

SPANISH
Unit 6 Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

SP6T/SP6V

Examiner's Material

To be conducted by the teacher examiner between 16 April and 8 June 2007 (SP6T)
To be conducted by the visiting examiner between 16 April and 8 June 2007 (SP6V)

Time allowed: 35 minutes (including 20 minutes preparation time)

Instructions

- During the 20 minutes preparation time candidates are required to prepare **one** of the two reporting and discussion cards given to them.
- Candidates may make notes during the preparation time only on the Additional Answer Sheet provided. **They must not write on the card.**
- Candidates should take the reporting and discussion card with them into the examination room. They may refer to the card and any notes they have made at any time during the reporting and discussion section of the test.
- Candidates should hand the reporting and discussion card and the Additional Answer Sheet to you before the start of the conversation section of the test.

Information

- The test will last approximately 15 minutes and will consist of a reporting and discussion card (5 minutes) and a conversation based on topics studied during the A2 course (10 minutes).
- There are questions on each of the cards to provide guidance on the type of question you will ask.
- Candidates will be expected to respond to questions and discuss in **Spanish** issues arising from the chosen card.
- Candidates must **not** use a dictionary at any time during this examination.

Text A

Crime and Punishment

Arson conspiracy behind Spain fires

Giles Tremlett in Madrid

The vast majority of the 19,000 wildfires that have raged across Spain this summer have been started by arsonists or are the result of human carelessness, according to the country's environment minister.

Cristina Narbona provoked controversy yesterday by saying that fewer than one in 20 of this summer's blazes, which have killed more than a dozen fire fighters, could be attributed to "natural causes". The rest, about 18,000, had been started by people – including arsonists hoping to gain financially – who were later protected by a conspiracy of silence among their families, friends and neighbours.

"It is clear that there is tolerance and complicity," Ms Narbona said. "There are people who start the fires and others who tolerate them."

With only 277 suspected arsonists and people who set fires by accident so far arrested, Ms Narbona said it was obvious the perpetrators were being hidden. This was especially so in small, tight-knit villages in

Galicia, the north-western region which has accounted for 40% of the fires. "It is naive to think that people act on their own," she said.

Newspaper reports have suggested that those who benefit economically from fires include some forestry companies, developers wanting to build on green land, drugs smugglers trying to divert the attention of police, and people seeking insurance money. Among the suspected arsonists arrested so far, at least one belongs to the groups of rural fire fighters that are employed on a day rate to put out wildfires.

Pablo Salazar, a columnist on the Las Provincias newspaper, said: "Everybody knows there are hidden motives behind the fire-setting, that the pyromaniacs are not madmen who operate on their own, and that there are businesses who are glad to see the countryside burn and mayors who dream of putting up rows of houses where there were once pine trees."

Spain has recently passed a law preventing town halls handing out licences for building on burnt land.

Source: Copyright Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

Preguntas

- ¿De qué trata este artículo?
- ¿Por qué ha sido difícil detener a los pirómanos?
- ¿Cuáles pueden ser los motivos de los responsables de incendios premeditados?
- ¿Cómo explica Pablo Salazar el problema?
- En tu opinión, ¿los ciudadanos siempre deben denunciar a los delincuentes?

Notes

Turn over ►

Text B

Health Issues

Food poisoning in Britain linked to Spanish salad

Giles Tremlett in Madrid

Spanish vegetables, many of which end up on British dinner plates, are being watered with untreated sewage* in parts of Spain as farmers battle to raise crops in a severe drought. The environment minister, Cristina Narbona, raised the alarm after outbreaks of food poisoning in Britain were linked to imported Spanish lettuce.

Ms Narbona warned cabinet ministers that more farmers in the vegetable-growing region of Murcia would use untreated sewage if clean irrigation water were not made available. "It is a real problem," she told the SER radio station. "There have already been complaints about products from Murcia that have generated health problems abroad."

Farmers from Beniel, south-east Spain, yesterday told El País newspaper they were using untreated sewage. "The water we receive is not enough, so we are forced to mix it with the sewage from our own homes," a farmer said.

Britain's Food Standards Agency confirmed yesterday that an outbreak of food poisoning in January had been linked to imported Spanish vegetables. The 96

reported cases were more than three times the average. Eleven people needed hospital treatment. "The source seemed to be lettuce from the Murcia region," a spokesman said.

Francisco Gil, who is head of the local farmers' union and grows peppers on his farm in Murcia, said yesterday that "one or two" isolated cases of using untreated sewage did not mean that all vegetables from the region were unsafe. "That is like calling all Englishmen drunks just because one or two of them can't hold their drink," he said.

