

PUNTUACIÓN QUE SE OTORGARÁ A ESTE EJERCICIO: (véanse las distintas partes del examen)

This exam consists of 6 exercises. They must be answered in English. You must do all the exercises. The marks assigned to each exercise are given between brackets at the beginning of the exercise.

Exercises 1, 2, and 3 are based on the text given below. The text you have to produce for exercise 6 can be drafted on the last sheet of the exam answer sheets, but please remember to give a clean version of it on another sheet (but first cross the draft out and insert the word "DRAFT" immediately before the draft).

TEXT

THE "LUNGS OF THE EARTH" AND OTHER UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS

Did you know that some metaphors are very powerful because they can create a vivid image in your mind? Perhaps you have heard someone say that the Amazon is the "lungs of the Earth". Why is this metaphor used? In the first place, the Amazon is one of the most biodiverse places on Earth, hosting a vast array of plant and animal species. Protecting it helps preserve this biodiversity and ensures the survival of numerous unique and often endangered species.

More importantly, the Amazon plays a vital role in regulating the global climate. The forest acts as a carbon sink, absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide, whereas deforestation and degradation of the Amazon contribute to increased greenhouse gas emissions, exacerbating climate change. Consequently, the Amazon is often referred to as the "lungs of the Earth" because its trees release oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. The forest's oxygen production is so high that it has a significant impact on the composition of the Earth's atmosphere and the air we breathe.

The Amazon also influences the water cycle on a regional and global scale. The trees in the rainforest release water vapour through a process known as transpiration, contributing to the formation of clouds and precipitation. This helps maintain rainfall patterns and supports agriculture in surrounding regions. Nevertheless, the Amazon rainforest is not only scientifically and ecologically significant, but also holds intrinsic value for its beauty and unique ecosystems.

Another place in America with a unique ecosystem is the high-altitude lakes of the Andes mountains. Sitting over 6,000 meters above sea level, they are among the highest bodies of water on Earth. These lakes exist in harsh conditions, with low oxygen levels, high ultraviolet radiation due to the thin atmosphere, and temperatures that often fall below freezing. Despite these conditions, life persists in these lakes. Various algae and invertebrates live successfully in the water. These organisms have adapted to survive the extreme environment, providing an example of life's remarkable resilience.

By studying these unusual ecosystems, scientists can learn more about the limits of life on Earth and possibly beyond. Our planet's capacity to contain life in all its diverse forms, under such a wide range of conditions, is a testament to the remarkable adaptability of life. It underscores the importance of preserving our planet's biodiversity, as these unusual ecosystems may hold the key to understanding some of life's most profound mysteries.

1. (1.5 points). Add True or False, quoting the relevant information from the text to justify your answer.

Only "T" or "F" or the full words "True" or "False" will be accepted as valid answers. Their translation into Spanish or another language will never be accepted, but if the justification is correct, 0.25 points will be awarded for each sentence. No points will be given for answers without their corresponding justification or if the justification is incorrect. Likewise, answers in which the justification is not a direct quote from the text or only consist of line numbers will not be scored. The use of quotation marks in the justification is not obligatory. Ellipses in parentheses, (...), may be used to indicate that parts of the original text have been omitted in the justification, but make sure those parts do not contain essential information for the justification.

- 1.1. The Amazon rainforest only has scientific and ecological importance.
- 1.2. Numerous species in danger of extinction can be helped to survive if the Amazon is protected.
- 1.3. The lakes of the Andes mountains sitting over 6,000 meters above sea level have high oxygen levels.

2. (2.4 points). Choose THREE of the following questions and answer them according to the information given in the text. Use your own words.

Each answer will be awarded 0.8 points. Provide only the number of answers requested; if you don't, only the first three answers you give will be corrected. The aim of this exercise is to evaluate both comprehension (up to 0.5 points) and linguistic accuracy (up to 0.3 points); in other words, the ability to communicate information inferred from the reading. Therefore, the literal reproduction of expressions from the text should be avoided. If the answer is incomplete or includes information that does not appear in the text, an appropriate amount of points will be deducted.

- 2.1. What do people normally mean when they claim that the Amazon is the "lungs" of the planet?
- 2.2. How can future generations benefit from the protection of the Amazon?
- 2.3. Why are the conditions on the high-altitude lakes of the Andes mountains not ideal for life?
- 2.4. What can be learnt from the scientific study of unusual ecosystems?

3. (1 point). Find words or phrases in the text which mean the same as the ones below.

0.25 points will be awarded for each answer, with four answers in total. This exercise aims to assess the comprehension of the text and the semantic value of certain terms that appear in it. Therefore, the answer can never be, for example, a hypernym, or have a different grammatical form.

- 3.1. rain, snow:
- 3.2. aggravating, worsening:
- 3.3. important, vital:
- 3.4. neighbouring, adjacent:

4. (0.5 points). Fill in the gap in TWO of the following sentences using ONE of the four options (a, b, c, d) given in each. 0.25 points will be awarded for each correct answer. Provide only the number of answers requested; if you don't, only the first two sentences you use for answering will be corrected. In the answer sheet you can rewrite the whole sentence with the word or phrase of the option chosen or just give the letter of the option chosen (e.g., 4.x — c).

- 4.1. Bertie _____ like forests, so he missed the opportunity of seeing a sequoia.
a) wouldn't b) didn't c) don't d) may
- 4.2. My grandfather doesn't know where Brazil is. He hasn't ever _____ the Amazon.
a) heard from b) listened of c) know from d) heard of
- 4.3. Toxic textile substances will harm the environment if clothing factories are _____ near the Amazon.
a) builded b) emplaced c) built d) arranged

5. (0.6 points). Rewrite TWO of the following sentences using the word or phrase(s) given after each of them. 0.30 points will be awarded for each correct answer, which must not alter the meaning of the original sentence. Provide only the number of answers requested; if you don't, only the first two answers you give will be corrected.

- 5.1. The Amazon rainforest stores large amounts of carbon dioxide.
Large amounts of carbon dioxide ...
- 5.2. I regretted not visiting the Amazon when I lived in Brazil.
If only I ...
- 5.3. "I'm not interested in preserving our planet's biodiversity", my mother said a few years ago.
A few years ago my mother said that ...

6. (4 points). Choose ONE of the following tasks and write between 120 and 160 words:

Up to 1 point will be awarded to answers that comply with the genre, topic, and communicative goal requested. Although the structure of the requested genre may typically include a name or signature, you must not sign your answer or include any real or fictional name, as current PAU regulations prohibit the use of personal identifiers. The omission of such structural elements will not be considered a mistake by examiners. Up to 1.5 points will be awarded to aspects of cohesion, coherence, and quality of presentation. The remainder 1.5 points will cover aspects of lexis (form, including orthography, and variety), grammar, syntax included, and, where appropriate, variety in the linguistic repertoire. If the answer does not comply with the genre requested (email, essay, review), the answer will score 0 points.

- 6.1. A negative review of the novel *The everyday life of a young woman that went Green*.
- 6.2. An opinion essay on the following statement: "Wearing second-hand clothes is an amazing way to protect the planet".