Proves d'accés a la Universitat. Curs 2008-2009

Llengua estrangera **Anglès**

Sèrie 4 - A

	Suma de notes parcials	Etiqueta de qualificació					
Redacció							
Comprensió escrita							
Comprensió oral							
Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a							
Ubicació del tribunal							

OVER HALF OF EUROPE'S AMPHIBIANS FACE EXTINCTION BY 2050

More than half of all frogs and toads living in Europe could be driven to extinction within 40 years as climate change, diseases and habitat destruction show their effects, scientists have warned. The majority of the most threatened species live in Mediterranean regions, which are expected to become warmer and drier. Island species are especially at risk because they are unable to move to cooler climates. In Britain, where viruses are already wiping out many hundreds of amphibians a year, conservationists fear for the future of the common toad.

Researchers described the **bleak** outlook for Europe's amphibians at a meeting of the Zoological Society of London last night. Sir David Attenborough, who was due to attend the symposium, said: "Amphibians are the **lifeblood** of many environments, playing key roles in the function of ecosystems, and it is both extraordinary and terrifying that in just a few decades the world could lose half of all these species". One in three of the world's amphibians are already on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's red list of endangered species, with some estimates suggesting 150 species have already become extinct since the 1980s. The expansion of towns and cities into natural habitats is chiefly responsible for the amphibians' precarious future, to which many scientists believe climate change and diseases are actively contributing. Snakes, fish and birds that feed on the amphibians are already showing some signs of decline as the main ingredient of their diet dies out. The disappearance of some amphibians is also expected to lead to a rise in insects and other creatures that amphibians feed on. "Given that many of the things that amphibians eat are the things that destroy our crops or bite us and suck our blood, we might be feeling some of the effects a bit more directly than we've expected," said Garner.

Ten years ago, scientists raised the alarm after finding vast numbers of amphibians were being **wiped out** by a species of fungus which infects the skin through which many of the animals drink and breathe. One alarming case has been seen in the Peñalara National Park near Madrid, where the climate has become more humid and the fungus has caused mass mortality among amphibians. Garner and his colleagues based their assessment on published research into the effects of climate change on amphibian habitats, and believe more than 40 species could be extinct by 2050. One study showed that as global warming alters the climate in Europe, almost every amphibian habitat would be affected. In Britain, infections caused by a family of **pathogens** called ranaviruses, which emerged in the 1980s, are causing widespread deaths among some of the most common amphibians. Scientists at the meeting will emphasize the need to reduce the effects of climate change by slowing down greenhouse gas emissions, but for many species that will come too late. In the short term, conservationists are urging zoos to set up captive **breeding** programmes for the most threatened amphibians.

The Guardian on line. Adapted

bleak: desolador

lifeblood: element vital / elemento vital

toad: gripau / sapo **crop:** collita / cosecha

wiped out: exterminats / exterminados **pathogens:** agent patogen / agente patógeno **breeding:** reproducció / reproducción

Part 1: Reading comprehension

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

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

			A emplenar pel corr		rector/a
			Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	According to the text, scientists have warned that more than half of all amphibians in Europe could be driven to extinction because they live mostly in Mediterranean regions. except island species, which are not at risk. due to the effects, among others, of climate change. unless habitat destruction, diseases and climate change get of				
2.	Why do conservationists fear for the future of some species of ar in Britain? ☐ Because island species cannot be affected by viruses. ☐ Because its cool climate negativelly affects amphibians. ☐ Because the effects of viruses on amphibians in that area are devastating. ☐ Because viruses only attack specific species of amphibians, li	e already			
3.	the common toad. When researchers talk about the "bleak outlook" for Europe's amit means that □ the future of Europe's amphibians is unpredictable. □ they are very pessimistic about the future of Europe's amphi □ the situation of Europe's amphibians is going to get better in they hope nothing is done to prevent their extinction.	ibians.			
4.	According to Sir David Attenborough, ☐ the extinction of amphibians will take place within a few dec amphibians are essential to certain ecosystems and environm many ecosystems depend on half of the species of amphibian the precarious future of amphibians is affecting the expansion and cities.	nents. ns. on of towns			
5.	In the text, Garner argues that we will feel the effects of the disap of some amphibians ☐ only when crops are affected by a particular fungus. ☐ when the effects are more direct on us. ☐ when the rise in insects sucking our blood becomes evident. ☐ when snakes, fish and birds are left with no food.				
6.	 According to the text, one of the effects of climate change has be □ the extinction of many amphibians because of infections can on them by fungus. □ that in the Peñalara National Park amphibians have been wing by a virus. □ an increase in number of amphibians. □ the expansion of towns and cities. 	used			
7.	 On the whole and according to the text, why is the situation alar □ Because climate change is killing animal species on a massive in Europe. □ Because planet warming will probably affect most amphibian □ Because the number of amphibians is increasing dramaticall □ Because amphibians do not have anything to eat. 	e scale n habitats. ly.			
8.	According to scientists and conversationists, the solution to these problems is: ☐ To close greenhouses and keep captive amphibians in zoos. ☐ To increase gas emissions and put an end to beeding program. ☐ Not to do anything, as it is too late. ☐ To reduce gas emissions and to encourage breeding program for threatened species.	mmes.	Correctes 1	Incorrectes No	contestades
	Recompte	de les respostes			
	Note de cor	nnrensió escrita			

Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words. [4 points]

- 1. Write an article for your school magazine. Discuss the effects of climate change in your country. Do you think measures should be taken to stop or at least slow down its effects on the planet?
- 2. You are doing a research project on animal extinction. Write a letter to your tutor/ supervisor explaining how you would like to organise your work and where you intend to look for information about the subject.



