



INSTRUCCIONES GENERALES Y VALORACIÓN

1. Lea cuidadosamente el texto y las preguntas y responda a éstas en inglés.
2. Conteste a las preguntas respetando el orden en el que están planteadas.
3. Calificación: la pregunta 1 se calificará de 0 a 2 puntos, la pregunta 2 se calificará de 0 a 4 puntos, la pregunta 3 se calificará de 0 a 1,5 puntos y la pregunta 4 se calificará de 0 a 2,5 puntos.

Tiempo: 60 minutos

“The Knowledge”: Taxi Drivers in London

It is not easy being a taxi driver in the United Kingdom. Completing the test known as “The Knowledge” to obtain the license is even harder. All drivers of the famous London black taxis have had to pass “The Knowledge” exam after training for an extended period of up to four years.

Preparing for this exam requires learning the names and locations of over twenty thousand streets and one thousand points of interest in London. The applicants must also show that they can find the shortest routes to many different destinations in a six-mile radius of the centre of London. “The Knowledge” was initiated in 1865 and it has changed little since then.

It is considered a very difficult test. Up to seventy five per cent of the applicants who prepare for it do not succeed. The twenty five per cent who pass it, have had to spend at least three hours a day studying maps and another three hours riding motorbikes around London, trying to learn the different routes. Many people believe that passing “The Knowledge” is as hard as obtaining a University degree.

All this training seems to have an impact on the brain of taxi drivers. According to a recent study carried out at University College London, we all have a special area in the brain specialized in navigation. The scientists discovered that the navigation area in taxi drivers’ brains is larger than in the brains of most people. They also discovered that this area of the brain gets bigger over time. In other words, new taxi drivers have on average smaller navigation areas in their brains than taxi drivers with many years of experience.

QUESTIONS:

1. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Write true or false and also copy from the text the statement that supports your decision.
 - a. Since “The Knowledge” was initiated in 1865, it has been modified many times.
 - b. Experienced taxi drivers’ brain navigation areas are on average no larger than those of new drivers.
2. Answer the following questions in your own words, basing your answers on ideas from the text.
 - a. Which taxi drivers have to do “The Knowledge”?
 - b. How many applicants do not finish “The Knowledge”?
 - c. How do future taxi drivers study for “The Knowledge”?
 - d. Why are taxi driver’s brains different from other people

3. Find the words in the text that have the following meaning:

- a. exam (1st paragraph)
- b. permit (1st paragraph)
- c. preparing (1st paragraph)
- d. to memorize (3rd paragraph)
- e. researchers (4th paragraph)
- f. found out (4th paragraph)

4. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets where given.

- a. Gordon, _____ is a taxi driver in London, _____ (get) “The Knowledge” license last year.
- b. The new taxi _____ (buy) last month by him. His wife wants _____ (be) a taxi driver too. Everybody says she is _____ (intelligent) than him.
- c. If his wife _____ (pass) “The Knowledge”, she _____ (become) a London taxi driver too.
- d. Rewrite the following sentence into reported speech:

Gordon said: “I am going to drive a passenger to Heathrow Airport tomorrow.”

Gordon said

CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN

MATERIA:

Puntuación máxima 10 puntos, a distribuir entre:

Pregunta 1:

Hasta 2 puntos. Esta pregunta tiene por objeto comprobar la comprensión general del texto. Se calificará con cero puntos si la respuesta true / false no está justificada o si la justificación no es correcta. Cada respuesta correcta según el criterio anterior se puntuará con 1 punto cada una.

Pregunta 2:

Hasta 4 puntos. El alumno expresará en inglés una parte concreta de la información transmitida por el texto. Se pretende comprobar dos destrezas: la comprensión lectora y la expresión escrita, mediante la formulación de las dos preguntas abiertas que el alumno deberá contestar basándose en la información del texto, pero utilizando sus propias palabras en la respuesta.

Cada una de las preguntas valdrá 1 punto, asignándose 0,5 puntos a la comprensión de la pregunta y del texto, y 0,5 a la corrección gramatical de la respuesta.

Pregunta 3:

Hasta 1,5 puntos. Esta pregunta permite medir el conocimiento del léxico inglés. Se calificará con 0,25 cada respuesta correcta.

Pregunta 4:

Hasta 2,5 puntos. Esta pregunta tiene por objeto comprobar los conocimientos gramaticales del alumno en sus aspectos morfológicos y/o sintácticos. Se presentarán oraciones con huecos que el alumno deberá completar. Se adjudicará 0,25 puntos a cada respuesta correcta.