

*Ministero dell' Istruzione, dell' Università e della Ricerca*  
**ESAME DI STATO DI ISTRUZIONE SECONDARIA SUPERIORE**

**Indirizzi:** LI04, EA03 - LICEO LINGUISTICO

**(Testo valevole anche per le corrispondenti sperimentazioni internazionali e quadriennali)**

**Tema di:** LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 1 (INGLESE) e  
LINGUA E CULTURA STRANIERA 3 (SPAGNOLO)

**PART 1 – COMPREHENSION AND INTERPRETATION**

*Read the text below and answer the questions below*

UNDER certain circumstances there are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea. There are circumstances in which, whether you partake of the tea or not—some people of course never do—the situation is in itself delightful. Those that I have in mind in beginning to unfold this simple history offered an admirable setting to an innocent pastime.

5 The implements of the little feast had been disposed upon the lawn of an old English country-house, in what I should call the perfect middle of a splendid summer afternoon. Part of the afternoon had waned, but much of it was left, and what was left was of the finest and rarest quality. Real dusk would not arrive for many hours; but the flood of summer light had begun to ebb, the air had grown mellow, the shadows were long upon the smooth, dense turf. They lengthened slowly, however, and the scene

10 expressed that sense of leisure still to come which is perhaps the chief source of one's enjoyment of such a scene at such an hour. From five o'clock to eight is on certain occasions a little eternity; but on such an occasion as this the interval could be only an eternity of pleasure. The persons concerned in it were taking their pleasure quietly, and they were not of the sex which is supposed to furnish the regular votaries of the ceremony I have mentioned. The shadows on the perfect lawn were straight and

15 angular; they were the shadows of an old man sitting in a deep wicker chair near the low table on which the tea had been served, and of two younger men strolling to and fro, in desultory talk, in front of him. The old man had his cup in his hand; it was an unusually large cup, of a different pattern from the rest of the set, and painted in brilliant colours. He disposed of its contents with much circumspection, holding it for a long time close to his chin, with his face turned to the house. His

20 companions had either finished their tea or were indifferent to their privilege; they smoked cigarettes as they continued to stroll. One of them, from time to time, as he passed, looked with a certain attention at the elder man, who, unconscious of observation, rested his eyes upon the rich red front of his dwelling. The house that rose beyond the lawn was a structure to repay such consideration, and was the most characteristic object in the peculiarly English picture I have attempted to sketch.

25 It stood upon a low hill, above the river—the river being the Thames, at some forty miles from London. A long gabled front of red brick, with the complexion of which time and the weather had played all sorts of picturesque tricks, only, however, to improve and refine it, presented itself to the lawn, with its patches of ivy, its clustered chimneys, its windows smothered in creepers. The house had a name and a history; the old gentleman taking his tea would have been delighted to tell you these

30 things: how it had been built under Edward the Sixth, had offered a night's hospitality to the great Elizabeth (whose august person had extended itself upon a huge, magnificent, and terribly angular bed which still formed the principal honour of the sleeping apartments), had been a good deal bruised and defaced in Cromwell's wars, and then, under the Restoration, repaired and much enlarged; and how, finally, after having been remodelled and disfigured in the eighteenth century, it had passed into the

35 careful keeping of a shrewd American banker, who had bought it originally because it was offered at a great bargain; bought it with much grumbling at its ugliness, its antiquity, its incommmodity, and who now, at the end of twenty years, had become conscious of a real æsthetic passion for it.

(656 words)

From: *The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James, Penguin, Chapter 1 (1908)

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Read the following statements and say whether each one is **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Stated (NS)**. Put a cross in the correct box.

1. The scene is set in the slowly fading light of a summer afternoon.

T

F

NS

2. There are no women present at the tea ceremony in the garden.

T

F

NS

3. The old man is having tea while looking at the house.

T

F

NS

4. The house was built during the reign of Elizabeth 1st.

T

F

NS

5. The American banker had only made minor changes to the interior of the house.

T

F

NS

Answer the questions below. Use complete sentences and your own words.

6. What general atmosphere does the description of the garden and the ritual of the afternoon tea create? Justify your answer by referring to the text.

7. How does the old man's attitude towards the house change over time?

8. The pictorial quality of the narration creates analogies with a painting. How does the language used contribute to this effect? Substantiate your answer by referring to the text.

**PART 2 – WRITTEN PRODUCTION**

*A love of tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their moment of peril, but the new view must come. The world must roll forward.*

*Winston Churchill, 1944*

Many people argue that traditions represent our roots and continuity with our past, and should be maintained intact, while others think that traditions should adapt to change and circumstance. Discuss the quotation in a 300-word essay giving reasons for your answer.

