
PROBA DE CERTIFICACIÓN DE NIVEL AVANZADO

Inglés

Solucionario da comprensión oral

TASK 1 (...../7)

BOOK REVIEWS

AUDIO EXTRACT NUMBER	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MATCHING HEADING LETTER	A	I	H	E	F	G	D	C

Transcripts:

Ex.

0.

... Another newish book, and absolutely wonderful. It's set in the 1990s, at the end of the dotcom bubble, just as it's bursting, set in a failing ad agency in Chicago. One morning they go in and there's no flowers in the lobby, the next morning the staff is being fired. And what comes out is all of that pettiness, all of that nastiness, all of that in-fighting and there is a great scene of people arguing over who is going to get the chair of someone who is fired, because it's one of those very expensive ergonomically correct chairs.

1.

It's a book that takes place over maybe a period of five years, and it's a period in which Bob's dad dies, his mother is kind of sinking into dementia, but mostly it's a book about his love for all the animals that he and his wife have including Bertie the rabbit, Howard the dove, Stanley Sue the grey African parrot, numerous ducks, numerous geese... It's a book that, I have to say, in many other places, when I was reading this book, I was laughing so hard I could barely breathe, because the accounts are so funny.

2.

... And the book is about a young woman, named Flora Poste, who has recently been orphaned, and she has to decide which of her relatives to go live with. And she decides that she will go live with her relatives the Starkadders, who live on a kind of decaying farm called Cold Comfort Farm. And Flora is one of those determined young women who realises that if she puts her mind to it she can change everybody's life for the better, and the Starkadders absolutely need somebody to come in and make their lives better. And Flora takes all of this assorted family and sorts them out, and sets them on their way, and it's an absolute delight to read.

3.

Craig Childs is a wilderness guide and a naturalist, and this is a book that is filled with his different encounters with all sorts of animals in the wild. It's a book that, I have to say, I read it in such a state of heightened anxiety, because the things that he does in search of these animals are things that most of us, kind of city-bound folks, would find it very, very difficult to do.

4.

... And it's an absolutely perfect book for that, because it's Allan Ahlberg's book called *Previously*, and in this book we learn what happened before the obvious event of each nursery rhyme or fairy tale, so this is (INTERRUPTION) what happened before Goldilocks got at the three bears' house, how she ran into Jack and Jill and what happened before they fell down the hill, and what happened with the Frog Prince, and the wonderful thing about this picture book is, as in the best picture books, I think, the text and the pictures really have to be of the same spirit and here they are.

5.

This is the shore of Australia, and the way I would best describe *The Broken Shore* is that it's a great mystery with a social conscience. And when I read this actually, Steve, I thought, if you would read a mystery, this might be one that you would very much enjoy. But the main character is a policeman named Joe Cashin who lives in a suburb outside Melbourne, and he's on leave of absence because of a terrible accident that occurred in the course of duty, but a very wealthy man in his district is attacked and left for dead, and the two suspects appear to be two aboriginal young men.

6.

This is non-fiction, and it's a fascinating story of a man named Cy Oggins who really fell in love with soviet communism at a young age and was betrayed by those ideals. He was an American who, he and his wife Norma, had such strong ideals about what communism could do for the world. They were sent as members of the Komintern, sent to China, did spying in China, some in Europe, then Norma came back to the United States and Cy was taken to the prison camps in Siberia.

7.

... But the main two characters are two policemen, a young man named Rob who, when he was a child, was involved in a very mysterious situation where he was playing in the woods with two friends, the friends disappeared never to be found again, and he was found late in the evening with blood in his shoes, no memory of anything that's happened, and he – his parents sent him away, went to a very posh boarding school, but decides to be a policeman, comes back to Dublin, and gets a job, and then a young girl goes missing in those same woods.

Source: all extracts recorded from www.npr.org

TASK 2 (...../9)

PART 1
AS CHINA GROWS, THE WORLD SHRINKS

0.	What does the speaker think the words <i>Made in China</i> are? AS UNIVERSAL AS MONEY
1.	In which field has China become the world's largest maker? (CONSUMER) ELECTRONICS
2.	Apart from biotech, what is China quickly developing? COMPUTER(S) (MANUFACTURING)
3.	Which game does China play better than any other country? (THE WORLD) ECONOMIC GAME
4.	What is China using its own rockets for? (FOR) EXPLORING SPACE
5.	How many cities in China have a population of one million or over? BETWEEN 100 AND 160 (100-160)

PART 2
LIFE ON PLANET INDIA

6.	What did the speaker get after she typed in a code? (A STRONG) WIRELESS/INTERNET CONNECTION
7.	Who gets shocked by poverty scenes in India? (FIRST TIME) VISITORS
8.	What was the destination of the flights in her terminal? EVERY PART OF INDIA / ALL (OF) INDIA / ALL THE COUNTRY
9.	Who should be asking where India is headed? THE ENTIRE WORLD / ALL THE WORLD

Transcripts :

PART 1

China is everywhere these days. Powered by the world's most rapidly changing large economy, it is influencing our lives as consumers, employees, and citizens. The words "Made in China" are as universal as money: the nation sews more clothes and stitches more shoes and assembles more toys for the world's children than any other.