According to Mr. Gil, Spanish farmers were facing a disastrous year as the drought threatened to dry up local reservoirs. The government pumped less water to the region from rivers elsewhere in Spain than the farmers needed. He complained that Murcia's growing population, including many foreign tourists, was taking water away from farmers in a region that is known as "Europe's market garden".

"There has been an increase in the number of inhabitants, including many people from Britain, and they all need water. Obviously, people get preference over farms."

Source: Copyright Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

* *untreated sewage = aguas residuales sin depurar*

Preguntas

- ¿De qué trata este artículo?
- ¿Por qué utilizan los agricultores españoles aguas residuales para regar sus lechugas?
- ¿Cómo responde Francisco Gil a las críticas hechas a las verduras españolas?
- Según el señor Gil, ¿por qué les falta agua a los agricultores de Murcia?
- En tu opinión, ¿es la calidad de nuestra comida hoy en día peor que en el pasado?

Notes

Turn over ►

Text C

Future of Europe

Limit smokers buying cigarettes abroad, says chief medical officer

James Meikle

Anti-smoking campaigns are being undermined by “ridiculous” European Union rules allowing British travellers to bring back 3,200 cheap cigarettes from member states, the chief medical officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, said yesterday.

Sir Liam, bemoaning the fact that 106,000 Britons still die each year from smoking-related causes, said: “Tobacco is a lethal product. It kills more people than anything else, yet by the pattern of price and regulation that is in place, death is made cheaper. For example, a holiday-maker going to Spain can quite legally bring back into this country 160 packs of 20 cigarettes.

If he is a smoker that is enough to keep him going for six months and, given cheap flights and the opportunity to have a holiday along the way, it also gives quite a cost saving. The price of a pack of cigarettes in Spain is £1.36; the equivalent in Britain is £4.89. Just two trips a year would save a smoker more than £1,000 in tax and duty. As well as a ready source for personal consumption, the temptation to sell on large amounts can prove hard to resist,” he said.

The illicit street price for cigarettes in Britain is £2.50, and about a quarter of all cigarettes smoked here, and three-quarters of roll-ups, avoid UK tax and duties – either legally or illegally. This means that government policies of raising prices – a 10% increase traditionally brings a 4% cut in consumption – are being eroded.

Sir Liam, presenting his annual report on the state of public health, said the EU should insist on higher minimum prices for tobacco by fixing levels of duty and questioning “the illogical and health-damaging shopping allowance for tobacco”.

Rodrigo Córdoba, President of the Spanish National Committee for the Prevention of Tobacco Addiction (CNPT), believes that the price of cigarettes determines the level of consumption. He is calling on the Spanish government to increase taxes on tobacco products in line with the European average, so that a packet of cigarettes in Spain would cost a minimum of €3.

Source: Copyright Guardian Newspapers Limited 2005

Preguntas

- ¿De qué trata este artículo?
- Para un fumador británico, ¿cuáles son las ventajas de comprar tabaco en España?
- ¿Qué dice el artículo sobre la venta ilícita de tabaco en las calles británicas?
- ¿Cuál es la actitud de Rodrigo Córdoba hacia el precio de los cigarrillos en España?
- En tu opinión, ¿el ciudadano europeo debe tener el derecho de comprar productos más baratos en otro país de la UE?

Notes

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Text D**Racism****Guatemala politicians were racist**

FIVE Guatemalan politicians have been found guilty of racial discrimination against Rigoberta Menchú, Nobel Prize winner and campaigner for Indian rights. Footage of the accused shouting abuse at Ms Menchú was shown in what was the country's first racism trial.

About 60% of Guatemala's population is descended from the Maya Indians – most living in poverty.

The racist chants were made at a court hearing in October 2003 to decide whether former ruler General José Efraín Ríos Montt could stand for president. Ms Menchú opposed the candidacy of the General, who ruled the country during the bloodiest period of Guatemala's 36-year-long civil war when a total of 200,000 native Maya Indians were killed or disappeared.

General Ríos Montt's supporters taunted her with comments such as "Go and sell tomatoes at the market, Indian," after the court ruled in their favour. Among the five was Juan Carlo Ríos, the grandson of the former military ruler.

At the end of the month-long trial, the judges sentenced each of them to three years and two months in prison for discrimination and disturbing the peace. They were also ordered to pay \$400 in fines each but can avoid jail by paying \$10 for each day of their sentence.

Ms Menchú won the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize for her campaign for Indian rights. She said: "Today we have a great experience that we can communicate to our children, that nobody should discriminate against anybody else, that nobody should offend the dignity of anybody else just because they speak another language or come from another part of the country."

