

SEPTIEMBRE 2014



PRUEBAS UNIFICADAS DE CERTIFICACIÓN

COMPRENSIÓN DE LECTURA

Apellidos:

Nombre:

Marca con una X lo que corresponda:

- Alumno/a **OFICIAL** (Indica el nombre de tu profesor/a tutor/a durante el curso 2013-2014:)
- Alumno/a **LIBRE** Grupo:

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LA REALIZACIÓN DE ESTE EJERCICIO:

- Duración: **75 minutos**
- Este ejercicio consta de **dos tareas**. Deberás realizar **las dos**.
 - En la **tarea 1** deberás leer el texto de la página 3 y **completar cada enunciado con una de las opciones (A, B o C)** de la página 2.
Obtienes 1 punto por cada respuesta correcta; 0 puntos por cada respuesta incorrecta o no dada.
 - En la **tarea 2** deberás leer el texto de las páginas 4 y 5 y **completar cada hueco eligiendo la palabra adecuada** del banco de palabras de la página 4.
Obtienes 1 punto por cada respuesta correcta; 0 puntos por cada respuesta incorrecta o no dada.
- **Muy importante: al final, comprueba que ha marcado una sola opción (como en el ejemplo); si marcas dos opciones, se anula la respuesta a esa pregunta.**
- **No escribas en los cuadros** destinados a la calificación de las tareas.
- Sólo se admiten respuestas escritas con **bolígrafo azul o negro**.

NO ESCRIBAS AQUÍ

PUNTUACIÓN DEL EJERCICIO: ____ / 20

CALIFICACIÓN: Superado No Superado

NIVEL AVANZADO

INGLÉS

TAREA 1 -10 puntos -: Read the text on page 3. Choose the correct option (A, B, or C) to complete each sentence. The first one (0) is an example.

Having It All Without Having Children		ANSWER
<p><i>Ex.: 0. Laura took her decision not to have a child...</i></p> <p>A. ...when she got married. B. ...when she was a little child. C. ...when she was a teenager.</p>		C ✓
<p>1. What was her mom’s response to that decision?</p> <p>A. She approved of her daughter’s resolution. B. She opposed her daughter’s choice. C. She thought Laura might think differently in the future,</p>		
<p>2. Laura Scott considers her mother...</p> <p>A. ...found her way to reconcile family life and work. B. ...lacked energy to do domestic chores properly. C. ...led an unsatisfactory family life due to work-family conflict.</p>		
<p>3. After getting married, Laura...</p> <p>A. ...discovered she didn’t long to have children. B. ...expected to combine motherhood with a career. C. ...was uncertain of having made the right choice.</p>		
<p>4. Nowadays Laura...</p> <p>A. ...denies feeling satisfied. B. ...is not the only woman not wanting children. C. ...regrets her decision</p>		
<p>5. The fertility rate in the States...</p> <p>A. ...fluctuates across different segments of the population. B. ...has been declining. C. ...is even lower than in certain European countries.</p>		
<p>6. The debate over maternity choice...</p> <p>A. ...had its origins nearly four decades ago. B. ...stresses the need for shared childcare arrangements. C. ...intensified at the beginning of the current financial crisis.</p>		
<p>7. Sheryl Sandberg has published a book that...</p> <p>A. ...deals with the conflict between individual choice and social demand. B. ...is about the expansion of women’s employment policies. C. ...values women who reconcile work and family life.</p>		
<p>8. In the media, childless women are...</p> <p>A. ...considered privileged people. B. ...criticised as irresponsible and self-indulgent. C. ...praised for their efforts to be independent.</p>		
<p>9. Jonathan Last’s book...</p> <p>A. ...blames women for the reduction in future consumption. B. ...has won him national acclaim. C. ...portrays childless couples as opposed to the family unit.</p>		
<p>10. In the last paragraph the writer suggests that women...</p> <p>A. ...have lost freedom to some extent. B. ...have never been so independent. C. ...now have fewer opportunities than before</p>		

PUNTOS: / 10



TAREA 1 -10 puntos -: Read the following text. Choose the best option (A, B, or C) to complete each sentence. The first one (0) is an example. Answer on page 2.

Having It All Without Having Children

Source: time.com

The American birth rate is at a record low. What happens when having it all means not having children?

One evening when she was 14 years old, Laura Scott was washing dishes in the kitchen with her mother when she decided she didn't want to have a child. "You might change your mind," said her mother, whom Scott describes as "bone tired" from a life in which she "didn't have any time for herself." Scott's mom worked as a sample maker for an upholstery company; after making dinner for Scott and her brother, she'd park them in front of the television and go down to the basement to spend her evening cutting and sewing. That life was what "doing it all" meant to Scott. "I learned you could -but did you want to?" she says. At 26, Scott got married and waited for her mind to change. "I thought I would be struck by a biological lightning bolt," she recalls. "It never happened. And I realized I was going to be fine." As she says from her Tampa office, where she works as a professional coach, writer and documentary filmmaker, "My main motive not to have kids was that I loved my life the way it was."

Now 50, Scott is more than fine: she's fulfilled. And she's not alone. The birth rate in the U.S. is the lowest in recorded American history, which includes the fertility crash of the Great Depression. From 2007 to 2011, the most recent year for which there's data, the fertility rate declined 9%. A 2010 Pew Research report showed that childlessness has risen across all racial and ethnic groups, adding up to about 1 in 5 American women who end their childbearing years maternity-free, compared with 1 in 10 in the 1970s. Even before the recession hit, in 2008, the proportion of women ages 40 to 44 who had never given birth had grown by 80%, from 10% to 18%, since 1976, when a new vanguard began to question the reproductive imperative. These statistics may not have the heft of childlessness in some European countries—like Italy, where nearly one-quarter of women never give birth—but the rise is both dramatic and, in the scope of our history, quite sudden.

