
 <p>GOBIERNO de CANTABRIA CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN Y FORMACIÓN PROFESIONAL Dirección General de Innovación y Centros Educativos</p>		<p>PROCESO SELECTIVO ORDEN EFT/6/2021, DE 9 DE FEBRERO ESPECIALIDAD: INGLÉS PRIMERA PRUEBA PARTE B-B: Prueba de carácter práctico COMPRENSIÓN Y EXPRESIÓN ESCRITA Nº de PLICA _____</p>
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OPCIÓN 2

Puntuación máxima: 4 puntos:

- Comprensión de la lectura: 2 puntos, 0,2 por cada respuesta completa correcta.
- Expresión escrita: 2 puntos.

Read the text and answer the following questions based on what you have read. Next, write a short essay on the required topic.

Marzano-Lesnevich, Alex (June, 2021) *X is the Best Letter in the Alphabet*. www.nytimes.com

It's now used to indicate sex and gender beyond the binary. But X has always been powerful.

As a bookish child, I loved most of all an anthology of stories that sat high on my parents' white bookshelves. At night, my siblings and I would gather on my littlest sister's bed while one of my parents read to us. Once I learned to read, I took to raising myself up on my tiptoes to borrow that book and carrying it to the nubby lime green couch in the playroom.

One day I discovered a story I hadn't read before — "X: A Fabulous Child's Story," a feminist classic by Lois Gould published in 1972. In it, as part of a scientific experiment, a newborn is named X, the child's gender kept secret. When a Ms. and Mr. Jones adopt X, they buy both girls' toys and boys' toys; they encourage X to develop traits both traditionally masculine and traditionally feminine. When X enters school, the whole family is nervous. "Nobody in X's class had ever known an X before," Gould writes. "Nobody had even heard their parents say, 'Some of my best friends are Xes.'"



In time, X's classmates accept X. They love that X excels at both playing football and baking cakes. It's the other parents who demand to know whether the child is male or female. But on this matter, the story never bends: X the child remains.

For a decade, I kept X's story a secret, always aware that it spoke to something I must keep hidden inside me. I grew up, moved out of my parents' house and left the book behind. The story went out of print. I have yet to meet a trans person who recognizes it.

I, too, eventually forgot about child X — at least until I moved to Maine and my new driver's license arrived. I ripped open the envelope and saw my gender printed there in ink: X. For the first time, I wondered: Just how had this letter become the one to mark gender beyond the binary?

X, I learned, has long been seen as a powerful letter. In the early days of the Christian Church, X — the Greek letter chi — acquired mystical significance, in part for its resemblance to the cross.

In algebra, X has long been used to signify an unknown variable, for which an equation will ultimately solve. According to David Sacks's "Letter Perfect: The Marvelous History of Our Alphabet From A to Z," legend has it that René Descartes originally intended for Z to be the most commonly used letter to indicate a solvable variable, but the printer of his 1637 treatise, "La Géométrie," kept running out of letter blocks: Z was too common in the French language, and thus too common in the manuscript. X's rarity became the reason for its renown.

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The X chromosome got its name in 1891, when the German biologist Hermann Henking wasn't sure he was looking at a chromosome at all and wished to convey that mystery.

And of course, X famously marks the spot. As far as I've been able to tell, no pirate's map has ever been found that actually uses X to mark buried treasure, but that scarcely matters; the legend has eclipsed the history.



X's holding of space in identity would appear to be newer. The leader of the Nation of Islam, Elijah Muhammad, encouraged his followers to shed the last names that had come from their ancestors' enslavers; in 1952, Malcolm Little became Malcolm X — the letter marking what had been stripped and stolen.

It befits X's history that the letter has become used for sex and gender beyond the binary. In 2003, an Australian named Alex MacFarlane, who is intersex, became the first person known to receive a passport listing the holder's sex as X to indicate a nonbinary response. MacFarlane told an Australian newspaper: "Finding a niche to crawl into has been impossible, so I've made my own." MacFarlane had fought to obtain documentation that matched their identity; X was the only letter other than M or F that was legible to the machines that read passports. X simultaneously declared MacFarlane's sex and declared it indeterminate, known and unknown at the same time. By the mid-2010s, the word "Latinx" entered popular American usage, its X both inclusive and expansive.

I love the X on my license, even welcome the way it stands in for anything wholly knowable. Recently I was in a car at night with another trans masculine nonbinary person when we were pulled over by a police officer. They were driving and stiffened with fear. What their license indicated no longer matched who they were. After the officer let us drive on, my companion mused that they might someday get not an X on their license but an M, just to move through the world less noticed.

Only when they said that aloud did I realize that I never would. Like the child I once read about, I will keep my X. I have friends who experience their gender as ever-fluid — friends who delight in being inscrutable, rightly question why the state should need to track gender and reject X as just as bounded as any label.

But if I must be labeled, X is the letter for me. We live in a time when so much of our language feels insufficient to describe the complicated world in which we find ourselves. It feels right to be named with something definitive that also marks what is unknown — a destination that will, like all of us, necessarily and always evolve.

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READING COMPREHENSION

PART 1. Circle the most suitable answer.

1. The premise of the story by Lois Gold is ...
 - a) The realization of an experiment to see if the correct gender can be assigned based solely upon behavioral observations
 - b) The realization of an experiment to prove that children are generally more accepting than adults
 - c) The realization of an experiment to examine the social construction of gender and its implications in an educational setting
 - d) The realization of an experiment to establish a new gender category
2. Why has the author of the text never encountered anyone else who has read the story?
 - a) He hadn't ever met any other transgendered people
 - b) The book was lost when he moved
 - c) He refused to talk about the story
 - d) The book is no longer published
3. Which reason is not given for the significance of X?
 - a) Its similarity to a religious symbol
 - b) Historical evidence of X being used on maps
 - c) A holding place for the unknown in scientific research
 - d) Being one of the least frequently used letters
4. What does the "X" in Malcolm X's name represent?
 - a) The erasure of his forbearers
 - b) His adoption of a radical identity
 - c) His conversion to Islam
 - d) The slaveholders who owned his ancestors
5. Which reason is not given for "X" being used on Alex MacFarlane's passport?
 - a) MacFarlane states he has come up with a new identity
 - b) X symbolizes binary identities
 - c) The equipment used to scan passports can only recognize M, F and X
 - d) The use of X assigns an identity and is still ambiguous
6. What reason is given in the text for why the author and his nonbinary friend were afraid when they were stopped by the police?
 - a) The discriminatory nature of the police in their country
 - b) The driver had an X on his license
 - c) The drivers' outward appearance was different from the gender listed on their ID
 - d) They were driving at night

