



Proves d'accés a la universitat

Convocatòria 2014

Llengua estrangera **Anglès**

Sèrie 3 - A

	Qualificació	Etiqueta de qualificació
Comprensió escrita	<input type="text"/>	
Redacció	<input type="text"/>	
Comprensió oral	<input type="text"/>	

Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a

Ubicació del tribunal

Número del tribunal

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

“Votes for women? What a ridiculous idea!” Some of the arguments that male voters used in the past to prevent women the right to vote would seem unacceptable to most of us nowadays.

However, many people would be surprised to read that the women of Switzerland received the right to vote in 1971, and yet **canton** Appenzell Innerrhoden resisted until 1991. Most male and female residents in that part of the country saw the law preventing women’s **suffrage** as one of their cultural traditions, along with voting by assembly in the town square. Only after two women **filed suit** with the Swiss Federal Court was the canton forced to extend suffrage to its female residents.

Some argued that women were less intelligent than men, that their brains were smaller than men’s. Others feared women would go out to campaign without asking their husbands’ permission. The point was also raised for equality because, they said, “women’s natural modesty would stop them going out to vote when pregnant, and since rural women have more babies than those in towns, this would give an unfair advantage to the latter.” “And if women were actually elected, that would be a source of humiliation for their husbands!”

Such were the arguments that convinced Switzerland’s male population to **turn down** every proposal to allow women the vote. In New Zealand women had the right to vote since 1893 and in most European countries since the end of World War I. Even though both chambers of the Swiss parliament finally gave the green light to women’s suffrage in 1958, more than 50 years after Europe’s pioneer Finland, when proposed to the people, two thirds of the male citizens turned parliament’s recommendation down.

But it wasn’t as if Swiss women had stood **idly** waiting for their rights to be given to them. Emilie Kempin-Spyri (1853-1901), Switzerland’s first woman lawyer, had claimed that the article of the Federal Constitution which stated “All Swiss are equal before the law” meant that men and women had equal rights. However, this assertion was rejected by the Swiss Federal Court.

The first feminist association was established in 1868, calling for civil rights, and the right to attend university. There had been proposals to include women’s suffrage in the 1874 constitution. In 1929 a petition for voting rights managed to collect a quarter of a million signatures—but it was ignored.

Switzerland’s system of direct democracy, which gave voters the final say on legislation, ironically kept women out. However, the extensive autonomy of even the smallest administrative units gave them their chance to **break in** to political life. It was a tiny commune in Canton Valais that, in 1957, was the first to allow its women members to vote. Several cantons gradually followed and in the 1960s women started occupying more and more important positions in local parliaments and governments. In 1968 Geneva, then the country’s third largest city, had a woman mayor—but she still couldn’t vote in federal elections.

When the human rights convention of the Council of Europe was signed, Switzerland remained out of those parts that call for sexual equality. The protest this provoked forced the government to revise its position and a new referendum was put to the country.

The result: on February 7th 1971 Swiss males finally gave their female compatriots the full federal voting rights by a two thirds majority. The official results showed 621,403 of the all-male electorate supported the vote for women and 323,596 were against.

Text adapted from *Swissworld.org*

canton: One of the several states which form the Swiss Confederation.

suffrage: vot / voto

filed suit (to file suit): demandar, portar a judici / demandar, llevar a juicio

turn down (to turn down): rebutjar / rechazar

idly: inactiu / inactivo

break in (to break in): entrar, introduir-se / entrar, introducirse

Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words.

[4 points]

1. Should the right to vote be lowered to the age of 16, instead of 18? What would be the advantages or disadvantages? Write an argumentative article giving opinions for and against this issue.
2. Imagine you are a candidate at your class delegate election. Write a school article inviting people to vote and encouraging your classmates to vote for you, explaining your arguments.

Grammar	
Vocabulary	
Text	
Maturity	
Total	
Nota de la redacció	

Part 3: Listening comprehension

DO SCHOOLS DESTROY CREATIVITY?

