

OPCIÓN A- PRIMEIRA PROBA-PARTE A

How are you enjoying the Conservative party's slow-motion regicide? Maybe call it a ledge-icide, as banter king Boris Johnson increasingly looks to be in a tonne of trouble. Or, as he prefers it, a ton of trouble, which is even heavier and can crush anyone without a ruthlessly consistent abs and core programme. He'll be fine, mate!

Indeed, there remain plenty who think Big Dog should be allowed to keep peeing on the rug that some donor or other bought him. As one Downing Street source told LBC this morning, the Tory malcontents have "no alternative leader, plan or vision". Exactly. Why not stick with what they have: a terrible leader, who has no plan or vision?

I'm kidding, obviously. The prime minister – who has achieved precisely nothing in office bar a Brexit deal worse than Theresa May's, which he is now trying to torpedo – has got pounds of vision. Ounces of it! Pints! A whole bushel worth of phoned-in gibberish designed to get him through a single news cycle. Two, tops. The imperial measures nonsense is all part of the "bonfire of red tape", which will certainly be something to cluster round in lieu of half the nation being able to afford central heating this winter.

For the record, nine "bonfires of red tape" have been announced since Johnson became prime minister, suggesting police should investigate this arsonist for serial insurance fraud. Of course, like the Springfield Tire Fire (est. 1989), the "bonfire of red tape" has in fact been burning continuously for even longer than that, with the flames fanned every time a Conservative prime minister is up the creek. Which, given the past few years, has been exceedingly often.

The latest conflagration seems to be part of the play-to-your-base initiative previously described as "Operation Red Meat". On reflection I don't hate this as a name for what's happening to Johnson. That painful moment when you think you're going shark fishing, but only belatedly realise you're the chum. As one cabinet minister put it, the imperial measures policy is "absolutely bananas", while another cabinet minister apparently observed mildly, "no idea which muppet had come up with that idea". Certainly not Count von Count. The whole thing has very strong Elmo energy, being an attempt to ruin something that doesn't need ruining.

Not that metric revolt is the prime minister's only well-thought-through initiative. Johnson also plans to reduce the civil service by a fifth, as yet unaware that this can only impact frontline service delivery ahead of a cost of living crisis and possible recession. Today, the prime minister finally got round to telling the civil service about this, instead of the Daily Mail readers to whom he first confided the information. "As many families and businesses now look at how to reduce their costs in a period of higher global inflation," Johnson writes to all civil servants, "it is right that we do the same". Odd way to put it. Will people be reducing the headcount of their families during this period of higher global inflation? Maybe No 10 could lead by example, announcing that Johnson will be making a 20% reduction in the number of love-children he acknowledges.

Speaking of matters domestic, though, let's turn to accounts of Mr and Mrs Johnson's "chaotic" stewardship of Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat. Carrie's chatelaine skills are called particularly into question, with the Times reporting some kind of character clash with the former housekeeper, which the prime minister's wife denies. There seem to have been disciplinary proceedings against this housekeeper, though these were subsequently dropped and she left with a payoff and an NDA in 2020. Mesmerisingly, it all seems to have hinged on her alleged "inappropriate handling of a personal item" found in Boris Johnson's bathroom, which she denied. According to the Times, "the nature of the item is unknown". So ... I'll leave it with your subconscious.

Meanwhile: Carrie. Quite a return for this character. As many will have noticed in recent months, Carrie had been entirely written out of the show – a bit like Chuck Cunningham, Richie and Joanie’s elder brother, who was judged not to have “worked” after season two of Happy Days and was never mentioned again. Not so with Downing Street. Carrie has come roaring back into the franchise in recent days, with Sue Gray and the Met’s failure to explore her so-called Abba party with “the gays” marking a stunning return to form for the establishment. Hats off to all involved, and I’ve no interest in spoiling the moment by suggesting that Chequers has always felt a very, very unexplored corner of Partygate.