Source: from BBC News at bbcnews.com

Preguntas

- ¿De qué trata este artículo?
- ¿Por qué se opuso Rigoberta Menchú a la candidatura del General Ríos Montt?
- Explica el significado de los comentarios racistas dirigidos a Rigoberta Menchú.
- Según Rigoberta Menchú, ¿cuál es la importancia del juicio?
- En tu opinión, ¿es la ley la mejor manera de combatir el racismo?

Notes

Turn over ►

Text E

Science and Technology

Washing machine fingers lazy male

By Virginia Phillips BBC radio science unit

A Spanish designer has created the perfect solution for the woman who resents doing all the household chores. It is a washing machine called “*Tu Turno*”, which will not let the same person use it twice in a row. It uses fingerprint recognition technology to ensure the job is shared.

Pep Torres was asked by a Spanish manufacturer to come up with an original Father’s Day gift. “I thought it would be good to finish with the macho man who doesn’t do anything around the house except drink beer,” said Torres, from *DeBuenaTinta* in Barcelona. “Spain is changing a lot, and I wanted to invent something to enable men to do more around the home.”

Some men may consider it not such a good present for Father’s Day but more of a gift for the lady of the house. “It was a tongue-in-cheek idea which seemed to catch the imagination,” said Torres. “It’s an invention that has a philosophy behind it and I hope both women and men will think it’s time for the men to do more around the house.”

“*Tu Turno*” requires both partners to register their fingerprints* on the sensor while it is connected to their home computer. When the sensor is plugged into the washing machine, the software will only allow the wash programme to start if a different finger is placed on it each time.

So what about the cheats – how can you get round it? Torres has an unusual solution: “I suggest the man can leave his finger at home... we have 10 fingers, so he won’t miss one – well, you don’t use the little finger a lot. Seriously though, the only way to override the system is to re-programme it – not that easy.”

“*Tu Turno*” is also childproof. Young fingers will not be able to operate the washing machine as it is only their parents’ fingerprints that can start it. But there is one problem. The same person can still load the washing time after time. The finger print sensor only controls who starts the programme. The one thing it will not do is something that most men are not good at – separating the whites from the coloureds.

Source: from BBC News at bbcnews.com

* *fingerprints: huellas dactilares*

Preguntas

- ¿De qué trata este artículo?
- ¿Por qué diseñó Pep Torres esta nueva lavadora?
- Según Pep Torres, ¿cómo puede el hombre evitar poner la lavadora?
- ¿Cuál es el problema que no solucionará este invento?
- En tu opinión, ¿se usa siempre la tecnología de forma útil hoy en día?

Notes

Turn over ►

Text F**The State and the Individual****Housework looms for Spanish men**

By Katya Adler, Madrid

MPs in Spain have drawn up a marriage contract for use in civil ceremonies which obliges men to share household chores and the care of children and elderly family members. The new law promises a revolution in a country where nearly half of all men admit to doing no housework at all.

So can this “housework law” really change Spanish cultural traditions? Statistics show that Spanish women spend up to five times longer on housework than their husbands. If they have a full-time job, they still do three times more housework.

Margarita Uría, the MP who introduced the new law, says: “It’s all a question of education. This law is a start, but we should also teach children in schools. Men have to learn to take more responsibility in the home and women have to help them do it.”

At a nearby Madrid bar though, the view shared over a few beers was that there was little chance of change, law or no law.

“Older generations will never change. Old Spanish machos are set in their ways,” says María, a shopkeeper. “The younger generations probably will change eventually but because society is evolving, not because of this law.”

“My husband wouldn’t iron a shirt to save his life,” says Berta, who described herself as an exasperated housewife. “It’s not that he can’t. He just won’t. He’ll never change.”

Eduardo, a waiter at the bar, thinks the law is ridiculous. “It’s up to couples to work out the balance of relationships for themselves,” he says. “This law gives the impression that all Spanish men are machos, which we’re not.”

A number of women’s rights groups in Spain say they oppose the housework law because it trivialises the issue of sexual equality. Almudena Rodríguez del Llano, a spokeswoman for the group Women for Democracy says: “This law is ridiculous and impossible to enforce. What is a woman going to do if her husband doesn’t help her at home? March to the local police station and report him? You can just imagine the expression on the faces of the officers on duty, can’t you?”

Source: from BBC News at bbcnews.com**Preguntas**

- ¿De qué trata este artículo?
- ¿Qué opina Margarita Uría de la situación?
- Los clientes del bar madrileño, ¿toman en serio la nueva ley?
- ¿Por qué se oponen algunos grupos feministas a la legislación?
- En tu opinión, ¿cuándo debe el Estado intervenir en la vida privada de las parejas?

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