

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

This exam consists of 6 exercises divided into 3 parts. All the exercises 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 and 2 (Part 1), and 3 (Part 2), are based on the text given below. The text you have to produce for exercise 6 (Part 3) 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

LEARNING LANGUAGES TWO MINUTES EACH DAY

Duolingo is the most frequently downloaded education app in the world. It was founded by the Guatemalan computer scientist Luis von Ahn, known for creating the test CAPTCHA, designed to tell computers and humans apart. In 2009, shortly after developing the system called reCAPTCHA, von Ahn sold it to Google for a sum that would ensure neither he nor his future children would ever need to work.

Instead of retiring, he set up a new project, Duolingo, whose popularity spiked dramatically in March 2020, when COVID-19 shut hundreds of millions of people in their homes. But attracting people is one thing, and getting them to stay is another—this is Duolingo's core business. When you begin a course on the app, you are greeted by the company's mascot, a green owl named Duo. Then, cartoon characters speak sentences to you and prompt you to translate them. Users are reminded to finish at least one lesson each day. They earn points and trophies, and move through increasingly challenging levels.

In order to engage learners' brains in different ways, Duolingo deliberately limits the kind of explicit grammar instruction we might associate with an old-fashioned foreign-language class. It pushes learners to use the building blocks of a language, and to understand, through that experience, how they fit together. The lessons do not exceed, on average, two minutes, although that length has been decreasing. "Already we're a little worried that younger generations actually expect thirty-second activities, not a two-minute thing", von Ahn said.

Another key element is the number of user repetitions, which generates an enormous amount of data. While the app teaches users, users are simultaneously teaching the app to be a better instructor. Duolingo is now using GPT-4, a large language model created by the artificial-intelligence company OpenAI. It has been trained on far more data than previous models.

Von Ahn believes that artificial intelligence would eventually make computers better teachers than people. He considers this a hopeful development, since more people have access to smartphones than to high-quality education. "I really want people to be able to learn for free", he said.

Surprisingly, a recent study reveals that most teachers do not oppose Duolingo. Instead, they see it as supplemental to the kind of deep immersion that language learning requires. Despite von Ahn's predictions, they find it highly unlikely that apps will replace human instructors in the upcoming future.

(Adapted from "How much can Duolingo teach us?", The New Yorker)

PART 1. Reading Comprehension (3.9 points)

1.1. (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.

1.1.1. CAPTCHA was the first education app designed by Luis von Ahn.

1.1.2. Duolingo motivates learners to keep using the app.

1.1.3. Von Ahn sees artificial intelligence as a threat to education.

1.2. (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. Points will be deducted if the response is incomplete or includes information that does not appear in the text.

1.2.1. In which ways are Duolingo lessons different from traditional language teaching?

1.2.2. Why are Duolingo developers concerned about our attention spans?

1.2.3. Why does Duolingo improve when interacting with users?

1.2.4. What does von Ahn think about human teachers of languages?

PART 2. Use of English (2.1 points)

2.1. (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.

2.1.1. excellent, first-rate:

2.1.2. giving up work, stopping working:

2.1.3. difficult, demanding:

2.1.4. traditional, out of date:

2.2. (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).

2.2.1. If only I _____ the English exam! My grade was 4.2 out of 10.

a) wouldn't pass b) can pass c) had passed d) passed

2.2.2. The founder of Duolingo was brought _____ in Guatemala City.

a) over b) up c) down d) as

2.2.3. People learn languages _____ they can travel abroad.

a) so that b) in order to c) despite d) to

2.3. (0.6 points). Rewrite TWO of the following sentences using the word or phrase given below 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.

2.3.1. "Tomorrow I must make an important decision", von Ahn told the reporter.

Von Ahn told the reporter ...

2.3.2. I didn't accept the terms and conditions, so I was unable to use the app.

If I ...

2.3.3. The development of artificial intelligence is changing language lessons.

Languages lessons ...

PART 3. Written Production (4 points)

3. (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. 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 (email, essay, review) and the topic requested, the answer will score 0 points.

3.1. Write an opinion essay on the following statement: "In the 21st century, human teachers are not essential anymore".

3.2. You work for a technology magazine. Write a review of the mobile app you use more frequently.

CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN

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Instead of retiring, he set up a new project, Duolingo, whose popularity spiked dramatically in March 2020, when COVID-19 shut hundreds of millions of people in their homes. But attracting people is one thing, and getting them to stay is another—this is Duolingo's core business. When you begin a course on the app, you are greeted by the company's mascot, a green owl named Duo. Then, cartoon characters speak sentences to you and prompt you to translate them. Users are reminded to finish at least one lesson each day. They earn points and trophies, and move through increasingly challenging levels.

In order to engage learners' brains in different ways, Duolingo deliberately limits the kind of explicit grammar instruction we might associate with an old-fashioned foreign-language class. It pushes learners to use the building blocks of a language, and to understand, through that experience, how they fit together. The lessons do not exceed, on average, two minutes, although that length has been decreasing. "Already we're a little worried that younger generations actually expect thirty-second activities, not a two-minute thing", von Ahn said.

