

SÈRIE 5.

COMPRESIÓ LECTORA

HOW CHINA IS WINNING THE SCHOOL RACE

1. The results of the 2009 Pisa tests in Hong Kong and Shanghai were...
 - a. **much better than in other countries.**
 - b. as spectacular as those in other countries.
 - c. not as good as was expected.
 - d. good, but not great.

2. According to the text, which of the following statements is FALSE?
 - a. Chinese parents supervise their children's schoolwork very closely.
 - b. Education is a very important issue for Chinese parents.
 - c. **All Chinese secondary students take extra after-school lessons.**
 - d. Chinese students spend most of their afternoons doing homework.

3. In order to get good results in education, both Shanghai and Hong Kong ...
 - a. will become open and dynamic.
 - b. **want to copy successful education systems from other countries.**
 - c. will continue with their own successful education practices.
 - d. want the best educators in the world.

4. The slogan "First class city, first class education" suggests that...
 - a. only people from the higher classes can get an education.
 - b. to get an education, first you must go to class.
 - c. **they want to offer the best education to its citizens.**
 - d. in this city, everybody must get an education.

5. In the last ten years, Shanghai has...
 - a. not done much to modernise its school system.
 - b. started a teacher training program.
 - c. **introduced computers into schools.**
 - d. had 80% of people who leave school.

6. Shanghai...
 - a. has allowed immigrants to go to school for over 50 years.
 - b. is the Chinese city with most migrant students.
 - c. has no control over who lives and works there.
 - d. **only gives residence permit to the best students.**

7. Hong Kong had to make improvements in education...
 - a. because its industries were a service centre for China.
 - b. **to continue playing an important part in Chinese economy.**
 - c. because China was just as expensive and the industry moved there.
 - d. when China upgraded its industry in the 1990s.

8. According to the OECD, in
- Hong Kong, 30% of university students become teachers.
 - Hong Kong, only the best university students may become teachers.**
 - the USA, one third of the best university students become teachers.
 - the USA, the bottom university students will never be teachers.

COMPRENSIÓ AUDITIVA**SMILING INDIANS**

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean

proud: orgullós / orgulloso

lopsided: esbiaixat / parcial

to break into a grin: fer un somriure burlaner / hacer una sonrisa burlona

stray: perduda / perdida

gunshots: trets / disparos

Ready? Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

In the early 1900s, photographer Edward Sheriff Curtis traveled around the United States photographing North American Indians from 80 tribes. Those 2000 or so black and white images show Native Americans in tribal dress: serious, facing the camera straight on and mostly all not smiling. Well now, a century later, comes a video in response to Curtis's photos. It's titled "Smiling Indians," and it's exactly that, four minutes of video of Native Americans, young and old, smiling and laughing. It was co-created by Ryan Red Corn, an Osage Indian from Oklahoma. Journalist Edward Block is chatting with Mr. Red Corn today to find out more about the video and why he decided to make it.

_____ Now listen to the
interview _____

EDWARD BLOCK: Welcome to the program, Ryan.

Mr. RYAN RED CORN: Well, thank you for having me.

EDWARD BLOCK: You have dedicated this video to the photographer Edward Sheriff Curtis. Did you mean that dedication sincerely or were you being sarcastic?

Mr. RED CORN: I think it would be fair to say that I was being sarcastic.

EDWARD BLOCK: Well, why is that? What's your problem with those images from Edward Curtis?

Mr. RED CORN: Basically, they appear in every history book, you know, from the time that you enter grade school to even the documentaries that are shown on TV now. It becomes the dominant image that people have of Indians. I mean, they imagine that Indians don't ever smile.

EDWARD BLOCK: You know, it's interesting because when I look at those old photographs, I see images that seem to me very dignified, very **proud**, unsmiling, yes, but in most photographs from the early 1900s people would not be smiling. It was a serious business to have your picture taken!

Mr. RED CORN: It's true, but unfortunately, that was kind of the end of the era when people were taking pictures of Natives. Even if you just Google Native American or Indian, you'll still come up with a ridiculous, **lopsided** image of what Native Americans are like today.