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

smart: intelligent / inteligente

skills: destreses, capacitats / habilidades, capacidades

fidgeting (to fidget): no parar quiet / no estarse quieto

challenges: reptes / retos

dropout rate: taxa d'abandonament / tasa de abandono

turn on (to turn on): estimular, motivar

turn off (to turn off): desmotivar

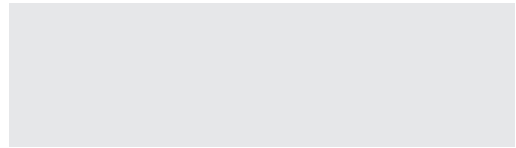
Ready?

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

David Peterson: Do schools kill creativity? That's one of the ideas we'll explore in a special conversation with Professor Mila Saunders, an internationally recognized expert on creativity and education innovation. Professor Saunders has worked with governments and cultural organizations to make creativity a more integral part of education.

[Now listen to the conversation.]

Etiqueta del corrector/a



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Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a



Institut
d'Estudis
Catalans



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Llengua estrangera **Anglès**

Sèrie 4 - A

	Qualificació	Etiqueta de qualificació
Comprensió escrita	<input type="text"/>	
Redacció	<input type="text"/>	
Comprensió oral	<input type="text"/>	

Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a

Ubicació del tribunal

Número del tribunal

WHY BILINGUALS ARE SMARTER

Speaking two languages has obvious practical benefits in an increasingly globalized world. But in recent years, scientists have begun to show that the advantages of bilingualism are even more fundamental than being able to converse with a wider range of people. Being bilingual, it turns out, makes you smarter. It can have a profound effect on your brain, improving cognitive skills not related to language and even protecting against dementia in old age.

This view of bilingualism is remarkably different from the one through much of the 20th century. Researchers and educators used to consider that a second language was an interference that **hindered** a child's academic and intellectual development. They were not wrong: there is ample evidence that in a bilingual's brain both language systems are active even when only one language is being used, therefore creating situations in which one system obstructs the other. But this interference, researchers are finding out, isn't so much a **handicap** as an advantage. It forces the brain to resolve internal conflict, making the mind strengthen its cognitive muscles.

Bilinguals, for instance, seem to be better than monolinguals at solving certain kinds of mental puzzles. In a 2004 study by the psychologists Ellen Bialystok and Michelle Martin-Rhee, bilingual and monolingual preschoolers were asked to **sort** blue circles and red squares presented on a computer screen into two digital boxes—one marked with a blue square and the other marked with a red circle. In the first task, the children had to sort the shapes by colour, placing blue circles in the box marked with the blue square and red squares in the box marked with the red circle. Both groups did this with similar easiness. Next, the children were asked to sort by shape, which was more challenging because it required placing the images in a box marked with a different colour. The bilinguals were quicker at performing this task.

The evidence from such studies suggests that the bilingual experience improves the brain's executive function—a command system that directs the processes that we use for planning, solving problems and doing other mentally demanding tasks. These processes include avoiding distractions, **switching** attention from one thing to another and holding information in mind—like remembering a sequence of directions while driving.

The main difference between bilinguals and monolinguals may be more basic: an increased ability to **monitor** the environment. “Bilinguals have to switch languages quite often—you may talk to your father in one language and to your mother in another,” says Albert Costa, a researcher at the Pompeu Fabra University in Spain. “This requires observing changes around you in the same way that we monitor our surroundings when driving.” In a study comparing German-Italian bilinguals with Italian monolinguals on monitoring tasks, Mr Costa found that the bilingual speakers did them better and needed less brain activity, indicating that they were more efficient.

The bilingual experience appears to influence the brain from infancy to old age. In a recent study of 44 elderly Spanish-English bilinguals, scientists directed by the neuropsychologist Tamar Gollan of the University of California, San Diego, found that individuals with a higher degree of bilingualism were more resistant than others to the **onset** of dementia and other symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and developed them later.

Nobody ever doubted the power of language. But who could imagine that the words we hear and the sentences we speak might have such a big influence?