SVALBARD – THE LAND BEYOND THE NORTH CAPE

In this radio programme you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

peaked: punxegut / puntiagudo wildlife: vida salvatge / vida salvaje settlement: assentament / asentamiento average: mitjana / media hunting: caça / caza seals: foques / focas

Ready?

Now read the questions on the next page. Read them carefully before listening to the radio programme.

PRESENTER: In the High Arctic, floating in the midnight sun and embraced by the Polar night, Svalbard is an archipelago of peaked mountains and magnificent glaciers. No other place in the far North offers such an abundance of polar features and wildlife in such a limited area. Today in our programme "Round the World", I'm pleased to introduce Chris Van Gils, a keen traveller to the North and an expert on Polar life.

[Now listen to the rest of the interview.]

QUESTIONS

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.]

			A emplenar pel corre		rrector/a
			Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	Where is Svalbard situated? ☐ 600 miles from Ireland. ☐ In the North Cape. ☐ Between Norway and the North Pole. ☐ On the coast of Scandinavia.				
2.	 Why is Svalbard a good name for the archipelago? ☐ Sixty per cent of the people who lived there we in Norwegian. ☐ People used to speak Svalbard in Scandinavia in Sval means 'ice' in Dutch. ☐ The name means 'cold coast' in Norse. 				
3.	Who discovered the islands? ☐ A Dutch sailor called Willem Barens. ☐ A Dutch sailor whose name was Norse. ☐ People who lived in Barens. ☐ Probably Norse sailors.				
4.	What happened in 1925? ☐ The archipelago was rediscovered. ☐ Svalbard became Norwegian. ☐ Spitsbergen was discovered. ☐ Norway became a kingdom.				
5.	What's the best way of exploring the archipelago? ☐ By car. ☐ By boat. ☐ By bus. ☐ By plane.				
6.	What's the average temperature in Spitsbergen in w ☐ 12° C below zero. ☐ 10° C below zero. ☐ 6° C below zero. ☐ 6° C above zero.	vinter?			
7.	Why did Chris have to take some medicines while ☐ ☐ He got a terrible cold. ☐ Because of the Polar night there is no sun for 2☐ ☐ The midnight sun burnt parts of his body. ☐ A bear attacked him.				
8.	Why do people in Svalbard carry rifles? ☐ People have to defend polar bears when outside ☐ People go hunting very often. ☐ Bears are known to hunt humans on occasions ☐ There are a lot of seals and people can kill then	i.			
		Dacampta de las vasmactas	Correctes	Incorrectes No	o contestades
		Recompte de les respostes			
		Nota de comprensió oral			

Etiqueta del corrector/a Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a



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Llengua estrangera **Anglès**

Sèrie 3 - A

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Ubicació del tribuna	l					
Número del tribunal						

ARRANGED MARRIAGES

Strange as it may seem arranged marriages are common in Asia, where people often repeat the saying: "In the West you marry the one you love, in the East we love the one we marry." You learn to love the person you marry because the people who selected that person chose very well. Parents and close relatives are the people who know you better than anyone else, so why not let them choose something as important as a life **partner**?

Now the British Television (BBC) hopes to bring this philosophy into our homes and hearts with a new show: "Arrange Me a Marriage". The idea is to help **lonesome** singles to find the partner of their dreams using the principles of an Asian arranged marriage.

The TV show which **airs** next month is conducted by Aneela Rahman, a British Pakistani TV star. Ms Rahman believes that the key to successfully finding a life partner is by matching up class, education, family background, life goals and earnings. So, compatibility is crucial for her.

Ms Rahman is a living proof that this kind of marriages work, she's been married to her husband Gurwinder for 15 years and they have two children. That's why she is convinced that in the European society, where more people live alone unhappily, this Asian tradition may be exactly what we need.

Nevertheless, Aneela doesn't want people getting together in the show if they are not interested in each other. Her way of arranging marriages is pragmatic, focusing on the following factors: shared goals, education, values and financial potencial, but love and attraction cannot be left aside. She believes that there is a chance of making a successful marriage if as many of these key factors as possible are taken into account.

Geeta Singh, the UK head of the global matrimonial website Shaadi.com, does not only agree with Aneela but she adds one more argument: "Because an arranged marriage is supported by a family from the start, when you go on **a bad patch**, you still have the support of the two families that proposed that marriage in the very first place."

In her opinion many British people have trouble with the idea of an arranged marriage because they confuse it with a forced marriage. Geeta says: "The majority of arranged marriages are not forced in any way, you can often spend a few months with somebody the family has chosen and at the end of it just decide what you want."

