

GUÍA DEL EXAMEN DE CLASIFICACIÓN DE INGLÉS

El Examen de Clasificación de Inglés tiene como finalidad determinar el nivel y la capacidad del estudiante en:

1. comprensión de lectura;
2. comprensión auditiva;
3. uso y estructura de la lengua.

El examen consta de tres secciones:

Comprensión de lectura:

La sección de Comprensión de Lectura del examen de clasificación incluye tres textos seguidos de 10 preguntas y un texto (tipo *cloze*) de 10 preguntas; el objetivo de esta sección es evaluar la capacidad del alumno para leer, con rapidez y precisión, textos auténticos escritos en inglés. Los textos, que en general tienen de 400 a 500 palabras, provienen de diversas fuentes, como libros, periódicos, revistas especializadas y de divulgación, de modo que el contenido es similar al del material que un estudiante del ITAM debe consultar durante sus estudios. Puesto que los textos están relacionados con distintas disciplinas o campos de estudio, los temas que abordan son muy diversos.

Después de leer cada texto, el alumno responderá a diez preguntas que evaluarán las distintas estrategias de lectura, es decir, el alumno deberá diferenciar las ideas principales de las secundarias; identificar el propósito del texto y la organización textual que éste guarda para cumplir con tal propósito; hacer uso de la información explícita e implícita que el texto proporciona para inferir y sacar conclusiones, y, además, deducir el posible significado de algunas palabras con la ayuda del contexto.

Ahora bien, el tiempo es un factor importante porque el alumno deberá contestar esta sección en sólo 45 minutos. Por lo tanto, deberá destinar un promedio de 10 a 11 minutos a cada texto.

Comprensión auditiva:

Esta sección evalúa la capacidad del alumno para comprender tanto inglés coloquial como inglés formal. Está dividida en tres partes en las que el alumno deberá

- 1) inferir el significado de expresiones idiomáticas;
- 2) comprender situaciones específicas, temas de conversación, funciones del lenguaje en la oralidad, diversas entonaciones, y
- 3) escuchar pláticas o conferencias de tipo académico.

La sección de comprensión auditiva incluye

- a) 15 preguntas que se basan en diálogos breves,
- b) 10 preguntas que se basan en conversaciones y, por último,
- c) 15 preguntas que se basan en lecturas o conferencias.

Tanto los diálogos breves como las conversaciones evalúan un registro de inglés cotidiano y coloquial, mientras que las lecturas o conferencias evalúan un lenguaje formal y, generalmente, académico.

Esta sección tiene una duración de 30 a 35 minutos. Es importante recalcar que, una vez que comienza esta sección, la grabación no se detendrá.

Uso y estructura de la lengua:

Esta sección evalúa la función sintáctica y gramatical del inglés. Está dividida en tres partes en las que el alumno deberá reconocer elementos o temas relacionados con la sintaxis del inglés, tales como la posición del objeto directo o indirecto, aposiciones, concordancias entre el sujeto y el verbo, y concordancias verbales.

La sección de uso y estructura de la lengua incluye 15 preguntas que se basan en la sintaxis y estructura de la lengua, 10 preguntas (tipo *cloze*) que evalúan el uso de la lengua escrita y 15 preguntas que evalúan el reconocimiento de errores gramaticales.

El alumno deberá contestar esta sección en 30 minutos. Por lo tanto, deberá considerar que el tiempo es un factor clave para poder contestar esta sección.

Ejemplos de reactivos de la sección de comprensión de lectura

Text 1

Directions: Read the following passage and choose the best option that completes or answers each question.

5 Economics is the social science that deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Business may refer to any gainful economic activity or, more narrowly, to organizations that produce and distribute commodities. Basically, economics is a branch of investigation and study, while business connotes activity. Yet, the two terms increasingly overlap. Once thought of as a knack or skill that could never be taught in school, business has developed claims to scientific status in the twentieth century. Today, there are schools of business administration that, much like departments of economics, engage in study and research.

10 Both economic theory and the growing emphasis on the study of business have spilled over from the universities into the public forum. The budget deficit, foreign trade deficit, and stock market boom of the 1980s and early 1990s have combined with the recent recession and decline of interest rates to pique popular interest in economic issues. Less obvious but no less important, the deregulation of financial institutions by the federal government, the vast growth of pension funds within the last twenty years, and recent changes in the federal tax code have raised the threshold of financial knowledge for Americans. As late as the 1950s, banks rarely advertised, savings and loan associations did not offer checking accounts, and insurance companies concentrated on selling insurance. Now, all of these institutions advertise and compete with one another by offering similar services. For example, all of them offer pension and retirement plans, and individual investors must be able to sort out and assess their rival claims.

20 To do so, ordinary Americans need not become professors of economics; but they must understand the difference between stocks and bonds, and they should understand why the stock market tends to decline when the interest rates rise.