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### **1ª PARTE: COMPRENSIÓN Y ANÁLISIS**

#### **Lee el texto siguiente y responde las preguntas que vienen a continuación**

“Ciencias y letras conviven desde la Edad Media en la Universidad de Salamanca, la más antigua de Europa, junto a Bolonia y Oxford.

- 5 Ocho siglos son muchos. Y son más en un lugar pequeño, donde se vuelven más intensas las relaciones entre el tiempo y el espacio. Cuando yo era niño en Salamanca, tenía un atlas histórico en el que aparecían, proyectados sobre una larga línea, los grandes acontecimientos de la humanidad. Una señal apuntaba, en pleno medievo, el surgimiento de las universidades europeas: junto a Bolonia y Oxford aparecía Salamanca. Las otras eran algo más antiguas, pero Salamanca fue la primera de Europa en llamarse universidad, *universitas*, que quiere decir totalidad de los conocimientos. Y en aquel tiempo, como nos enseñó Umberto Eco, el nombre era tan importante como la rosa, si no más.
- 10 La fundación de una universidad requería en la Edad Media la intervención de los dos poderes de la época: el rey y el papa. El fundador de la de Salamanca fue Alfonso IX de León en 1218. Unas décadas más tarde llegó desde Roma el reconocimiento pontificio, que homologaba universalmente sus títulos (...) Casi sin que nos demos cuenta, la Universidad de Salamanca es una de las instituciones públicas más antiguas del mundo. (...)
- 15 La salmantina fue la primera biblioteca pública del Estado, por decreto de Alfonso X el Sabio, y la primera biblioteca universitaria de Europa. Sus estanterías dieciochescas recuerdan mucho a la cercana Plaza Mayor, y su rectángulo contiene, como proclama el sello de la universidad, lo mejor de todos los saberes. El derecho, la medicina, la filosofía o la retórica conviven con las matemáticas, la astronomía y la música, que ya en la Antigüedad iban de la mano. Los volúmenes en latín, que fue la lengua total de la cultura, dieron paso gradualmente a los tratados en las lenguas modernas. Códices admirables, incunables únicos y ediciones príncipe suman un estable tesoro, si podemos usar las palabras de Paul Valéry. En él entraron también los llamados libros redondos, que así es como Torres Villarroel tuvo que etiquetar los globos terráneos.
- 20
- 25 En la arquitectura se aprecia más bruscamente el paso de la Edad Media a la modernidad. La portada renacentista de la universidad se destaca del edificio gótico igual que el tiempo nuevo surgió del antiguo. “

(359 palabras)

J. A. González Iglesias, *El País Semanal*.  
[https://elpais.com/elpais/2018/02/23/eps/1519390384\\_243933.html](https://elpais.com/elpais/2018/02/23/eps/1519390384_243933.html)

#### **Contesta las siguientes preguntas eligiendo la opción más correcta:**

1. La universidad de Salamanca tiene como característica que...
  - a) *Es más antigua que la de Bolonia*
  - b) *Fue la primera en denominarse universidad*
  - c) *Es más antigua que la de Oxford*
  - d) *Umberto Eco le dio el nombre de universitas*

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2. La Universidad de Salamanca es...

- a) *La institución pública donde conviven distintos saberes y ciencias desde la Edad Media.*
- b) *La institución cultural más antigua del mundo, que acumula la totalidad de los conocimientos.*
- c) *La universidad más frecuentada desde la Edad Media, en todo el mundo.*
- d) *La Institución pública donde se acumulan todas las obras escritas desde la Edad Media.*

3. Los “libros redondos”...

- a) *Fueron escritos por Torres de Villarroel*
- b) *Estaban escritos en lenguas modernas*
- c) *Eran representaciones geográficas*
- d) *Estaban escritos en latín*

**Responde a las siguientes cuestiones con oraciones completas, sin copiar literalmente del texto:**

- 1. ¿Qué papel jugó el Papa en la fundación de la Universidad de Salamanca?
- 2. ¿Por qué es importante la biblioteca de la Universidad de Salamanca?

**2ª PARTE: EXPRESIÓN ESCRITA**

**Redacta un texto descriptivo o narrativo de 150 palabras, sobre el siguiente tema:**

Explica los planes que tienes cuando finalices el Examen de Estado. ¿Qué expectativas tienes? ¿acceder a la universidad, a otro tipo de formación o al mundo del trabajo?