
Proves d'accés a la Universitat (2005)

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.

Why chattering classes have nothing to say

The art of conversation is dead but the artistry of chatter is thriving, with Britons overwhelmingly admitting they rarely talk about anything more serious than traffic and television.

According to a survey of more than 2,000 adults, almost two-thirds of us admit to indulging in shallow chit-chat at the expense of genuine dialogue – even though we secretly long for more meaningful exchanges.

'Brits have lost the skill of conversation,' said Ronald Carter, conversation expert and professor of English Language at Nottingham University. 'We cannot exchange thoughts and opinions reflectively when we are in a hurry and so we resort to trivial talk,' said Carter, who has published more than 20 books and 100 papers on different aspects of spoken language. 'We have got used to chatter and have stopped making the effort to reach any more significant conversational depth.'

The survey, by Telewest Broadband, found that despite the cultural stereotype, the British weather is no longer regarded as an acceptable topic of small talk. Instead, we prefer talking about last night's TV, office gossip and traffic.

Carter believes that considered opinions are the first casualty of an excess of small talk. 'Too much chatter means we keep our real thoughts to ourselves,' he said. 'We risk becoming rigid and thoughtless in our opinions,' he added.

Adapted from 'The Observer', February 20th 2005

Vocabulary: Small talk = light conversation that people make at social occasions about unimportant things.

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)

- a) Britons hardly ever chatter.
- b) Most Britons admit they want to have more genuine conversations.
- c) British weather is still a favourite topic of small talk among Britons.
- d) Too much chatter helps us express our real thoughts.

3. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following question. (1 point)
According to Ronald Carter, why have Britons lost the skill of conversation?

4. Follow the instructions for each question.

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

- 1) flourishing, growing
- 2) to become accustomed to
- 3) rather, as an alternative
- 4) victim, loss

b) Answer the questions below. (1 point)

b1) Finish the sentence so that it means the same as the sentence before it:

'Big conversation bores me' he said.

He admitted ...