1. What is the topic of the passage?
 - A) Business and its relation to economic issues
 - B) Business and economics
 - C) The teaching of economics in business schools
 - D) The American economic system

2. What is the purpose of the passage?
 - A) To advise people to study economics
 - B) To discredit the services that banks and other financial institutions provide
 - C) To stress the differences between economics and business
 - D) To discuss the increasing interest in the study of economics and business

3. The word “overlap” in line 6 is closest in meaning to
 - A) completely oppose.
 - B) hardly correlate.
 - C) coincide partly.
 - D) absolutely distinguish.

4. The words “these institutions” in lines 20 and 21 refer to
 - A) banks, savings and loans associations and insurance companies.
 - B) federal government and financial institutions.
 - C) universities and schools of business administration.
 - D) advertising companies.

5. According to the author, why is it important for Americans to understand that there is a difference between stock and bonds?
 - A) To understand a rise in the interest rates and its effects on stock markets
 - B) To be able to evaluate those services offered by competing institutions
 - C) To compete with each other by offering better investment opportunities
 - D) To participate in political and economic debates throughout the country

Text 2

The study of living things on earth has a long history. Because of the incredible richness and diversity of life, most of the effort in biology and its predecessor, natural history, has been expended in an attempt to describe what there is —simple exploration and cataloguing. The classical sciences of descriptive
5 botany and zoology, with their emphasis on classification, are examples of this sort of work. The division of living things into the plant kingdom and animal kingdom (plus three more kingdoms added by modern scientists to describe microscopic organisms and fungi), and the collection of all living things into a coherent classification scheme, are the fruit of this work. During the past century
10 and a half, however, two important discoveries have changed the face of the life sciences.

The first of these was the development of the Theory of Evolution by Charles Darwin and others. The mechanism of natural selection gave naturalists for the first time a way of answering questions about how life came to have the forms it
15 has, rather than just questions about what those forms are. The great social and intellectual turmoil triggered by Darwin’s work is interesting, of course, but is not relevant from a purely scientific standpoint. What does matter is that we can now understand how the observed diversity of living things could have arisen through the action of a simple and easily comprehended mechanism. The
20 original Darwinian notions have been modified and expanded since his time, of course, and there is still debate about the pace at which species evolve. Nevertheless, the main principle of Darwinism —that living things change and adapt in response to their environment— has been incorporated as one of the pillars of the modern life sciences.

1. What is the topic of this passage?
 - A) Darwin and the theory of evolution
 - B) The diversity of living things
 - C) Important contributions to life sciences
 - D) The beginnings of natural history

2. The word “its” in line 2 refers to
 - A) biology.
 - B) natural history.
 - C) predecessor.
 - D) effort.

3. All of the following can be classified into the kingdoms mentioned above EXCEPT
 - A) a hyena
 - B) a mushroom
 - C) a laurel
 - D) a gold nugget

4. The word “turmoil” in line 16 is closest in meaning to
 - A) fight.
 - B) confusion.
 - C) improvement.
 - D) fairness.

5. The passage following this one will most likely discuss
 - A) the second discovery that contributed to change life sciences.
 - B) other theories that contradict the Darwinian notions on evolution.
 - C) detailed information about the classification mentioned in the introductory paragraph and its influence on new scientific trends.
 - D) a series of chronological events dealing with the evolution of species and their eventual adaptation to their environment.

Text 3 (Cloze)

Choose the correct answer in order to complete the following passage.

There are people who (1)_____ they are not influenced by advertisements. They buy only (2)_____ they want to buy and they know what they want. (3)_____, they buy products that are familiar to them because the brand (4)_____ have appeared so often in newspaper advertisements and television commercials (5)_____ they recognize them immediately when they see them on the shelves of the supermarket. Shoppers are slow to change their habits and it needs a long and persistent campaign on the part of the advertiser to (6)_____ them that the new product is worth trying. Possibly the (7)_____ products to sell are those which claim to alter our physical (8)_____. Most of us dream of looking more attractive, stronger and healthier than we are. (9)_____ only we had the self-confidence of the people we see smiling at us from advertisements, all our problems would be (10)_____, or at least so we tell ourselves. We only half believe it, but we go out and buy the product all the same.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|-------------------|
| 1. | A) had believed | 6. | A) encourage |
| | B) believed | | B) prove |
| | C) is believing | | C) suggest |
| | D) believe | | D) convince |
| 2. | A) whom | 7. | A) easiest |
| | B) whose | | B) hardest |
| | C) what | | C) most difficult |
| | D) who | | D) smallest |
| 3. | A) In spite of | 8. | A) education |
| | B) However | | B) situation |
| | C) Notwithstanding | | C) appearance |
| | D) Despite | | D) looking |
| 4. | A) industries | 9. | A) But |
| | B) names | | B) If |
| | C) papers | | C) So |
| | D) announcements | | D) How |
| 5. | A) that | 10. | A) solved |
| | B) than | | B) increased |
| | C) this | | C) disappeared |
| | D) thus | | D) deleted |

Ejemplos de reactivos de la sección de comprensión auditiva

Part A: Mini-dialogues

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear short conversations between two people. After each conversation, you will find a question about the conversation. Read the choices and answer each question.