Another key element is the number of user repetitions, which generates an enormous amount of data. While the app teaches users, users are simultaneously teaching the app to be a better instructor. Duolingo is now using GPT-4, a large language model created by the artificial-intelligence company OpenAI. It has been trained on far more data than previous models.

Von Ahn believes that artificial intelligence would eventually make computers better teachers than people. He considers this a hopeful development, since more people have access to smartphones than to high-quality education. "I really want people to be able to learn for free", he said.

Surprisingly, a recent study reveals that most teachers do not oppose Duolingo. Instead, they see it as supplemental to the kind of deep immersion that language learning requires. Despite von Ahn's predictions, they find it highly unlikely that apps will replace human instructors in the upcoming future.

(Adapted from "How much can Duolingo teach us?", The New Yorker)

PART 1. Reading Comprehension (3.9 points)

1.1. (1.5 points). Add True or False, quoting the relevant information from the text to justify your answer.

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1.1.1. CAPTCHA was the first education app designed by Luis von Ahn.

F: "the test CAPTCHA, designed to tell computers and humans apart".

1.1.2. Duolingo motivates learners to keep using the app.

T: "Users are reminded to finish at least one lesson each day. They earn points and trophies".

1.1.3. Von Ahn sees artificial intelligence as a threat to education.

F: "Von Ahn believes that artificial intelligence would eventually make computers better teachers than people. He considers this a positive development".

1.2. (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. Points will be deducted if the response is incomplete or includes information that does not appear in the text.

1.2.1. In which ways are Duolingo lessons different from traditional language teaching?

They do not deal with grammar in an obvious way and are considerably shorter.

1.2.2. Why are Duolingo developers concerned about our attention spans?

Because they fear that even two-minute lessons may be too long for younger learners.

1.2.3. Why does Duolingo improve when interacting with users?

Because it learns from the input provided by users every time they use the app.

1.2.4. What does von Ahn think about human teachers of languages?

Von Ahn thinks that human teachers will be eventually replaced by computers, who are increasingly becoming better and more efficient instructors.

PART 2. Use of English (2.1 points)

2.1. (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.

2.1.1. excellent, first-rate: ***high-quality***

2.1.2. giving up work, stopping working: ***retiring***

2.1.3. difficult, demanding: ***challenging***

2.1.4. traditional, out of date: ***old-fashioned***

2.2. (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).

2.2.1. If only I _____ the English exam! My grade was 4.2 out of 10.

a) wouldn't pass b) can pass ***c) had passed*** d) passed

2.2.2. The founder of Duolingo was brought _____ in Guatemala City.

a) over ***b) up*** c) down d) as

2.2.3. People learn languages _____ they can travel abroad.

a) so that b) in order to c) despite d) to

2.3. (0.6 points). Rewrite TWO of the following sentences using the word or phrase given below 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.

2.3.1. "Tomorrow I must make an important decision", von Ahn told the reporter.

Von Ahn told the reporter ... ***that the following day he had to make an important decision.***

2.3.2. I didn't accept the terms and conditions, so I was unable to use the app.

If I ... ***had accepted the terms and conditions, I would have been able to use the app.***

2.3.3. The development of artificial intelligence is changing language lessons.

Languages lessons ... ***are being changed by the development of AI.***

PART 3. Written Production (4 points)

3. (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. 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 (email, essay, review) and the topic requested, the answer will score 0 points.

3.1. Write an opinion essay on the following statement: "In the 21st century, human teachers are not essential anymore".

In the twenty-first century, technology has transformed education in fundamental ways. Online platforms, educational apps and artificial intelligence have significantly increased learner independence, to the point that some people doubt that human teachers are still essential. I find this view problematic.

On the one hand, digital tools offer clear advantages. For example, information can be accessed instantly so that students can learn at their own pace. Moreover, education is more accessible to those who cannot attend in-person classes.

However, what human teachers provide can never be fully replaced by technology. Good teachers contribute to students' motivation, consider individual needs, and provide emotional support. In addition, teachers are role models, helping students develop key personal, academic, and professional skills.

In conclusion, despite the usefulness of technology, modern education cannot be understood without human teachers. Instead, the best results will be achieved if technology and teachers work together.

3.2. You work for a technology magazine. Write a review of the mobile app you use more frequently.

The app I use most frequently is Spotify, and it has completely changed the way I listen to music. At first, I saw it as just another music-streaming service. Now, I cannot imagine daily life without it.

One of Spotify's greatest strengths is its ability to adapt to the user's tastes. The app knows so much about me that it regularly suggests new artists and songs that genuinely match my preferences. In addition, Spotify allows users to create and share playlists, which makes discovering music an endlessly fun social experience. Moreover, the interface is clear and intuitive.

Nevertheless, the app has a few downsides. Unless you pay a monthly fee, your listening experience will be interrupted by advertisements. Likewise, certain advanced features such as offline listening are restricted to premium users.

In conclusion, despite these minor limitations, I strongly recommend Spotify. It remains an excellent choice for music lovers thanks to its ease of use and personalised features.