But moving up the technological ladder, China has also become the world's largest maker of consumer electronics, pumping out more TVs, DVD players, and cell phones than any other country. And more recently, China is ascending even higher still, moving quickly and expertly into biotech and computer manufacturing.

No country has ever before made a better run at climbing every step of economic development all at once. No country plays the world economic game better than China. No other country shocks the global economic hierarchy like China.

Even a casual glimpse at the news tells us that something large looms in China. The nation is making parts for Boeings 757s, and exploring space with its own domestically built rockets. China has between one hundred and one hundred and sixty cities with populations of one million or more. America by contrast has nine, while Eastern and Western Europe combined have thirty-six.

Source: Introduction to China Inc. by Ted C. Fishman (Audiobook)

PART 2

On a recent trip to India, I sat in the new Mumbai domestic airport waiting for a flight on Kingfisher Airlines, whose slogan is 'Fly the Good Times', my laptop propped on my knees. I typed in the code from the card I'd just bought from a Tata Indicom kiosk and immediately got a strong wireless connection. On the way to the airport from the old family flat in Juhu, I had passed forlorn groups of destitute families, huddled under an unfinished highway overpass on thin mats of filthy cotton, the little babies naked and snot-nosed. It was this kind of scene that profoundly shocks first-time visitors to India and to which I have never been able to become immune.

As I checked my e-mail in the gleaming terminal among the Indian and foreign businessmen and families waiting for one of the many flights departing for every part of the country, I thought about the India I'd lived in forty years ago and India today, and I wondered where India would be forty years from now.

"Where are we headed with our billions?" That is the question India is asking itself, a friend told me in New Delhi over a drink. It is a question the entire world should be asking.

Half my family is Indian. During most of my lifetime, India changed, but did so almost imperceptibly. Then, suddenly, the changes began to come with dizzying speed. With each arrival, I felt I was watching time-lapse photography. No democracy in history has undergone a transformation of India's magnitude or velocity.

Source: Introduction to Planet India by Mira Kamdar (Audiobook)

TASK 3 (...../9)

INTERVIEW WITH IAN MCEWAN

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Transcript:

Journalist: The possibility of a nuclear holocaust obviously worries just about everybody who thinks, and you and Michael Berkeley, the composer, wrote together an Oratorio called *Or Shall We Die?* Mm, and the whole of that phrase from all shall we die, is: shall there be womanly times or shall we die? Lines you wrote for the Oratorio ... Do you feel that if we, as people took on more womanly qualities, gentle qualities, I take it, we would be a better kind of people?

McEwan: What I do believe, very sincerely, is that unless as a civilization we do take on, and I'm talking of men as well as women, er ... those qualities which we traditionally associate with the feminine, those qualities of compassion and of nurturing, then there is not very much hope at all for the future. Those qualities we associate with male principles, aggression and competitiveness, clearly do characterize the way in which we are proceeding at the moment. So I suppose what we were calling for in the Oratorio was a shift, and principally a shift that must come within individuals themselves, and of course principally among men.

Journalist: Are you optimistic that this is going to happen?

McEwan: Well, it's ... er ... something that I, like everyone else, you see signs of it among individuals, and then you think there's definitely hope, and then at other times, you witness acts of incredible cruelty, and your heart sinks and then you think well, maybe there isn't. So, I, I ... do waver and I think it's got a lot to do with just what one chooses to look at.

Journalist: I mean, you're soon to become a father for the first time, so you must feel this very deeply ...

McEwan: Yes, I think that as soon as you have children in your life your anxiety about the continued existence of the world redoubles without doubt, and it's for that reason the Oratorio was dedicated to my wife's two daughters, Polly and Alice, who are my stepchildren, stepdaughters. Yes, I think that children make you feel terribly passionate about the world.

Journalist: And yet, the children in your stories are on the whole pretty ghastly, I need to mention, or so I think, and most of your characters are very unsympathetic people, I mean, you don't write womanly stories at all, you write very tough and bleak stories.

McEwan: I think the short stories belong to a time in my life when I was experimenting with all kinds of different things, I mean, the two volumes of short stories I published were written in my early twenties, and they're largely about adolescence, they're largely about the sort of rite of passage, that stretch of my life that was recently over ... So they're rather at some remove from the kinds of things that concern me now, though at the same time I don't want to disown them in any way at all, but they definitely are sort of a younger man's story.

Journalist: Are they in a way autobiographical? I wonder ... there are a lot of young boys who are the central characters of your stories.

McEwan: They are in a sense autobiographical, though not in the sense that I think most readers would assume with some horror. There's bits of me in there all the time but in a very displaced way, in a way that I think all writers understand they can't keep themselves out of their fiction, but I don't think ... with then maybe the exception, of say, of "First of Last Rites", the title story in the first volume, I myself did fish for eels unsuccessfully.

Journalist: Is that set in Norfolk where you have had some part of your life?

McEwan: Yes, yes, but much else in the story is a complete fabrication.

Source: www.bbc.co.uk