

INSTRUCCIONES GENERALES Y VALORACIÓN

INSTRUCCIONES: Lea el texto cuidadosamente, así como las preguntas. Conteste a las preguntas en lengua inglesa.

DURACIÓN: 60 minutos

CALIFICACIÓN: La valoración máxima de cada pregunta se indica en cada parte del ejercicio.

Taking a gap year

Many school-leavers have the choice of going to university in the autumn after they have passed their exams or taking a year to see the world before starting their degrees. This is called a 'gap year', a period of time between high school and college when students take a break from their studies to pursue other activities, which could include travel, work or volunteering. Taking a gap year is interesting, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made it a complicated decision.

Some young people are keen to complete their university studies as quickly as possible, so that they can start earning a living; taking a gap year not only means they start college a year late, but also that they finish college a year late. For this reason, they often decide to go straight to university after leaving school. Besides, there is another advantage to continuing academic life: after high school, they are accustomed to going to class, studying, taking tests and writing papers. These study skills could suffer if they are not used for a year.

Although this seems a sensible decision, it may be better for them to take a year off before starting their studies. This is due to the fact that many school-leavers may have limited life experiences. For example, they have probably always lived at home. A year traveling will help them mature, become better students - and have more of the skills that employers want. A gap year teaches young people to be more independent and it can provide them with the necessary abilities to cope with their university life.

In short, school-leavers should consider taking a gap year. It is often said that travel broadens the mind. Well, if you make the most of it, a gap year can be a life-changing experience.

(adapted from: <https://www.esleschool.com/taking-a-gap-year>)

Note: broadens = expands.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following sentences TRUE or FALSE according to the text? Justify your answer copying the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE (puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

- a. A gap year is a period of time for studying.
- b. If you take a gap year you will end your university studies later.
- c. If you take a gap year your study skills could get worse.
- d. A year traveling can have a negative influence on a person's job opportunities.

2. Find a synonym in the text for each one of the following terms and expressions (puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

- Paragraph 1: academic courses at university.
- Paragraph 2: benefit.
- Paragraph 3: even though.
- Paragraph 4: transformative.

3. Fill in the gaps with the correct option (puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

More and more people are (1. recognizing / rewarding / recommending / reviewing) _____ the advantages of living abroad for a period of time. For example, young people often take international jobs to broaden their horizons and improve their curriculums. Also, many university students go on Erasmus to study in another European country. They realize it's the best way to improve linguistic skills and learn (2. for / about / of / by) _____ the customs and way of life of other people.

Another example is student exchanges in secondary education. These exchanges give teenagers the (3. opportunity / occasion / reason / cause) _____ to live somewhere else during the school year. (4. Whether / Although / However / While) _____ they are living abroad, they will eat new food, have new experiences and see how people their own age live from day to day. Students normally stay with carefully chosen host families and attend a (5. home / local / near / close) _____ school. They also go sightseeing; that is, they visit famous monuments and museums.

International Exchanges Inc. is a student exchange organization since 1980. They have more than 40 years of experience in organizing student exchange programs all over the world. (6. Many / Every / All / Both) _____ student on this exchange program has (7. anybody / everyone / anyone / somebody) _____ who directly supports them the whole time they are abroad. To qualify as an exchange student for this program, you (8. must / ought / have / need) _____ be between 15 and 18 years old and be good at a foreign language.

4. What did you do when you finished school? Please describe your experience in a maximum of 100 words. Be careful with the grammar! (Puntuación máxima: 4 puntos)

CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN

Pregunta 1: hasta 2 puntos. Se trata de medir exclusivamente la comprensión lectora. Se debe decidir si cada una de las cuatro frases que se presentan es verdadera o falsa, copiando a continuación el fragmento del texto relevante que justifique su elección. Dar sólo el número de línea/s en el que se encuentra la evidencia del texto no será una respuesta válida. Se otorgará 0,5 puntos por cada frase correcta. Se calificará con 0 puntos la opción elegida que no vaya justificada con la evidencia relevante del texto o cuando exista una contradicción entre la cita elegida y la veracidad o falsedad de la enunciación.

Pregunta 2: hasta 2 puntos. Esta pregunta trata de medir la comprensión del vocabulario del texto. Para ello se pide al alumno que localice cuatro sinónimos en el texto y los copie al lado de sus equivalentes léxicos. Cada uno de ellos se evaluará con un máximo de 0,5 puntos.

Pregunta 3: hasta 2 puntos. Con esta pregunta se quiere comprobar los conocimientos generales de gramática y vocabulario del alumno (*use of English*). Al tratarse de ocho espacios, se dividirá la puntuación dando 0,25 a cada respuesta correcta.

Pregunta 4: hasta 4 puntos. Se trata de una composición de 80 a 100 palabras con el objetivo de medir la capacidad de expresión libre en inglés. Se propone una única opción de respuesta. Se otorgarán un máximo de 2 puntos por el buen dominio de la lengua – léxico, estructura sintáctica, etc. –, 1,5 puntos por la adecuación en la expresión de las ideas – organización, coherencia, *linking words*, etc. – y, finalmente, 0,5 puntos por la originalidad en la respuesta.

SOLUCIONES

1. Are the following sentences TRUE or FALSE according to the text? Justify your answer copying the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE (puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

- A gap year is a period of time for studying. **FALSE. EVIDENCE:** 'a period of time between high school and college when students take a break from their studies to pursue other activities' (también se puede añadir 'which could include travel, work or volunteering').
- If you take a gap year you will end your university studies later. **TRUE. EVIDENCE:** 'taking a gap year not only means they start college a year late, but also that they finish college a year late.'
- If you take a gap year your study skills could get worse. **TRUE. EVIDENCE:** 'These study skills could suffer if they are not used for a year.'
- A year travelling can have a negative influence on a person's job opportunities. **FALSE. EVIDENCE:** 'A year traveling will help them mature, become better students - and have more of the skills that employers want.'

2. Find a synonym in the text for each one of the following terms and expressions (puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

- Paragraph 1: academic courses at university = **degree**.
- Paragraph 2: benefit = **advantage**.
- Paragraph 3: even though = **although**.
- Paragraph 4: life-changing = **transformative**.

3. Fill in the gaps with the correct option (puntuación máxima: 2 puntos).

More and more people are (1. **recognizing** / rewarding / recommending / reviewing) _____ the advantages of living abroad for a period of time. For example, young people often take international jobs to broaden their horizons and improve their curriculums. Also, many university students go on Erasmus to study in another European country. They realize it's the best way to improve linguistic skills and learn (2. for / **about** / of / by) _____ the customs and way of life of other people.

Another example is student exchanges in secondary education. These exchanges give teenagers the (3. **opportunity** / occasion / reason / cause) _____ to live somewhere else during the school year. (4. Whether / Although / However / **While**) _____ they are living abroad, they will eat new food, have new experiences and see how people their own age live from day to day. Students normally stay with carefully chosen host families and attend a (5. home / **local** / near / close) _____ school. They also go sightseeing; that is, they visit famous monuments and museums.

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4. Respuesta libre (puntuación máxima 4 puntos).