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# Proves d'accés a la Universitat (2005)

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## Selectivitat (LOGSE)

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Anglès

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Model 2

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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.

### As Consumerism Spreads, Earth Suffers, Study Says

Americans and Western Europeans have had a lock on unsustainable over-consumption for decades. But now developing countries are catching up rapidly, to the detriment of the environment, health, and happiness, according to the Worldwatch Institute in its annual report, *State of the World 2004*.

Approximately 1.7 billion people worldwide now belong to the “consumer class” – the group of people characterized by diets of highly processed food, desire for bigger houses, more and bigger cars, higher levels of debt, and lifestyles devoted to the accumulation of non-essential goods.

“Rising consumption has helped meet basic needs and create jobs,” Christopher Flavin, president of Worldwatch Institute said in a statement to the press. “But as we enter a new century, this unprecedented consumer appetite is undermining the natural systems we all depend on, and making it even harder for the world’s poor to meet their basic needs.” Items that at one point in time were considered luxuries – televisions, cell phones, computers, air conditioning – are now viewed as necessities.

The report addresses the devastating effect on the earth’s water supplies, natural resources, and ecosystems exacted by a plethora of plastic garbage bags and other cheaply made manufactured goods that lead to a “throw away” mentality.

Paradoxically, the increase in prosperity is not making humans happier or healthier. People are incurring debt and working longer hours to pay for the high-consumption lifestyle, consequently spending less time with family, friends, and community organizations.

Adapted from ‘National Geographic News’, January 12<sup>th</sup> 2004

**Vocabulary:** have a lock on (*AmE*) = total control of

**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)**

- As we enter a new century, the level of consumption seems to increase at an unusual pace.
- The majority of the so-called “consumer class” reside in developing countries.
- Many environmental issues can be directly related to consumption.
- Rising consumption appears to provide a higher quality of life.

**3. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following question. (1 point)**  
Why do developing countries find it harder to meet their basic needs nowadays?

**4. Follow the instructions for each question.**

**a) Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as the following (1 point):**

- reaching the same standard or level
- rubbish, waste
- to result in
- therefore, so

**b) Answer the questions below. (1 point)**

**b1) Join the two sentences with a relative pronoun:**

Mrs Jones does not show off her wealth. She gives a lot of money to charities.

**b2) Finish the sentence so that it means the same as the sentence before it:**

People will not achieve a higher level of life satisfaction if they do not reduce excess consumption.

Unless ...

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

**Write a composition of 120-150 words on:**

- a) Do you think people get the most out of life or are we victims of modern living?
- b) Do you think we need to change the way we consume goods?