

OPCIÓN B- PRIMEIRA PROBA-PARTE A

Read the following text and do Tasks 1 and 2:**A**

It's funny what you don't recall. Our first home, in the suburb of Weston, which I barely remember- my eldest brother Orin says he can remember being in the home's backyard with our mother in the early spring, helping the Moms till some sort of garden out of the cold yard. March or early April. The garden's area was a rough rectangle laid out with Popsicle sticks and twine. Orin was removing rocks and hard clods from the Moms's path as she worked the rented Rototiller, a wheelbarrow shaped, gas-driven thing that roared and snorted and bucked and he remembers seemed to propel the Moms rather than vice versa, the Moms very tall and having to stoop painfully to hold on, her feet leaving drunken prints in the tilled earth.

He remembers that in the middle of the tilling I came tear-assing out the door and into the backyard wearing some sort of fuzzy red Pooh-wear, crying, holding out something he said was really unpleasant-looking in my upturned palm. He says I was around five and crying and was vividly red in the cold spring air. I was saying something over and over; he couldn't make it out until our mother saw me and shut down the tiller, ears ringing, and came over to see what I was holding out. This turned out to have been a large patch of mold - Orin posits from some dark corner of the Weston home's basement, which was warm from the furnace and flooded every spring. The patch itself he describes as horrific: darkly green, glossy, vaguely hirsute, speckled with parasitic fungal points of yellow, orange, red. Worse, they could see that the patch looked oddly incomplete, gnawed-on; and some of the nauseous stuff was smeared around my open mouth.

B

'I ate this,' was what I was saying. I held the patch out to the Moms, who had her contacts out for the dirty work, and at first, bending way down, saw only her crying child, hand out, proffering; and in that most maternal of reflexes she, who feared and loathed more than anything spoilage and filth, reached to take whatever her baby held out- as in how many used heavy Kleenex, spit-back candies, wads of chewed-out gum in how many theaters, airports, backseats, tournament lounges? 0. stood there, he says, hefting a cold clod, playing with the Velcro on his puffy coat, watching as the Moms, bent way down to me, hand reaching, her lowering face with its presbyopic squint, suddenly stopped, froze, beginning to I.D. what it was I held out, countenancing evidence of oral contact with same. He remembers her face as past describing. Her outstretched hand, still Rototrembling, hung in the air before mine.

'I ate this,' I said.

'Pardon me?'

0. says he can only remember (sic) saying something caustic as he limboed a crick out of his back. He says he must have felt a terrible impending anxiety. The Moms refused ever even to go into the damp basement. I had stopped crying, he remembers, and simply stood there, the size and shape of a hydrant, in red PJ's with attached feet, holding out the mold, seriously, like the report of some kind of audit.

C

0. says his memory diverges at this point, probably as a result of anxiety. In his first memory, the Moms's path around the yard is a broad circle of hysteria:

'God!' she calls out.

'Help! My son ate this!' she yells in Orin's second and more fleshed-out recollection, yelling it over and over, holding the speckled patch aloft in a pincer of fingers, running around and around the garden's rectangle while 0. gaped at his first real sight of adult hysteria. Suburban neighbors'

heads appeared in windows and over the fences, looking. 0. remembers me tripping over the garden's laid-out twine, getting up dirty, crying, trying to follow.

'God! Help! My son ate this! Help!' she kept yelling, running a tight pattern just inside the square of string; and my brother Orin remembers noting how even in hysterical trauma her flight-lines were plumb, her footprints Native-American-straight, her turns, inside the ideogram of string, crisp and martial, crying 'My son ate this! Help!' and lapping me twice before the memory recedes.

D

'My application's not bought,' I am telling them, calling into the darkness of the red cave that opens out before closed eyes. 'I am not just a boy who plays tennis. I have an intricate history. Experiences and feelings. I'm complex.

'I read,' I say. 'I study and read. I bet I've read everything you've read. Don't think I haven't. I consume libraries. I wear out spines and ROMdrives. I do things like get in a taxi and say, "The library, and step on it."

My instincts concerning syntax and mechanics are better than your own, I can tell, with due respect.

'But it transcends the mechanics. I'm not a machine. I feel and believe. I have opinions. Some of them are interesting. I could, if you'd let me, talk and talk. Let's talk about anything. I believe the influence of Kierkegaard on Camus is underestimated. I believe Dennis Gabor may very well have been the Antichrist. I believe Hobbes is just Rousseau in a dark mirror. I believe, with Hegel, that transcendence is absorption. I could interface you guys right under the table,' I say. 'I'm not just a creatus, manufactured, conditioned, bred for a function.'

I open my eyes. 'Please don't think I don't care.' I look out. Directed my way is horror. I rise from the chair. I see jowls sagging, eyebrows high on trembling foreheads, cheeks bright-white. The chair recedes below me. [....]

E

You have to love old-fashioned men's rooms: the citrus scent of deodorant disks in the long porcelain trough; the stalls with wooden doors in frames of cool marble; these thin sinks in rows, basins supported by rickety alphabets of exposed plumbing; mirrors over metal shelves; behind all the voices the slight sound of a ceaseless trickle, inflated by echo against wet porcelain and a cold tile floor whose mosaic pattern looks almost Islamic at this close range.