The decision to have a child or not is a private one, but it takes place, in America at least, in a culture that often equates womanhood with motherhood. The birth rate may have fallen, but the baby-product industry is at a record high, an estimated \$49 billion for 2013. Any national discussion about the struggle to reconcile womanhood with modernity tends to begin and end with one subject: parenting. Even Sheryl Sandberg's *Lean In*, a book focused on encouraging women's professional development, devotes a large chunk of its take-home advice to balancing work and family, presuming that, like its author, ambitious women will have both. It's great that we're in the midst of a cultural conversation about the individual choices and structural barriers that shape our lives. But if you're a woman who's not in the mommy trenches, more often than not you're excluded from the discussion.

Being sidelined doesn't exempt childless women from being scolded. In a December column in the New York Times headlined *More Babies, Please*, Ross Douthat argued that the "retreat from child rearing is, at some level, a symptom of late-modern exhaustion"—an indicator of "decadence," revealing "a spirit that privileges the present over the future." The Weekly Standard's Jonathan Last has made the case in his controversial book *What to Expect When No One's Expecting* that the selfishness of the childless American is responsible for no less than the possible destruction of our economic future by reducing the number of consumers and taxpayers.

With fertility treatment widely available, not to mention adoption, even clinically infertile women have more options than ever to become mothers, which increases the possibility that any woman who doesn't will be judged for her choice. "There's more pressure on women to be mothers, to fulfill that obligation, than I've ever seen," says Amy Richards, author of *Opting In: Having a Child Without Losing Yourself*. "In the past we assumed it was out of a woman's control" whether or not she had a child. "Now we think it's her choice, so we can blame her."



TAREA 2 -10 puntos -: Read the following text (continued on page 5). Fill each gap with one of the words provided below. There are five extra words you do not need to use. The first one (0) is an example. Use the box provided below.

A. cuts	B. easy	C. eat	D. feed
E. getting	F. growing	G. having	H. height
I. holders	J. many	K. meant	L. owners
M. pace	N. rise	O. undertook	P. using-up

GAP	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ANSWER	<i>P</i>										
	✓										

PUNTOS: / 10

Europe’s Debt Crisis: No Relief on the Horizon

Source: www.nytimes.com

When the economic crisis erupted in 2008, many Europeans assumed they were facing a couple of bad years. But the crisis, now in its fifth year, seems to go on and on, (0) unemployment benefits, eating through savings accounts and dashing dreams of an easy retirement. Over the past years, the countries hit hardest by the crisis (Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland) have struggled to bring down their debts. Each country had its own formula. But they were joined in the misery of trying to make do on less; and then even less. No amount of cutting seemed to be enough. Businesses continued to fail at a rapid (1). Even many of those Europeans who thought they were safe lost their jobs. Those who had work saw their salaries reduced. Parents watched their children fly off to other countries looking for employment...

Spain

Spain abandoned housing projects, where rotted, waist-high weeds sprouted from cracks in the sidewalks. Soup kitchens strained to (2) all who arrived. A growing number of people have turned to scavenging outside supermarkets and wholesale food distribution centers looking for edible throwaways. One Spanish town, Girona, found the practice such a health risk that it issued an ordinance to lock the city’s garbage bins. Spain continued to wrestle with the collapse of its housing boom. Its banks tried yet again to get a handle on their true losses, and the government worked to negotiate a bailout for them. But even that brought bad news. The European Commission approved a payment of \$49 billion to four Spanish banks, but only on the condition that they lay off thousands of employees and close offices as part of their restructuring, a move that only contributed to a/an (3) unemployment rate.



Apellidos:.....Nombre:

Europe’s Debt Crisis: No Relief on the Horizon (continued from page 4)

Spain’s regional and municipal governments continued to struggle with their own debts, making relationships with the central government tense. One of Spain’s richest provinces, Catalonia, began threatening a referendum on independence, which many see as a way of pressuring Madrid to give the region back more of the money it earns. Hundreds of thousands of mortgage (4) often made headlines. Some committed suicide as the police arrived to move them out.

Portugal

For a time, Portugal was seen as a role model in the grinding crisis. In return for an international bailout, its government cut services and raised taxes while its citizens patiently endured the hardships. But that ended in 2012, when the government appeared to make one demand too (5). After Prime Minister Passos Coelho offered a plan to shift the burden of social security payments from employers to workers, tens of thousands took to the streets. Although the measure was (6) to lower labour costs, the protest from workers was so ferocious that Mr. Coelho was soon forced to withdraw it.

Greece

In Greece, it was another year of often violent demonstrations as a new government was elected and a fragile coalition worked to satisfy the requirements of the nation’s creditors, who pressed relentlessly for more (7). Greece once had an extensive public health care system that ensured near-universal coverage. But reducing costs yet again, public hospitals instituted new fees and co-payments that many poor and unemployed residents could not afford. At the same time, several drug companies, tired of not (8) paid, stopped supplying some of their drugs to the country’s hospitals. Many cancer patients could not afford the expensive drugs they needed.

Meanwhile, with Greece’s unemployment rate hitting 25 percent, and exceeding 50 percent for young people, social tensions were on the (9). Illegal immigrants, blamed for taking jobs, became the target of attacks by members of an extreme right-wing group, Golden Dawn. Those attacks only fed the popularity of the party, which was seated in Parliament for the first time.

Ireland

Ireland continued to struggle, too. The proportion of households without a working adult was among the highest in the European Union, and yet the government, under pressure from its creditors, (10) a series of cuts that reduced aid to the poorest, including child support payments. At the same time it increased property taxes.