On the recording, you will hear:

1. M: Miss, where is my burger?
W: It's on its way.
Q: What can we infer about the woman's statement?

In your test, you will read:

- A) The burger will be ready in an hour.
- B) The burger will be ready soon.
- C) The waitress misplaced the order.
- D) The man is hungry.

On the recording, you will hear:

2. W: Do you have the latest Harry Potter book?
M: We are all out.
Q: What does the man mean?

In your test, you will read:

- A) The man and all the employees are all going out.
- B) The man will advise the woman when the book arrives in the store.
- C) The book is no longer available.
- D) The man has the complete Harry Potter series.

On the recording, you will hear:

3. M: This painting is really beautiful!
W: I've seen better.
Q: What does the woman suggest?

In your test, you will read:

- A) She has seen many paintings.
- B) She thinks the painting is expensive.
- C) The woman agrees with the man's statement.
- D) The woman doesn't agree with the man's statement.

On the recording, you will hear:

4. W: I hope we get our order soon.
M: Not likely!
Q: Where does the conversation take place?

In your test, you will read:

- A) At a doctor's office
- B) At a military camp
- C) In a restaurant
- D) In class

On the recording, you will hear:

5. M: What's wrong?
W: I have a major deadline and I haven't verified my sources.
Q: What is the woman's profession?

In your test, you will read:

- A) A criminal detective
- B) A clerk
- C) A stenographer
- D) A reporter

Part B: Longer conversations

Directions: After the conversation, there will be several questions. Read the questions and choose the correct answer.

On the recording, you will hear:

Bill: Hi Jennie! Where are you running to?

Jennie: Hey, Bill. I have to check out some books.

Bill: Are you happy with your schedule?

Jennie: Sort of. Tuesdays are really long. I have Painting from 10:30 to 12:30 and then I have Design from 12:30 to 2:30.

Bill: I know what you mean. I barely have time for lunch. Let's at least try to get together. How does Thursday sound?

Jennie: Sure! I can squeeze you in at two o'clock because I haven't finished my English essay yet.

Bill: No problem.

On the recording, you will hear:

1. Where does this conversation take place?

In your test, you will read:

- A) In a coffee shop
- B) At Jenny's home
- C) On campus
- D) In a gym

On the recording, you will hear:

2. How does Jennie feel about her schedule?

In your test, you will read:

- A) She is excited.
- B) She is overjoyed.
- C) She is not satisfied with it.
- D) She hates her schedule.

On the recording, you will hear:

3. What is wrong with Bill's schedule?

In your test, you will read:

- A) His classes aren't long enough.
- B) He has a very busy schedule.
- C) He has to have an early lunch.
- D) He doesn't have time to make lunch.

On the recording, you will hear:

4. What is Jennie going to try to do?

In your test, you will read:

- A) Squeeze Bill.
- B) Reschedule a meeting with Bill.
- C) Try her best to meet with Bill.
- D) She is not going to show up for the meeting.

On the recording, you will hear:

5. Why is Jennie worried?

In your test, you will read:

- A) She has failed her English course.
- B) She hasn't completed her English composition yet.
- C) She has too much English homework.
- D) She hasn't started her English composition yet.

Part C: Longer talks: After the talk, answer the questions. Choose the correct answer.

On the recording, you will hear:

The Harvest Moon, the full moon nearest the autumnal equinox, ushers in a period of several successive days when the Moon rises soon after sunset. This phenomenon gives farmers in temperate latitudes extra hours of light in which to harvest their crops before frost and winter come. The next full moon after Harvest Moon is called the Hunter's moon; it is accompanied by a similar but less marked phenomenon.

On the recording, you will hear:

- 1) What is the Harvest Moon?

In the test, you will read:

- A) A half-moon nearest the summer equinox.
- B) A demi-moon nearest the autumnal equinox.
- C) A demi-lune nearest the summer equinox.
- D) A full moon nearest the autumnal equinox.

On the recording, you will hear:

- 2) What happens to the Moon during this period?

In the test, you will read:

- A) It rises soon after noon.
- B) It rises later in the afternoon.
- C) It ascends soon after sunset.
- D) It ascends soon before sunset

On the recording, you will hear:

- 3) How do the farmers benefit from the Harvest Moon?

In the test, you will read:

- A) They produce more crops.
- B) They do not have enough sunlight.
- C) They have extra sunlight.
- D) They can diversify the crops.

