

INGLES
Septiembre 2000

INSTRUCCIONES GENERALES Y VALORACIÓN

TIEMPO: 1 hora y 30 minutos

INSTRUCCIONES: 1. Lea **todo el texto** cuidadosamente
2. Lea atentamente **todas las preguntas** de la prueba.
3. Proceda a responder en **lengua inglesa** a las preguntas en el papel de examen.

PUNTUACIÓN: La puntuación máxima de la prueba es de 10 puntos.

Rhinoceros lake

Humour is not something exclusive to any particular culture or profession. Just Think of jokers and tricksters. These characters have always existed in all societies and in all fields of human activity. In the first part of the twentieth century, some famous jokes which took place in different parts of the world and in different settings were so successful that they became enduring misconceptions. A good instance of this is provided by Hugh Troy, a well known American artist who spent most of his life tricking people around him just for the fun of it.

One winter in the 1920s, while he was a student at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., Troy got hold of an old wastepaper basket with a real rhinoceros foot as its base. He filled it with metal weights and tied 30 feet of rope to either side. Late one night he and a friend carried it out onto campus, suspended between them. Every few feet they would lower it into the snow, their own footprints so far away as to raise no suspicions.

The next morning someone noticed the prints and told the learned professors of his discovery. Excitedly, they followed the rhinoceros tracks. The trail led out onto the ice covering Beebe Lake, which connected to the school's source of drinking water. There the tracks ended in a gigantic hole. It is said that half the population of Cornell stopped drinking tap water for some time. Those who continued to drink it tasted like rhinoceros.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following sentence TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE:

- a)** Few people could tell who Hugh troy was. **FALSE.**
"A good instance of this is provided by Hugh Troy, a well known American artist"
- b)** Rhinoceros prints could be seen on the frozen Lake. **TRUE.**
"Excitedly, they followed the rhinoceros tracks. The trail led out onto the ice covering Beebe Lake,....."

(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

2. In your own words and based on the ideas from the text, answer the following questions:

- a)** How did Troy perform his trick?
He made a sort of apparatus to leave rhinoceros footprints.
- b)** What was the people's reaction to the presence of the marks on the snow?
People followed the tracks absolutely convinced that they were the footprints of real rhinoceros.

(Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

3. Find the words or phrases in the test that mean:

- a)** wrong ideas (paragraph 1) misconceptions
- b)** example (paragraph 1) instance

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- c) cord (paragraph 2) rope
 - d) erudite (paragraph 3) learned
- (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto)

4. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate from of the word in brackets when given:

- a) A rhinoceros is a large animal **with** one or two horns on **the** nose.
 - b) What **can** we do to save certain species of animals **from** dying out?
 - c) Charles Chaplin, **who** died in 1977, was a famous film actor and producer. In his life time millions of people enjoyed **seeing** (see) his films.
 - d) He is **the cleverest** (clever) person I **have ever meet** (ever meet).
- (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos)

5. Write about 100 to 150 words on one of the following topics:

- a) A funny story you know.

In 1700 the so called French fried potatoes were introduced in the US, those were potatoes thickly sliced and fried in hot oil.

In the summer of 1853, a customer in a New York restaurant angrily returned his French fried potatoes to the chef, saying that they had been sliced too thickly and demanding thinner slices.

The chef prepared thinner sliced potatoes. However, the customer was still not satisfied.

So this time the chef decided to insult the customer by serving him potatoes that were so thin they couldn't be eaten with a fork, forcing the customer to eat them with his hands.

The customer not only didn't feel insulted he also enjoyed the new sort of potatoes very much.

This new fried potatoes were called potato chips and the name French fried potatoes gradually came to mean the long, narrow strips of potato that are eaten with hamburgers across the US.

- b) Is humour an important element in life?

In my opinion humour is not a very important element in life but an essential one.

You have to wake up early in the morning to go to work, maybe you are not well paid and probably your boss is an idiot.

After that you came back home to a house that you will be still paying for when you die.

Your wife thinks that the "Kamasutra" is some kind of oriental food and every time you look in the mirror you see less hair in your head and much more in your nose and ears (and your belly is getting bigger every single day).

These things can vary a little if you are a woman but not much.

In short, if you are alive you are going to need humour.

(Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos)