
Proves d'accés a la Universitat (2004)

Selectivitat (LOGSE)

Anglès

Model 1

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions in English. USE YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

Time allowed: 1 hour and 30 minutes. Total score: 10 points.

The Language

When I arrived in England I thought I knew English. After I'd been here an hour I realized that I did not understand one word. In the first week I picked up a tolerable working knowledge of the language and the next seven years convinced me gradually but thoroughly that I would never know it really well, let alone perfectly. This is sad. My only consolation being that nobody speaks English perfectly.

If you live here long enough you will find out to your greatest amazement that the adjective *nice* is not the only adjective the language possesses, in spite of the fact that in the first three years you do not need to learn or use any other adjectives. You can say that the weather is nice, a restaurant is nice, Mr Soandso is nice, Mrs Soandso's clothes are nice, you had a nice time, and all this will be very nice.

Then you have to decide on your accent. The easiest way to give the impression of having a good accent or no foreign accent at all is to hold an unlit pipe in your mouth, to mutter between your teeth and finish all your sentences with the question: 'isn't it?' People will not understand much, but they are accustomed to that and they will get a most excellent impression.

Anyway, this whole language business is not at all easy. After spending eight years in this country, the other day I was told by a very kind lady: 'But why do you complain? You really speak a most excellent accent without the slightest English.'

George Mikes, *How to Be an Alien* (1946) (Edited)

1. Write a summary of the preceding passage in no more than 50 words. DO NOT copy from the text. (2 points)

2. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Explain WHY using your own words OR finding evidence in the text. NO marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (1 point)

- It took the author seven years to know English well.
- The adjective *nice* is surprisingly not the only adjective the language possesses.
- English people tend to get an excellent impression of accents they do not usually understand.
- The author ends up speaking English with a perfect accent.

3. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following question. (1 point) Why does the author consider the adjective *nice* to be one of the most useful and productive in English? Explain.

4. Follow the instructions for each question.

a) Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the following:

- 1) reasonable 2) regardless of 3) to murmur 4) anyhow (1 point)

b) Finish each sentence so that it means the same as the sentence before it. (1 point)

b1) 'Please don't repeat every thing I say.'

Would you mind ...

b2) 'If I were you, I'd try hard to acquire an Oxford accent.'

He advised me ...

5. Choose ONLY ONE of the following options. (4 points)

a) Write a composition of 120-150 words on: If an English person wanted to come to your country to learn your language, what advice would you give him or her? Explain.

b) Write a dialogue of 120-150 words on: A conversation between you and a friend of yours who is going to spend six months in England and cannot speak a word of English.