



Prova d'accés a la Universitat (2007)

Selectivitat

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.

War against skinny mannequins

Thousands of Spanish women are to be invited to undergo “body scans” so that shop-window mannequins will better reflect the real female form. The Health Ministry is sending out invitations to 8,500 women between the ages of 12 and 70, drawn randomly from the electoral roll.

The findings will also be used to design clothes that fit women better, as Spain breaks new ground in trying to combat eating disorders by promoting a healthier body image for girls.

The country’s largest fashion retailers have signed up to the initiative. Chains such as Zara, Mango, Bershka and Massimo Dutti have agreed to get rid of skinny mannequins of sizes less than a European 38 — a 10 in UK terms. “The idea is that the mannequins should not falsify reality, that they should be within the range of measurement of Spanish women,” explained Domingo Roibás, a spokesman for the ministry. Elena Salgado, the Health Minister, said: “It is unreasonable for a modern and advanced society to establish beauty stereotypes that are far removed from reality. It’s everyone’s commitment that beauty and health go hand-in-hand.”

It is not just the central Government that is taking up issues important to women. The Madrid regional government, controlled by the opposition conservative Popular Party, took the first step last year by banning very skinny models from its Cibeles fashion show.

Many Spanish women said yesterday that the ubiquitous mannequins did influence the way they thought about their bodies. “It’s a good measure,” said María José, a stylish woman entering Zara on Gran Vía, Madrid’s main shopping street. “Hopefully it will stop our girls from thinking they need to be a size 34 to be normal.”

Pressed by the Government, Spanish companies have also agreed to include size 46 clothing in their normal, rather than outside, ranges. They will also work to standardise sizes, which can vary widely between shops.

Adapted from ‘The Times’, January 27th 2007

Vocabulary: to ban (V) = to prohibit or forbid something officially.



1. 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) Spain is taking the initiative in trying to promote a healthier body image for girls in order to combat eating disorders.
- b) Fashion chains don't agree to take away skinny mannequins from shop windows.
- c) Many Spanish women believe mannequins in the windows affect the way they think about their bodies.
- d) Standard sizes can change very little between shops.

2. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following questions. (2 points)

- a) What is the main objective of the initiative proposed by the central Government?
- b) Why were some models not allowed to wear and display new clothes in the Cibeles fashion show?

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

- 1) arbitrarily, without a definite plan
- 2) to be the right shape and size for somebody
- 3) responsibility, duty
- 4) smart, elegant

4) Finish each sentence so that it means the same as the sentence before it. (2 points)

- a) 'This is not the first time I've attended a fashion show.'
I'm used ...
- b) 'He really likes fashion clothes.'
He's very fond ...
- c) 'We left before the end of the show.'
The show ...
- d) 'Someone should advise her about the importance of having a healthy diet.'
She ...

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

Write a composition of 120-150 words on:

- a) Is our society too obsessed with problems of weight and fitness? Explain.
- b) How important is it for you to wear clothes that are in fashion? Are you a fashion victim? Explain.