GOING TO UNIVERSITY IN BRITAIN

After school many British students go to university. They apply to several universities and receive offers of a place on condition that they achieve certain grades in their A levels.

Many universities receive some money from the state. The oldest and most famous are Oxford and Cambridge, though there are many other respected universities in UK. Some universities are called red brick universities because they were built in the 19th Century with brick rather than stone. The newer universities have their buildings grouped together on a campus.

A first degree, which is usually an Honours Degree, generally takes three years. Results are given as classes (that is, grades): a first is the highest class, second are often split between upper second and lower second, and below that is a third. Graduates may add the letters BA (Bachelor of Arts) or BSc (Bachelor of Science) after their name. Some graduates go on to study for a further degree, often a master’s degree or a doctorate (Ph.D.).

At most British Universities the academic year is divided into three terms. Throughout their degree course, students study a main subject, which is usually a mix of compulsory courses and electives. Teaching methods may vary between universities. Some students have lectures and seminars (discussion groups) and there are practicals for those studying a science subject. At some universities students have tutorials or supervisions.

Students in Britain formerly had their tuition fees paid by the state and received a government grant to help them pay their living expenses. Now they only receive a loan towards their expenses, and from 1999 most also have to pay £1000 a year towards tuition fees. The new arrangements have caused a great deal of concern among people who believe it should be free.

Source: Oxford Guide to British and American Culture

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer. NO marks are given for only true or false.

1. After school, most British students go on to study at university.
2. The state pays for higher education.
3. Students study a main subject which is a combination of different types of course units.
4. Nowadays, students are given a grant to pay their expenses.

II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS)

A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. reach.
2. reputable.
3. obligatory.
4. something that causes anxiety; a source of unhappiness.
B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT)

1. Write a word from the text that includes the same sound as “going” /ŋ/. (0.25)
2. Write a word from the text that includes the same diphthong sound as “pay” /eɪ/. (0.25)
3. How is the “-ed” pronounced in “respected”, /t/, /d/ or /ɪd/? (0.25)
4. How is the “-s” pronounced in “graduates”, /s/, /z/ or /ɪz/? (0.25)

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:

1. I have been working with computers for ten years.
   I ...

2. We have such intelligent English teachers that everyone is happy.
   Our English teachers ...

3. I am travelling with a friend. He can’t speak English.
   The friend ...

4. Someone threw away a cigarette in the rubbish bin yesterday.
   Yesterday ...

5. I didn’t study hard enough. That is why I didn’t pass.
   If ...

6. Write the correct question for the underlined words.

   …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..?
   It took me two hours to go to Central London.

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)

Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on the following topic:

Advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad
LANCE ARMSTRONG’S DOPING

Lance Armstrong, the former cycling champion, has admitted to using drugs to improve his performance for the first time. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Armstrong said he had used drugs during all seven of his Tour de France wins, from 1999 to 2005.

The confession took a long time to come. Despite having lost his Tour de France titles last year after a doping investigation, Lance Armstrong always denied cheating. But he had been lying. The 41-year-old American cyclist told Oprah Winfrey he used drugs in every Tour de France contest he won. He took banned substances and used blood transfusions to increase his performance. Without drugs, he said, it wouldn’t have been possible to win.

Armstrong said he kept repeating “one big lie” and conceded that his admission would be “too late” for most people. “All the fault and all the blame lies with me,” Lance Armstrong said. But he denied having forced other members of his team to dope.

Reactions to Armstrong’s decision to abandon his battle with US Anti-Doping Agency varied across the world. For example, the legendary Eddy Merckx spoke in favour of Armstrong: “Lance was very correct during his career. All the tests he’s undertaken have come back negative. So there are two possibilities: one, the tests don’t really prove anything; and two, Armstrong did not cheat”, Merckx said.

Adapted from www.bbc.co.uk

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.
NO marks are given for only true or false.

1. Armstrong confessed having drugs in the first Tour de France.
2. He thought that he could have won if he hadn’t had drugs.
3. Armstrong didn’t try to make his team partners have drugs.
4. Everybody agreed with Armstrong’s decision.

II. LEXICON / PHONETICS (2 POINTS)

A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

1. illegal.
2. improve.
3. administer drugs.
4. fight.
Pruebas de acceso a enseñanzas universitarias oficiales de grado (Bachillerato L.O.E.)
IDIOMA EXTRANJERO: INGLÉS. 2012/2013

- No se permite el uso del diccionario ni de ningún otro material didáctico.
- Las preguntas deberán ser respondidas en inglés.
- Duración de la prueba: 1 hora y 30 minutos.
- Esta hoja no se entrega.
- Hay que responder todos los bloques de la propuesta elegida, A o B.

B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT)

1. Write two words from the text that include the same sound as “been” /i:/ (0.5)
2. Write a word from the text that includes the same sound as “all” /ɔː/. (0.25)
3. How is the “-s” pronounced in “drugs”, /s/, /z/ or /ɪz/? (0.25)

III. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given:

1. She plays cricket very well.
   She is ...

2. He is such a serious person that he can’t say lies.
   He is ...

3. I prefer not winning to taking drugs.
   I’d ...

4. I’m sure he is rich because he owns three houses.
   He ...

5. I am reading a novel at the moment. It is very entertaining.
   The novel ...

6. Write the correct question for the underlined words.
   .................................................................?
   My brother left yesterday.

IV. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)

Write a composition of between 100 and 125 words on the following topic:

Doping in sports