EDWARD BLOCK: There are babies smiling in this video. There are a few times when there's somebody who starts out looking very serious and then **breaks into a grin**. And what were you telling people when you were trying to get them to smile or explaining what you were doing here?

Mr. RED CORN: I just told them I was shooting a video of smiling Indians.

EDWARD BLOCK: And it worked?

Mr. RED CORN: It pretty much worked. I mean, it's like... the presence of humor in Indian country is everywhere, it's just right there on the surface all the time. All the Indians I know are smiling Indians. While we were making the video, everybody in the community wanted to participate in order to show that the old-fashioned image that Indians are always serious is simply not true.

EDWARD BLOCK: Isn't it true, however, that many North American Indians have really hard lives? Isn't it difficult to smile when life around you is so tough?

Mr. RED CORN: It is true that for many Indians, especially those living in poor areas in and around reservations, life is not easy. And sometimes there aren't many reasons to smile. But even in those conditions, people always find a reason to be positive, and that happens to everybody, not just Indians. The point here was to show a side of our

communities that a lot of people never get a chance to see. It's like saying, not only are we still here, we're enjoying ourselves, too.

EDWARD BLOCK: And you really must have enjoyed yourself making this video, right?

Mr. RED CORN: Oh yes, very much. When I was shooting the video, I couldn't stop smiling all the time and my face hurt so much just from looking at all these people laughing, especially the children and the older people, they were having so much fun!

EDWARD BLOCK: You have this message at the very end of your video. This message pops up: If you remember nothing else about me, remember that I smiled.

Mr. RED CORN: When I was editing the video, we heard some gunshots across the street. And I thought: Man, this would be a really poetic way to end my days if I'm sitting here working on this video, and a stray bullet comes in and gets me. So I had this idea that if that happened, I was just going to type on my cell phone that if you remember nothing else about me, just remember that I smiled. And we decided to put it at the end of the video. It seemed like a good way to finish because, you know, that was exactly what we were trying to show in this project.

EDWARD BLOCK: Well, Ryan Red Corn, thanks for talking to us about it.

Mr. RED CORN: You're very welcome, I appreciate it.

Choose the most appropriate answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct. Look at number 0 as an example.
[0.25 points each correct answer]

0. How many photographs did Edward Sheriff Curtis take?

- 80 or so.
 - approximately 2000.**
 - about 1900.
 - 2000 or so from each tribe.
-

1. What problem does Mr. Red Corn have with Curtis's pictures?

- They never appear in history books.
- They are only shown in documentaries.
- They give people the impression that Indians never smile.**
- They are the dominant image when you enter grade school.

2. According to the conversation, why didn't most people smile in old photographs?

- Because they wanted to look like Indians.
- Because people in the 1900s were very serious
- Because smiling was not considered a good business.
- Because having your picture taken was a serious thing.**

3. How did Mr. Red Corn get people to smile in his video?

- He told them to look very serious and then break into a grin.
- He simply told them he was doing a video about smiling Indians.**
- He told them to look ridiculous and lopsided for the video.
- He showed them pictures of smiling babies.

4. According to the interview, humor in Indian country is present...

- everywhere all the time.**
- wherever there are old-fashioned Indians.
- only on the surface.
- only in some communities.

5. The interviewer thinks it's difficult for Indians to smile because

- they can never find a reason to be positive
- they don't like to say that they're enjoying themselves.
- many of them live in very tough conditions.**
- they don't get a chance to enjoy themselves.

6. Mr. Red Corn couldn't stop smiling while making the video because...

- there were so many people laughing.**
- the Indians were making fun of him.
- he was trying to give a message.
- the older people were having too much fun.

7. When Mr. Red Corn was editing the video he...

- thought about poetic ways to end his days.
- was afraid that a stray bullet had come in.
- heard gunshots across the street.**
- couldn't remember anything else.

8. How did the video end?

- With a message about what happened across the street.
- With a message that spoke to the heart of the video.**
- With Mr. Red Corn typing a message on his cell phone.
- With Mr. Red Corn smiling.

SÈRIE 3.

Comprensió lectoraWHY KIDS BULLY: BECAUSE THEY'RE POPULAR

- 1- According to the text, mean kids behave that way
 - a) because mothers do not prevent them to do so.
 - b) as a result of the pressure of other students.
 - c) for no apparent reason, just because it is accepted.**
 - d) as a consequence of their empathy with their friends.

- 2- The text argues that aggression at school
 - a) increases with the kids' popularity.**
 - b) increases when the kid is involved in the school hierarchy.
 - c) is insignificant among popular kids.
 - d) depends on the school's social network.

- 3- Faris and Felmlee's research to determine the pathways of aggression revealed that...
 - a) in principle any kid may become a bully.**
 - b) physical force, insults or spreading gossip are the only forms of bullying.
 - c) kids who were in the bottom 2% of the school hierarchy inevitably become bullies.
 - d) reaching the top 2% of the school hierarchy conditioned kids towards bullying.

- 4- Faris and Felmlee also argue that
 - a) popularity is the only determining factor in bullying.
 - b) race and family background are strongly determining factors in bullying.
 - c) psychological or background influences are also relevant when considering bullying.**
 - d) demographic and socioeconomic factors condition the school hierarchy.

- 5- According to the text, hostile behaviour
 - a) increases the status of the kid at school.
 - b) works mostly because kids like bullying.
 - c) makes kids more popular at school.
 - d) does not imply a rise in popularity.**

- 6- The study found out that both boys and girls bully, but the difference is that
 - a) girls prefer bullying boys rather than the other way round.
 - b) boys clearly spread more gossip than girls do.
 - c) bullying was clearly more violent among boys than among girls.
 - d) bullying was more frequent between girls than the other way round.**

- 7- Which one of the following statements is true? According to the study, 'gender-bridge' kids
- a) **tended to be more aggressive than other students.**
 - b) are kids that have more dates than others.
 - c) are very popular because they bully the rest.
 - d) prove that gender is a neutral factor when considering bullying.
- 8- All in all, Faris argues that the solution to bullying
- a) is to change the behaviour of the bullies.
 - b) **lies in changing the mind of the majority of kids at school.**
 - c) is to encourage opposition against the bullies.
 - d) lies in introducing changes in the school hierarchy.

Comprensió audivia**NORWICH**

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean

mayor: batlle, alcalde / alcalde

keep: torre / torreón

spire: pinnacle / aguja

cloister: claustre / claustro

Olympic Torch Relay: relleus de la torxa olímpica/ relevos de la antorcha olímpica

banners: pancartes / pancartas

Ready?

Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

Norwich is a city on the River Wensum in England and the regional administrative center in Norfolk. With a population of more than 195,000 people, Norwich is an ideal destination for family and individual outings due to its proximity to London and its historical and cultural offer. With us today in our programme "Cities of the World", is its mayor, Mr. Johnston.

[Now listen to the interview.]

Reporter: Good morning, Johnston and thanks for accepting our invitation.

Mr Johnston: Thank you for inviting me.

Reporter: Why did you decide to run for the mayor of Norwich, Mr. Johnston?

Mr. Johnston: Well, I have to admit that I only decided to run for mayor one year before election time. So, it's something recent. For about 10 years I'd been working for the labour party helping organise city events, designing projects to make our city a better one. I've been the mayor of Norwich for two years, now and I still have many things to do to improve in the city.

Reporter: How did you get into politics then?

Mr. Johnston: I've always been into politics, you know. My father was a city counselor and he was a Member of Parliament for 8 years. Politics has always been part of my life. So when I finished my degree in Law I joined the Labour party and worked for it in my city. You know, I was born in Norwich and I've lived in this city all my life. I only lived away when I studied at London University and when I took a master's degree at Harvard University. Seven years away from my beloved city. That was more than enough! So I came back and decided to help Norwich become a much better city and I've been working for it ever since.

Reporter: It seems to me that you're in love with this city. Tell our listeners something about it. For instance, why should people come and visit it?

Mr. Johnston: In the 11th century Norwich was the largest city in England after London and one of the most important places in the country. In fact, from the medieval period until the start of the Industrial Revolution, Norwich was England's second city, enormously prosperous and culturally active. This has created a rich heritage, for example we are proud to have the largest intact medieval street pattern in Europe.

Reporter: One of the city's most famous landmarks is Norwich Castle. Tell us something about it.

Mr. Johnston: It was built by the Normans as a Royal Palace 900 years ago. Now it is a museum and art gallery, and home to some of the most outstanding collections of fine art, archaeology and natural history. But let me tell you that my favourite place there is the Norman keep, which has been made into a new space where models, computers and videos bring history vividly to life.

Reporter: And what can you say about the Cathedral? I think it is another remarkable building, isn't it?

Mr. Johnston: Yes. Norwich's Cathedral is magnificent: it is one of the finest complete Romanesque cathedrals in Europe. It has the second tallest spire and the largest monastic cloister in England. It is set in beautiful grounds as well. If we had time for it I would tell you all the big things our city has. And there are a lot!!!

Reporter: You are right; unfortunately we don't have time for that much. So let me ask you about a special event this summer. Norwich was on the screen on the occasion of the Olympic Torch Relay.

Mr. Johnston: Indeed! We were very excited that Norwich was chosen as one of the destination cities for the Olympic Torch Relay. There was a whole city celebration welcoming the Olympic Torch to the streets of Norwich on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 July. We had a packed programme, which continued late into the evening, including the Olympic stage show, a line-up of bands and street theatre in the city center, and a spectacular 3D video projection.

Reporter: I've also read there were some spectacular street decorations...

Mr. Johnston: Oh yes! The route was animated with activities created by arts organisations and communities who had worked together to design and make giant puppets, flags and human pyramids. Trees along the route were covered in Olympic colours, banners in lampposts and the whole city was dressed to welcome the Torch. I'll never forget that day. The whole city seemed to be so happy, even the weather was great, the sun shining, amazing really amazing.

Reporter: Well, Mr Johnston I can see you're proud of your city.

Mr. Johnston: Indeed I am.

Reporter: Thank you for sharing your city with us for some minutes. It's been a pleasure.

Mr. Johnston: Thank you!

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct.

[0.25 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.08 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

Look at number 0 as an example.

0. Norwich ...

- has more than 200,000 inhabitants.
 - is in Norfolk.**
 - is far from London.
 - doesn't have many historical buildings.
-

1. When did Mr. Johnston decide to run for Norwich mayor?

- Approximately 10 years ago.
- Three years ago.**
- Since he started working for the Labour party.
- Since he organized city events.

2. Which of the following statements about Mr. Johnston is FALSE?

- He has a degree in law.
- He studied at Harvard University.
- He lived away from Norwich for seven years.
- He was a Member of Parliament.**

3. When was Norwich the second largest city in England?

- From the Industrial Revolution to the present day.
- Only in the Medieval Age.
- From the 11th century till the Industrial Revolution.**
- Only in the 11th century.

4. Norwich Castle

- keeps a model tower full of computers.
- used to be a palace for the Norman kings.**
- was destroyed by the Normans.
- is now an archeological site.

5. Norwich Cathedral is

- surrounded by a cemetery.
- the tallest in England.
- Romanesque and has a tall spire.**
- beautiful but has no cloister.

6. How long did the celebrations for the Olympic Torch relay last?

- One evening.
- Two days.**
- Three days.
- One day.

7. Which activities were organized to celebrate the Olympic Torch Relay?

- There were bands and people drawing in the streets.
- There were shows and animals parading in the streets.
- There was just a spectacular video projection in the city center.
- There were video projections, shows and bands in the city center.**

8. Which of these things was NOT used in the city center celebrations?

- Human pyramids.
- Giant puppets
- Flags in lampposts.**
- Olympic colours in trees.