Text adapted from *The New York Times* (March 17, 2012)

hindered (to hinder): entorpir / entorpecer

handicap: desavantatge / desventaja

sort (to sort): classificar / clasificar

switch (to switch): canviar / cambiar

monitor (to monitor): observar, controlar

onset: començament / inicio

Part 1: Reading comprehension

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

[4 points: 0.5 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

		Espai per al corrector/a		
		Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	Recent scientific studies have proved that bilingual people <input type="checkbox"/> obtain greater benefits in today's world. <input type="checkbox"/> are better conversationalists. <input type="checkbox"/> have better cognitive skills than monolinguals. <input type="checkbox"/> will not suffer from mental diseases in old age.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	As opposed to the 20th century view, we now know that <input type="checkbox"/> bilingual children had more learning advantages in the past. <input type="checkbox"/> when two languages interfere, they cause many disadvantages. <input type="checkbox"/> language interference is good because it makes the mind stronger. <input type="checkbox"/> the brain of bilingual people is obstructed more easily.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	In the first part of a study by Bialystok and Martin-Rhee, both mono and bilingual kids <input type="checkbox"/> had difficulty in classifying the colours in the corresponding circle. <input type="checkbox"/> found it similarly easy to classify the figures according to colour. <input type="checkbox"/> had problems using the computer. <input type="checkbox"/> put circles and squares together in the same box.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	In the second part of the study, which was more difficult, <input type="checkbox"/> bilingual kids were faster at solving the problem. <input type="checkbox"/> there was no difference between the performance of mono and bilingual kids. <input type="checkbox"/> monolingual kids could not classify the figures according to shape. <input type="checkbox"/> both groups of kids encountered the same difficulties.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	According to the text, which one of the following tasks is NOT carried out by the brain's executive function? <input type="checkbox"/> Making plans and decisions. <input type="checkbox"/> Retaining a sequence of information. <input type="checkbox"/> Giving directions to people who drive. <input type="checkbox"/> Changing your focus of attention.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	According to Albert Costa, changing from one language to another all the time <input type="checkbox"/> makes you observe the changes around you. <input type="checkbox"/> may improve your driving skills. <input type="checkbox"/> allows you to talk to your father and mother in different languages. <input type="checkbox"/> makes you quicker at changing the things around you.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	In Mr Costa's study, <input type="checkbox"/> German-Italian bilinguals required more brain activity on their monitoring tasks. <input type="checkbox"/> Italian monolinguals were not as active as German-Italian bilinguals. <input type="checkbox"/> Italian monolinguals got better results in their monitoring tasks. <input type="checkbox"/> German-Italian bilinguals did their monitoring tasks better and more efficiently.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	A study at the University of California revealed that <input type="checkbox"/> monolinguals suffer from more mental illnesses like dementia. <input type="checkbox"/> bilinguals developed some mental diseases at a more advanced age. <input type="checkbox"/> Alzheimer's disease is more resistant in monolingual people. <input type="checkbox"/> some people were more resistant to bilingualism than others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Correctes	Incorrectes	No contestades
Recompte de les respostes		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words.

[4 points]

1. “Speaking two languages has obvious practical benefits in an increasingly globalized world.” What are these benefits? What are the main advantages and disadvantages of being bilingual? Write an argumentative essay. You may include examples from your own experience.
2. Write a letter to a pen friend (or key pal) who has never visited Catalonia. Explain the language diversity in the Catalan society and your own experience as a bilingual speaker.

Grammar	
Vocabulary	
Text	
Maturity	
Total	
Nota de la redacció	

Part 3: Listening comprehension

ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE?

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

outer: exterior

findings: descobertes / descubrimientos

proof: prova / prueba

claim (to claim): afirmar

unavoidable: inevitable

coverage: cobertura informativa

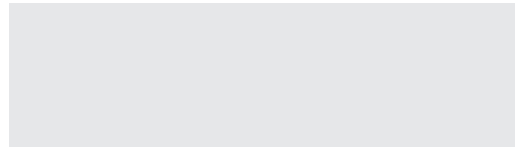
Ready?

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

Some scientific discoveries can be fascinating, but sometimes it is hard to believe that they are true. That's the case with an article in the March issue of the *Journal of Cosmology*. In it, Richard Hoover, a scientist at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, says he found signs of bacterial life in a group of meteorites, and that raises the exciting possibility that life had once arrived on Earth from outer space. In the following conversation, journalist Johanna Palmer talks with George Cody, a NASA expert on meteorites. They discuss Professor Hoover's discoveries concerning the existence of life on Mars.

[Now listen to the interview.]

Etiqueta del corrector/a



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Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a



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