The disorder I've caused revolves all around. I've been half-dragged, still pinioned, through a loose mob of Administrative people by the Comp. Director- who appears to have thought variously that I am having a seizure (prying open my mouth to check for a throat clear of tongue), that I am somehow choking (a textbook Heimlich that left me whooping), that I am psychotically out of control (various postures and grips designed to transfer that control to him) -while about us roil deLint, trying to restrain the Director's restraint of me, the varsity tennis coach restraining deLint, my mother's half-brother speaking in rapid combinations of polysyllables to the trio of Deans, who variously gasp, wring hands, loosen neckties, waggle digits in C.T.'s face, and make pases with sheafs of now-pretty-clearlysuperfluous application forms.

I am rolled over supine on the geometric tile. I am concentrating docilely on the question why U.S. restrooms always appear to us as infirmaries for public distress, the place to regain control. My head is cradled in a knelt Director's lap, which is soft, my face being swabbed with dusty-brown institutional paper towels he received from some hand out of the crowd overhead, staring

with all the blankness I can summon into his jowls' small pocks, worst at the blurred jaw-line, of scarring from long-ago acne. Uncle

Charles, a truly unparalleled slinger of shit, is laying down an enfilade of same, trying to mollify men who seem way more in need of a good browmopping than I. [...]

Wallace Foster, D. Infinite Jest, published by Little, Brown and Company on February 1st, 1996. Extracts from the chapter Year of Glad (pages 10 – 12, 13)

All your answers must be written on the answer sheet.

TASK 1. Write the letter of the section (A-B-C-D-E) next to the statement which contains information from it on your answer sheet. There is an extra statement which does not correspond to any sections: write an X next to it. (1 mark)

1. Twirling as in a pow wow dance, so defined and dapper, however the welter was extremely intense.
2. The down-in-the-mouth, unstrung boyo claimed not to be a purpose-reared spawn.
3. Blurry as it was, squalor and rottenness were totally well-marked by those flagging eyes.
4. The good Muhammad would give his blessing to such a list of thinkers.
5. A charley horse down my spine, some pungent remarks to the air, the whole hideous scene probably caused that looming phobic condition on me.
6. Oh my! Everybody has their wires crossed about my welter.

TASK 2. (1 mark)

Write the correct option to answer the questions below. Only one option is correct.

- 1) What did the people around him do once the protagonist zonked out?
 - a) They hearkened to the protagonist in a sick bay.
 - b) They yanked the protagonist to an outhouse.
 - c) They humped the protagonist to some john.
 - d) None of the previous options is correct.
- 2) Why was the Moms forced to slouch?
 - a) Because she was squat.
 - b) Because she was brobdingnagian.
 - c) Because she was stumpy.
 - d) Because she was teensy-weensy.
- 3) In his own words, what is the protagonist like?
 - a) The protagonist amounts not only to a jock.
 - b) The protagonist really embodies a bochord-punter.
 - c) The protagonist accounts himself not only as a cat's paw.
 - d) The protagonist really matches the three previous traits.
- 4) What did the Moms nix?
 - a) To plough the garden out of the cold yard again.
 - b) To chew out gum in so many theatres again.
 - c) To shut down the tiller in the basement again.

- d) To set foot in the Weston's garden flat again.
- 5) Why is the protagonist flabbergasted?
- Because American lavatories are seen as Islamic mosaics.
 - Because American people see lavatories as old-fashioned men's rooms.
 - Because American people see lavatories as woe hospitals.
 - Because old American lavatories are loved.

TASK 3. CLOZE TEXT.**(1 mark)****Choose the correct word from the box to complete this passage from Infinite Jest.**

hashed out	cajole	ultra-mach	hubris	hypophalangeal
pillory	quisling	gurneyside	arrant	martinet

[....] Not for nothing did Orin say that people outdoors down here just scuttle in vectors from air conditioning to air conditioning. The sun is a hammer. I can feel one side of my face start to cook. The blue sky is glossy fat with heat, a few thin cirri sheared to blown strands like hair at the rims. The traffic is nothing like Boston. The stretcher is the special type, with restraining straps at the extremities. The same Aubrey deLint I'd dismissed for years as a 2-D [1] ____ knelt [2] ____ to squeeze my restrained hand and say 'Just hang in there, Buckaroo,' before moving back into the administrative fray at the ambulance's doors. It is a special ambulance, dispatched from I'd rather not dwell on where, with not only paramedics but some kind of psychiatric M.D. on board. The medics lift gently and are handy with straps.