On the recording, you will hear:

- 4) What can we infer about the lecture given?

In the test, you will read:

- A) Harvest must occur before winter comes.
- B) Farmers are not concerned with the Harvest Moon.
- C) Farmers can misuse the occurrence of the Harvest Moon.
- D) Farmers can harvest more crops in the spring.

On the recording, you will hear:

- 5) What type of moon is not mentioned in the talk?

In the test, you will read:

- A) Full Moon
- B) Harvest Moon
- C) Hunter's Moon
- D) Crescent Moon

Ejemplos de reactivos de la sección de estructura y uso de la lengua

Part A: Structure

Directions: The following questions are incomplete sentences. From the options A), B), C), and D), choose the correct answer in order to complete the sentence.

1. _____ up to eight months.
 - A) Lasting Western Canada winters
 - B) Western Canada winters are lasted
 - C) Western Canada winters can last
 - D) Winters lasting in Western Canada
2. _____, Nelson Mandela, an anti-apartheid activist and former president of the Republic of South Africa, took a degree in Law.
 - A) While in prison
 - B) During prison
 - C) To the prison
 - D) On the prison
3. American writer Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* was adapted to the silver screen _____ one of the most popular Hollywood movies.
 - A) to become
 - B) becoming
 - C) has become
 - D) become
4. The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland became members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization _____.
 - A) in April 30, 1998
 - B) of April 30, 1998
 - C) at April 30, 1998
 - D) on April 30, 1998
5. Literature Nobel Prize winner Jose Saramago, _____ novels include *The Stone Raft* and *Blindness*, received the award in 1998.
 - A) whose
 - B) which
 - C) whom
 - D) what
6. Phil Hartman, _____ who starred in *Saturday Night Live* and *News Radio*, died in California in 1998.
 - A) an actor comic Canadian-born
 - B) a Canadian-born comic actor
 - C) a comic Canadian-born actor
 - D) an actor Canadian-born comic

Part B: Sentence Correction

Directions: The following sentences have four underlined words or phrases. The four parts are marked A), B), C), and D). Identify the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct.

1. The government in the United States is divide in three main branches: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judicial powers.
A B C D
2. During the 70s, people have become more aware of a more moderate gas consumption due to the oil crisis.
A B C D
3. Dolphins, apparently, look friendly, but it actually tend to be aggressive and timid.
A B C D
4. Many people believe that a black widow's bite is fewer poisonous than any snake's bite, but this is not true.
A B C D
5. It has been proved that people use the internet for chatting, searching for information, and to visit pages of various kinds.
A B C D

Part C: Cloze

Directions: The following text contains ten blanks that must be filled in with the corresponding options below the text. Choose the correct answer from the options for each blank.

Today, (1)_____ many millions of people learning English. Some people (2)_____ English for a special reason. For instance, they may need English for (3)_____ or others (4)_____ speak to English-speaking people. The majority of learners of English have (5)_____ needs. Most anglophones use it (6)_____ to people who aren't English-speaking. There is (7)_____ any part of the world where English has never been spoken; however, (8)_____ people have heard some English at some time. Very (9)_____ people have heard any English spoken at all. To sum up, English is undoubtedly the most widely-used (10)_____ in the world.

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|---|---|
| 1. A) there are
B) there were
C) there had been
D) there have been | 6. A) for talk
B) talk about
C) to talk
D) talking |
| 2. A) were studying
B) is studying
C) studies
D) study | 7. A) less
B) hardly
C) sometimes
D) completely |
| 3. A) job
B) a job
C) the job
D) their job | 8. A) Most
B) Mostly
C) Most of
D) The most |
| 4. A) are needing
B) need not
C) need to
D) need | 9. A) much
B) many
C) less
D) few |
| 5. A) little
B) other
C) much
D) another | 10. A) idiom
B) tongue
C) dialect
D) language |

RESPUESTAS

SECCIÓN I: COMPRENSIÓN DE LECTURA

Text 1

1. B	2. D	3. C	4. A	5. B
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Text 2

1. C	2. A	3. D	4. B	5. A
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Cloze

1. D	2. C	3. B	4. B	5. A
6. D	7. A	8. C	9. B	10. A

SECCIÓN II: COMPRENSIÓN AUDITIVA

Part A: Mini dialogues

1. B	2. C	3. D	4. C	5. D
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Part B: Longer conversations

1. C	2. C	3. B	4. C	5. B
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Part C: Longer talks

1. D	2. C	3. C	4. A	5. D
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SECCIÓN III: USO Y ESTRUCTURA DE LA LENGUA

Part A: Structure

1. C	2. A	3. B	4. D	5. A	6. B
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Part B: Sentence Correction

1. A	2. A	3. B	4. B	5. C
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Part C: Cloze

1. A	2. D	3. D	4. C	5. B
6. C	7. B	8. A	9. D	10. D