But Geeta also recognises that nowadays many young Asians increasingly believe that the concept of an arranged marriage is incompatible with living in the modern world. They strongly believe that arranged marriages are simply too artificial for modern times because in an arranged marriage both future partners only show their best side so you don't get to know the real person. In a love relationship, they think, you already know everything you have to know about your partner before you get married.

The Independent. Adapted

partner: cònjuge, parella / cónyuge, pareja **lonesome:** solitari -ària, / solitario -a

air: emetre / emitir

a bad patch: una mala temporada

Part 1: Reading comprehension

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

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

			A emplenar pel correct		rrector/a
			Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	Arranged marriages □ are banned in western countries. □ are illegal in some western countries. □ are not common in Eastern countries. □ are usual in Asian countries.				
2.	The objective of "Arrange Me a Marriage" is ☐ to assist people in finding their ideal partner. ☐ to help people to recover their lost partner. ☐ to find people ready to give love a chance. ☐ to encourage engaged people to get married.				
3.	The participants in "Arrange Me a Marriage" are polymer are ready to be married if they find the right p believe in everlasting love. □ are not afraid of any kind of relationship. □ are in love and yet not able to express it.				
4.	Ms Rahman's key for the perfect marriage is □ to love each other very much. □ to be patient with your couple. □ to share the same habits. □ to be as compatible as possible.				
5.	Which factor is not considered by Aneela as impormarriage? ☐ Upbringing. ☐ Origin. ☐ Income. ☐ Attraction.	rtant for a successful			
6.	Geeta Singh affirms that in an arranged marriage, ☐ know each other perfectly. ☐ tend to hate each other. ☐ can count on their relatives in difficult times. ☐ have no real reasons to argue at all.	the couple			
7.	Geeta Singh thinks that in Great Britain people □ have a positive opinion of arranged marriages. □ are often prejudiced against the idea of arrange □ do not care about arranged marriages. □ ignore the existence of arranged marriages.				
8.	A lot of young people in Asia believe that in arrange future partners ☐ try to make a good impression on each other. ☐ don't act freely, but forced by their parents. ☐ do not show their real feelings. ☐ feel free to be themselves.	ed marriages			
			Correctes 1	Incorrectes No	contestades
		Recompte de les respostes			
		Nota de comprensió escrita			

Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words. [4 points]

- 1. Imagine you are a journalist. Write an interview with Aneela Rahman. Your objective is to find out why she is so happy in her "arranged" marriage.
- 2. Divorce rates are increasing in Europe. Does this mean that marriage is in crisis? Are you in favour or against marriage? Write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper explaining your opinion.



SAVE THE ANIMALS

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

threat: amenaça / amenaza flock: estol d'ocells / bandada de pájaros legacy: llegat / legado wipe out: eliminar / eliminar pigeon: colom / paloma

Ready?

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

The IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, has recently met in Barcelona to discuss the situation of many of the world's animals which are threatened with extinction. In this interview, Professor Andrew Beckman, from the Arizona State University School of Life Sciences, discusses some of the dangers that many mammals face and what can be done to avoid extinction.

[Now listen to the rest of the interview.]

QUESTIONS

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.]

			A emplenar pel corrector/a		rrector/a
			Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	What is the situation with elephants and gorillas? ☐ They have received very good news. ☐ Most people know that they are threatened wit ☐ Conservationists are taking a first detailed look ☐ There's only one elephant and four gorillas left	c at them.			
2.	The situation for birds, fish and other animals is ☐ not as good as it is for mammals. ☐ better than it is for mammals. ☐ much worse than it is for mammals. ☐ just as bad as it is for mammals.				
3.	In 1866, a cloud of birds passed into southern Ont ☐ took 50 years to pass. ☐ was 300 miles long and 14 miles wide. ☐ contained an estimate of over 3.5 billion birds. ☐ were flying to die in the Cincinnati zoo.				
4.	What happened to the last passenger pigeon? ☐ It flew over Ontario for 3.5 billion miles. ☐ It died in the zoo in 1914. ☐ It lived for 50 years in the Cincinnati zoo. ☐ It left the zoo when the female pigeon died.				
5.	What is the major threat to land species across the ☐ The effects of habitat loss. ☐ The disappearing efforts of some concerned pe ☐ The devastating effects for hunters. ☐ The preservation of natural areas.	_			
6.	Many newly discovered species are disappearing □ because they are not well documented. □ because they are not known to scientists. □ before they are known to scientists. □ before they need future research.				
7.	 Marine mammals are □ more difficult to study in the tropical forests of and Indonesia. □ more difficult to study than land mammals. □ well documented in the forests of Indonesia. □ as difficult to study as land mammals. 	f West Africa			
8.	Why are clear objectives for the future necessary? ☐ So they can meet again in Barcelona. ☐ Because we need to wipe out many of our close. ☐ Because the tendency has been reversed. ☐ So that the tendency can be reversed.	est relatives.			
			Correctes	Incorrectes No	o contestades
		Recompte de les respostes			
		Nota de comprensió oral			

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