The M.D., his back up against the ambulance's side, has both hands up in dispassionate mediation between the Deans and C.T., who keeps stabbing skyward with his cellular's antenna as if it were a sabre, outraged that I'm being needlessly ambulated off to some Emergency Room against my will and interests. The issue whether the damaged even have interested wills is shallowly [3] ____ as some sort of [4] ____ fighter too high overhead to hear slices the sky from south to north. [....] I will be conveyed to an Emergency Room of some kind, where I will be detained as long as I do not respond to questions, and then, when I do respond to questions, I will be sedated; so it will be inversion of standard travel, the ambulance and ER: I'll make the journey first, then depart. I think very briefly of the late Cosgrove Watt. I think of the [5] ____ Grief-Therapist.

Wallace Foster, D. Infinite Jest, published by Little, Brown and Company on February 1st, 1996. Extracts from the chapter Year of Glad (pages 15-17)

TASK 4. IDIOMS.**(1 mark)****Choose the appropriate idiomatic phrase to complete the sentences related to the text topic.**

- The protagonist was ____, after the life-changing event, struggling to find stability in his mental health.
 - in Queer street
 - a rowdy sheeter
 - pulling a Bradbury
 - a round robin
- Hal got lost in his own unrealistic illusions, albeit soon dismissing them _____.
 - like herding cats
 - as pie in the sky

- c. as Molson muscle
d. like a brown study
3. For Hal, trying to get a word in with his uncle was like ____ - utterly impossible.
a. walking the Primrose path
b. sailing under false colours
c. throwing a spanner in the works
d. being pissing in the wind
4. Orin's brother found himself ____ with his feelings, not taking his emotional well-being seriously.
a. barking at a knot
b. playing ducks and drakes
c. long in the tooth
d. bringing owls to Athens
5. The poor lad was all about singing his praises, but nobody was listening to him – it was like ____.
a. nailing jelly to the wall
b. flying off the handle
c. mugging up on prayers
d. a dervish in a whirling chant

TASK 5. WORD-FORMATION.**(1 mark)****Write the appropriate form of a suitable word from the box for each gap.**

evitable	line	real	grave	wave
respond	stand	secure	take	side

I think of the Moms, alphabetizing cans of soup in the cabinet over the [1] _____. Of Himself's umbrella hung by its handle from the edge of the mail table just inside the Headmaster's House's foyer. The bad ankle hasn't ached once this whole year. I think of John N. R. Wayne, who would have won this year's What-aBurger, [2] _____ watch in a mask as Donald Gately and I dig up my father's head. There's very little doubt that Wayne would have won. And Venus Williams owns a ranch [3] _____ Green Valley; she may well attend the 18's Boys' and Girls' finals. I will be out in plenty of time for tomorrow's semi; I trust Uncle Charles. Tonight's winner is almost sure to be Dymphna, sixteen but with a birthday two weeks under the 15 April [4] _____; and Dymphna will still be tired tomorrow at 0830, while I, sedated, will have slept like a [5] _____ image. I have never before faced Dymphna in tournament play, nor played with the sonic balls the blind require, but I watched him barely dispatch Petropolis Kahn in the Round of 16, and I know he is mine.

TASK 6. HOMOPHONES**(1 mark)**

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.a. The sky was filled with the black smoke of firecrackers, and the sombre _____ thud of drums disturbed the quiet of the churchyard square.
1.b. The Fire _____ will deploy all the brigades in the event of wildfires during the summer.
- 2.a. The scandal would have been an ideal opportunity for the Prime Minister to take his political responsibility and to _____ aside.
2.b. The _____ stretched from the tops of the rocks to the horizon, a vast sheet striped with windblown snow.

3.a. Production tried to ____ the tiniest bit of drama out of the influencers having to sit around and answer controversial questions.

3.b. The bombs destroyed the walls and windows of the buildings that ____ the enormous area, which was covered in dust and debris.

4.a. Farm labourers had to ____ for extended periods of time in the fields in order to thin and weed, which resulted in crippling spine or other deformities.

4.b. The church ____ was dry in the weeks preceding the shelter-in-place directive.

5.a. The goal of human resources is to examine our behaviour, not to ____ our souls.

5.b. The magnetic resonance image revealed a cystic tumour the size of a ____ on the patient's left frontal lobe.

TASK 7. SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

(1 mark)

Provide a word from the text...

A. with the same meaning as the following:

1. thrust
2. queasy
3. acknowledging
4. held down
5. gagging

B. with the opposite meaning of the following:

1. enrage
2. sturdy
3. hairless
4. unblemished
5. summarized

WRITING TASK.

(3 marks)

Write an essay in 300 words analysing the points from the text below and giving your own view on ways to reduce grade retention in Spain.

Some longitudinal studies have demonstrated grade retention harms individual careers and outcomes (e.g. Griffith, Lloyd, Lane, & Tankersley, 2010; Ou & Reynolds, 2010), as well as student behaviour and well-being (e.g. Crothers et al., 2010), while other research finds positive effects (Marsh et al., 2017). Greene and Winters (2009) showed that once a test-based retention policy has been installed, those who were exempted from the policy did worse. Additionally, Babcock and Bedard (2011) showed that a large number of students being retained could have a positive effect on the cohort (i.e. all students, including those who are promoted).

<https://www.oecd.org/pisa/sitedocument/PISA-2021-questionnaire-framework.pdf>