Also rumoured to be taking care not to spoil things is 1922 Committee chairman Graham Brady, who some believe is waiting till after the Queen’s platinum jubilee to announce that the threshold of letters calling on Johnson to do one has reached the magic number of 54. That remains nothing more than speculation. Even so, do take the opportunity to refamiliarise yourself with Graham, whose facial colouring always suggests he has just this minute finished shouting at some youths to move on from a bus stop. Touring the repository of Mad Shit We’ve Seen Over The Past Few Years this morning, I suddenly recalled that in 2019 Graham resigned the chairmanship of the 1922 Committee with a view to launching a leadership bid of his own. He was reinstated as chairman a few months later, following this unsuccessful loan spell at relevance. For now, known letter writers range from big hitters like former attorney general Jeremy Wright to the likes of Andrew Bridgen, who practises the withdrawal method of politics, having submitted a letter then rescinded it once already this year. My favourite two communiques so far come from Nickie Aiken and Andrea Leadsom. Nickie’s missive fails to call for Johnson’s resignation, suggesting the prime minister should instead call a vote of no confidence. This approach is called suicide-by-cop-out. Andrea’s absolute word salad, meanwhile, feels like a letter masquerading as a statement. Certainly the biggest Leadsom-related letter shambles since Johnson’s 2016 leadership bid, when he patted the missive to Andrea that was in his own pocket and assured aides that “Andrea’s onboard”. Unfortunately, he then forgot to pass the letter on to her, leading to the hilarious chain of events which ultimately saw his bid implode. Needless to say, he had the last laugh. Or did he? It’s certainly at least possible that we are in for some no-confidence merriment sooner rather than later. But even then, it’s all down to Conservative MPs alone – The Most Sophisticated Electorate In the World . All the great British public will be able to do is press our noses against the glass once more and behold the tragic conflict of disloyalties with which they never, ever seem to stop wrestling.

Hyde, M. (Maio 31, 2022). Pounds, ounces, pints! Johnson is offering a whole bushel worth of phoned-in gibberish. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/may/31/pounds-ounces-pints-boris-johnson-gibberish>

QUESTIONS

All your answers must be written on the answer sheet.

1. READING COMPREHENSION. Choose the BEST answer. (1 mark)

1. "Bonfire of red tape," means

- A) tearing down Theresa May's Brexit deal.
- B) eliminating excessive adherence to rules in public affairs.
- C) being part of a political strategy called "Operation Red Meat".
- D) that Johnson only creates more gibberish paperwork.

2. Why does Marina Hyde criticize Johnson's plan to reduce civil service by a fifth?
- A) Because many families and businesses are looking at how to reduce their costs in a period of higher global inflation.
 - B) Because he ignores the negative consequences on critical services.
 - C) Because he is going to reduce by 20% the number of love children he recognizes.
 - D) Because he is trying to divert public attention from firing his former housekeeper.
3. "...we are in for some no-confidence merriment sooner rather than later." means
- A) that Johnson could apologize for his behavior.
 - B) that Johnson could tender his resignation.
 - C) that British people will not vote for Johnson again.
 - D) that the Tories could force Johnson to resign.
4. Part of the Tories continue to support Johnson
- A) because their view is that he is not to blame. That everyone else is to blame.
 - B) because conversations on his mobile phone are gibberish exposing members of the party.
 - C) because they are waiting for Graham Brady.
 - D) none is correct.
5. The "repository of Mad Shit We've Seen Over The Past Few Years" is
- A) Johnson's most critical moments ending in a motion of internal censure.
 - B) the so-called Partygate scandals.
 - C) A and B are correct.
 - D) the events of Chequers that were not investigated.

2. CLOZE TEST: End up the paragraph using the suitable words from the chart below. (1 mark)

power-thirsty	bickering	out of fumes	grotesquely	dismal	tiering over	laid	got up and running	
power-hungry	majority	bickered on	glumly	obey	furtherance	lied	levelling up	muggy
flubbed	over	amid	got on running	beyond	on fumes	justice	riots	

Boris Johnson is running 1____. Monty Python's Black Knight trying to convince himself and those around him that he's only suffered mild flesh wounds when everyone can see he's fatally 2____ goods. So Thursday saw the Convict up at Blackpool and the Fylde College - the closest he gets to 3____ these days is the odd day out to the north-west - where he attempted to convince himself he had some kind of future. On today's evidence, those 211 MPs who stood by him in Monday's no-confidence vote will be wondering why they bothered. It was 4____ stuff. The desperation to try to talk about anything but Partygate only 5____ bare the poverty of the prime minister's ambition and achievements. It's indicative that the only concrete proposals he's 6____ - on refugees to Rwanda and changes to the Northern Ireland protocol - involve breaking the law.

