felt tears of joy well up in her eyes: why had she held such bitter thoughts towards her stepmother? Lucy's thirteenth birthday was going to be special after all!

Two events were celebrated with a gift, Christmas and her birthday, and she usually received useful presents – either a pair of shoes or a dress –. Had she outgrown her old ones, she might have shoes for Christmas.

She outgrew her clothes long before they were worn out because she only wore her trendy clothes if they went visiting on a Sunday. During the week she made do with clothes and shoes bought at any church jumble sale.

Her stepmother believed in giving Lucy a good housekeeping education. She was strict and expected Lucy to be obedient. She had to be the first one up in the morning to prepare breakfast for the paying guests before setting off for school. Her stepmother believed that those who didn't devote themselves to work were liable to cause trouble.

On Sundays the knock on the wall was sounded at 6.30, reminding Lucy that she had to get up to attend the 7 o'clock Mass. Lucy reluctantly got out of bed, she had to cycle three miles to the Catholic church, and winter time was the worst, the cold frosty mornings biting into her face and hands.

Her stepmother wanted her to be a good obedient Christian, and good Christians always went to early morning Mass. What Lucy said or thought was never taken into account. She was obedient and, being an only child, she had nobody to seek comfort from. Deep down, she despised her stepmother. However, a good Christian should not loathe and Lucy kidded herself thinking that she loved this woman. Today, Lucy's birthday, her stepmother's redemption; she hugged her and whispered, "Thank you, Mum."

1 When Lucy received her birthday present, she ...

- A** opened it hastily
- B** cried her eyes out
- C** was not at all surprised
- D** was on the verge of crying

2 According to the text, Lucy ...

- A loved receiving shoes for Christmas
- B got her everyday clothes from the sales
- C got tired of her clothes before she wore them
- D stopped using her clothes before they fell apart

3 Lucy's stepmother's motto could be ...

- A two hands are better than one
- B the early bird catches the worm
- C the devil finds work for idle hands
- D waste one hour in the morning and you'll look for it all day

4 Lucy ...

- A had no say
- B was an outspoken girl
- C worked at a guesthouse
- D felt real affection towards her stepmother

5 Throughout the text, we can find hints of ...

- A Lucy's desire to be loved
- B Lucy's stepmother's warmth
- C Lucy's stepmother's goodwill
- D the visible animosity between Lucy and her stepmother

EXERCISE 3**THE LEGEND OF THE BATTLE OF MONS**

Adapted from "Tales of Mystery and the supernatural"

You are going to read an article about a legend. Five paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A-H the one which fits each gap (1-5). There are TWO extra paragraphs you do not need to use.

DON'T FORGET TO TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ANSWER SHEET.

The Angel of Mons – a popular story about a group of angels who supposedly protected members of the British army in the Battle of Mons - is perhaps the most enduring supernatural legend of the First World War.

The battle of Mons took place on 23 August 1914 and within weeks, tales of the 'Angel of Mons' had entered the realms of legend. It arose from a belief that a miracle had happened during the British Army's first desperate clash with the advancing Germans at Mons, in Belgium. 1.

By the end of the war it became unpatriotic, even treasonable, to doubt these claims were based on fact. The spread of the legend was aided by the publication of Arthur Machen's short story *The Bowmen*, which was inspired by accounts he had read of the fighting and an idea he had

had soon after the battle. Machen's story was written from a first-hand perspective and was a kind of false document, a technique he knew well. 2 . He responded that it was completely imaginary; he had no desire to create a hoax.

First let us look at the Machen short story. Arthur Machen was a journalist and a fiction writer. For years he lived in a shabby rented room, writing articles and short stories until he accidentally found fame with his story about cut-off British troops being rescued from the Germans by a ghostly presence. The story was published in *The London Evening News* and, despite Machen's insistence that it was purely imaginary, rapidly became regarded as true. 3 . Most bizarrely, veterans of the battle granted support to the story, ensuring that the apparent visions acquired a legendary quality both during and after the war. Many people in Britain gave Machen's story some credence, somewhat to the embarrassment of the latter, who continued to deny any element of fact in his story.

Now let's look at the facts. On August 22-23, 1914, the first major engagement of the British Expeditionary Force in the First World War took place. 4 . This was rapidly perceived by the British public as a key moment in the war. Despite the censorship going on in Britain at the time, it was the first indication the public had that defeating Germany would not be as easy as some had thought. Considering the numbers of German troops involved, the British ability to hold them off for as long as they did seemed remarkable, and army recruitment shot up in the weeks that followed. If nothing else the Battle of Mons (and the fantasy that it inspired) proved a remarkable morale booster in Britain at a time when military success on the battlefield was proving elusive. The sudden spread of rumours of further battlefield visions in the spring of 1915, six months after the events and Machen's story was published, is also of note. The stories published then often attributed their sources to anonymous British officers. It is speculated that these men may have been part of a covert attempt by military intelligence to spread morale-boosting propaganda and disinformation. 5 .

Nevertheless, the Angel of Mons remains one of the most famous 'accidental hoaxes' in history.

- A** Advancing German forces were thrown back by heavily outnumbered British troops, who suffered heavy casualties and, being outflanked, were forced into rapid retreat the next day.
- B** A full-blown controversy was erupting with angels being used as proof of the action of divine providence on the side of the Allies in sermons across Britain.
- C** Machen was associated with the story for the rest of his life and grew sick of the connection, since he regarded *The Bowmen* as a poor piece of work. His bitterness is perhaps understandable – he made little money from the story, either at the time or later.
- D** In some versions a vision of St George, with the help of some ghosts, stopped the German troops, while other versions claimed angels had thrown a protective curtain around the British, saving them from disaster.
- E** So strong did belief in the account become, that claims were even made that the corpses of dead German soldiers, with their bodies pierced by arrow wounds, had actually been found at Mons.
- F** The unintended result, however, was that he had a number of emotional appeals to provide evidence for his sources from those who thought it was a real and exactly account of what had happened.
- G** Since it was a time of allied problems, the timing would make military sense (also, some of the stories conveniently claimed that sources could not be revealed for security reasons).