Johnson might be habitually portrayed as supremely ambitious and 7____, but the reality is more complex, not least his very obvious desire to be liked. His 8____ makes him a prime minister much more suited to the good times, the ascent, than to decline, 9____ and political death by a thousand

cuts. It may be unlikely, but it's not impossible that at some point in the coming months, as the tumult of hostile MPs' voices grows louder, that he simply decides to announce a departure date, quits as an MP and settles down to finally finish his book on Shakespeare and earn vast sums 10 _____ the more forgiving crowds of the lecture circuit.

Excerpts taken from:

Crace, John (June 9, 2022). Olives, bananas, train ticket staff ... Big Dog Boris takes a grotesque Blackpool ramble. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jun/09/boris-johnsons-blackpool-speech-illuminates-tories-policy-vacuum>

Guardian News and Media. (2022, June 7). There may be trouble ahead for Boris Johnson despite confidence vote win. *The Guardian*. Retrieved June 13, 2022, from <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jun/07/there-may-be-trouble-ahead-for-boris-johnson-despite-confidence-vote-win>

3. WORD-FORMATION: Use the words given below to form a new one that fits in each space. (1 mark)

aspire	boost	conclude	content	elect	grace	line	pass	secure	trench
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Any post-vote mini-honeymoon Johnson may potentially enjoy could end with a crash on 23 June, when voters in Wakefield and in Tiverton and Honiton vote in (1) _____ to replace (2) _____ Conservative MPs; one who departed after a sexual assault conviction, the other for watching pornography in the Commons.

The inquiry is expected to last months, and the findings could be (3) _____. But, should Johnson survive in office that long, a definitive conclusion that the PM did mislead parliament could finally push him out.

Johnson has billed the vote as a chance to "get on with the job". But with 9% inflation, millions pushed into energy (4) _____ and a likely poverty crunch point in the autumn, the job itself is no easier. Johnson and his chancellor, Rishi Sunak, are due to make a joint speech next week on the next moves, but after Sunak committed £15bn to new measures less than a fortnight ago, any measures (5) _____ are likely to be largely (6) _____.

Courting Tory (7) _____.

This is perhaps the most (8) _____ hurdle of all for prime ministers on the slide. It is a notable psychological barrier for MPs to decide they want to oppose their leader, and coming back from that is not easy, unless you are Douglas Ross.

It is nonetheless traditional for PMs in Johnson's position to say they will listen and reach out. But it is striking that the language from the PM and No 10 since the vote has been all about ploughing on, and more of the same. This risks (9) _____ positions.

Johnson might be habitually portrayed as supremely ambitious and power-hungry, but the reality is more complex, not least his very obvious desire to be liked. His (10) _____ makes him a prime minister much more suited to the good times (...)

Excerpts taken from Guardian News and Media. (2022, June 7). There may be trouble ahead for Boris Johnson despite confidence vote win. *The Guardian*. Retrieved June 13, 2022, from <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jun/07/there-may-be-trouble-ahead-for-boris-johnson-despite-confidence-vote-win>

4. HOMOPHONES. Complete the sentences with the appropriate pair of homophones in RP (Received Pronunciation). One of each pair appears in the text. Both homophones must be correct. (1 mark)

1. a. In the cellar they discovered an oak___ where the spirit was let settle for more than 50 years, so as more flavours from wood could be absorbed.
b. Producing a ___ of corrugated steel can use up to 50 of water.
2. a. By inputting the ___ number, you get all information for your product online.
b. The health assets of wholegrain ___ products are now popularly recognized due to the existence of a wide range of bio-active constituents.
3. a. The citizens have raised a howl about mudslides increasing turbidity in the ___s when it rains.
b. Sitting in a slumped position for an hour or more can move your vertebra out of alignment and cause that a ___ can be heard when moving your neck.
4. a. A bank ___ guaranteed by his relatives, could save his company from bankruptcy.
b. The Allocation de Parent Isol   (API) provides a minimum income for ___ parents having or expecting to have children.
5. a. Men had to rake, hoe and ___ whereas women took care of the family in agricultural societies.
b. ___ has many benefits, it generates heat and energy in the body and it is loaded with nutrition, that's why it is so prized in Ayurveda.
6. a. He used to wonder ___ if he was doing the right thing.
b. There was a significant improvement in her performance level that ___ her through and she will be in the playoff.
7. a. When trying to cash a forged check at the central bank, she was caught ___
-handed by the teller.
b. The chairman took it as ___ that everybody who had submitted the document would attend the reunion.
8. a. Unfortunately, that's the ___ of my knowledge on the Elisa Lam's case.
b. ___ thought that the answers were a piece of cake
9. a. Strawberries, apricots and blackberries have been ___ and far between this summer season.
b. ___! That was a close call, the girder almost fell down to the street.
10. a. An example of ___ is to cause someone to fall into your stratagem.
b. All the ___ you were in bed, I was doing all the house chores!

5. SYNONYMS / ANTONYMS. Provide a word from the text ... (1 mark)

A. with the same meaning as the following:

1. half-heartedly
2. callously
3. heap
4. go away
5. bubble

B. with the opposite meaning as the following:

1. auspicious
2. get rid of
3. promptly
4. harshly
5. unaware

6. PHRASAL VERBS /IDIOMS. Replace the underlined words with a suitable PHRASAL VERB or IDIOM.

For the phrasal verbs, choose a word from the chart below, add the appropriate particle(s) and use the same form/tense as in the sentences provided. For the idioms, choose a word from the chart, add the appropriate words and fit the expression in the sentences provided.

There are two extra words which are not needed. (1 mark)

throw	stamp	game	own	fill	foul
the seams	a rock	make	get	pose	take

- 1.- How are you enjoying the Conservative party's slow-motion regicide?
- 2.- Indeed, there remain plenty who think Big Dog should be allowed to keep peeing on the rug (...)
- 3.- (...) which he is now trying to torpedo (...)
- 4.- (...) the "bonfire of red tape" has in fact been burning continuously for even longer than that, with the flames fanned every time a Conservative prime minister is up the creek.
- 5.- (...) you think you are going shark fishing, but you only belatedly realise you're the chum.
- 6.- (...) announcing that Johnson will be making a 20% reduction in the number of love-children he acknowledges.
- 7.- Carrie's chatelaine skills are called particularly into question with the Times reporting some kind of character clash with the former housekeeper (...)
- 8.- (...) Carrie had been entirely written out of the show (...)
- 9.- Andrea's absolute word salad, meanwhile, feels like a letter masquerading as a statement.
- 10.- (...) leading to the hilarious chain of events which ultimately saw his bid implode.

7. REPHRASING. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one.

Use the given word. (1 mark)

1. Needless to say, he had the last laugh. (GAME)
It goes without saying that...
2. You think you're going shark fishing, but only belatedly realise you're the chum. (BITER)
It's high time...
3. Police should investigate this arsonist for serial insurance fraud. (FIREBUG)
Further inquiry...

4. The prime minister- who has achieved precisely nothing in office bar a Brexit deal worse than Theresa May's, which he is now trying to torpedo- has got pounds of vision. (ACCOMPLISHMENT)
Apart from far-sightedness, ...
5. Speaking of matters domestic, though, let's turn to accounts of Mr and Mrs Johnson's "chaotic" stewardship of Chequers, the prime minister's country retreat. (HOUSEHOLD)
Given that Mr...
6. There seem to have been disciplinary proceedings against this housekeeper, though these were subsequently dropped and left with a payoff and a NDA in 2020. (BOUND)
To all appearances, the housekeeper had her...
7. I've no interest in spoiling the moment by suggesting that Chequers has always felt a very, very unexplored corner of Partygate. (BUZZKILL)
I don't want...
8. Many families and business now look at how to reduce their costs in a period of higher global inflation. (CORNERS)
Because of undergoing...
9. Johnson is offering a whole bushel worth of phoned-in gibberish. (LAVISHLY)
Perfunctory mumbo...
10. I suddenly recalled that in 2019 Graham resigned the chairmanship. (STEPPED)
All...

8. WRITING. Write a text in 300 words including the following statement. (3 marks)

"My friends, as I have discovered myself, there are no disasters, only opportunities. And, indeed, opportunities for fresh disasters."- Boris Johnson

From <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-elections-mayor-quotes-idUKL027665020080503>