

# B1 ACCREDITATION EXAM

## READING TASK



# UCO IDIOMAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE CÓRDOBA



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### CANDIDATE'S INFORMATION.

D.N.I. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

### TASKS INSTRUCTIONS.

Time : 60 minutes.

There are two texts (A and B). Candidates should answer both readings. Read the questions carefully before answering.

## READING A

### No Place Like Home

Not many people find it difficult to answer the question “Where are you from?” For most, it’s a simple enough answer that doesn’t require a lengthy response. James Peterson, an English teacher, is a definite exception to this rule. Given the nature of his job and the fact he travels often, he is regularly asked this question. His most common answer is: “Well, it’s complicated.”

Both James’ parents are from different places. His father was born in New Zealand, but grew up in Australia which is where his father’s side of the family calls home. His mother, on the other hand, was born in England to Ukrainian parents. Getting both sides of the family together has proven quite difficult in the past. Culture shock, language barriers, differences in opinion, and inadequate accommodation makes planning a family reunion near impossible. In spite of the complicated family tree, though, James says the few times the family has been able to come together have been splendid.

James himself was born in the States. Given his parents’ academic professions, he was destined to travel the world for the rest of his life. Both his parents are highly respected in their fields and are constantly offered positions in universities around the globe. Because of this, he’s never spent more than three or four years in one place. By the time he was eighteen he had lived in four different countries. For a time his parents lived separately and so James went to live with his mum’s parents in England, who taught him about the Ukrainian culture and language. When he turned eighteen and he could finally make his own decision about where to live and go to school, he chose to spend much of the four years studying abroad. Once graduated, James kept travelling the world teaching English.

At this point it should be obvious why such a simple question as “Where are you from” is so complex for James. The second-most asked question for James is if he “identifies” more with a particular nationality, but this one isn’t any simpler to answer. His time with his Ukrainian grandparents really made an impression on him, but not enough to make him feel more Ukrainian. He was born in the States, but the mixed accent he inherited definitely sets him apart. Nor did he spend enough time in either England or New Zealand to identify very much with those cultures.

Despite its complexity, James doesn’t mind talking about his background. In fact, he finds it often sparks up some very interesting conversations with people. There are definite *downsides* to being a “World Citizen,” though. He can’t forget to take his two passports and various other papers and he has to be very careful not to misplace them in order to avoid a bureaucratic nightmare. “The worst,” he says, “is when I have to fill out a form of some kind – my answer just doesn’t fit in that tiny box!” .

**Choose the right answer**

1. Why can't James give a simple answer to the question "Where are you from?"
  - a. He doesn't enjoy talking about it.
  - b. He's embarrassed his grandparents are immigrants .
  - c. He travels often.
  - d. Many members of his family are from different places.
  
2. Which of the following is NOT a reason why James' family gets together so infrequently?
  - a. Not enough living space.
  - b. His family live in different countries.
  - c. His family do not get on well.
  - d. They have problems communicating.
  
3. Why have James' parents travelled so much?
  - a. Because they work in the field of education and research.
  - b. To visit their family.
  - c. They love travelling.
  - d. Because they can't find a place they like.
  
4. When he was old enough to decide on a place to live he
  - a. settled down near relatives.
  - b. received an education in other countries.
  - c. abandoned his studies and kept travelling.
  - d. taught English abroad.

5. What prevents James from feeling American?
  - a. His accent is too English.
  - b. He doesn't speak like an American.
  - c. He doesn't connect with many Americans.
  - d. He hasn't spent enough time in the States.
  
6. Why doesn't James identify with either of his parents' nationalities?
  - a. He didn't live in his parents' countries long enough.
  - b. He feels closer to his grandparents.
  - c. He didn't know his parents very well.
  - d. He's never been to New Zealand.
  
7. What is one reason why James doesn't mind talking about his background?
  - a. He likes to talk about it.
  - b. He thinks he has an interesting story.
  - c. It gives him something to talk about with people.
  - d. It's complicated.
  
8. What is the most adequate synonym for 'downside' in the last paragraph?
  - a. Problem.
  - b. Disadvantage.
  - c. Disappointment.
  - d. Obstacle.

## READING B

### How young is too young for Facebook?

At the moment Facebook bans children under the age of 13 from its services as federal US laws state that websites collecting personal data from children must first obtain verifiable parental consent.

Facebook is seeking ways to extend its service to tweens by developing special requirements just for them. For example, under the proposals parents would have access to their children's Facebook site and be able to approve their friends and remove posts. However, Facebook's moves towards extending Facebook access to tweens is proving controversial.

#### **Cyberspace is forever**

Security advocates claim that giving parents monitoring rights won't remove the dangers. They point out that it may take parents several days to even notice that their child has posted something inappropriate or potentially harmful to their future. By then, their friends may have already reposted or downloaded the information or photo. There could even be all kinds of comments and responses in a matter of minutes, which would be impossible for even the most vigilant parents to monitor. Once the information is out there in cyberspace, it is no longer under their parents' control and can remain there forever.

#### **The psychological effect**

Peggy Orenstein of the *Los Angeles Times* is concerned about the potential psychological effects of Facebook on the psyche of children under 13. She refers to one recent study of college users which found that the students' identities are becoming increasingly outwardly driven through social-networking sites like Facebook. People are trying to create themselves through a false image presented to the world, rather than by valuing who they really are. Peggy worries that this sort of pressure on a child could do significant psychological harm. Since social networks are a relatively recent phenomenon, we can only guess what the long term effects will be.

#### **A safe room**

Stephen Balkam, chief executive and founder of the *Family Online Safety Institute*, a non-profit organization that receives funding from internet companies including Facebook, points out that there are already an estimated 7.5 million children under 13 using social networking sites. They lie about their age when they sign up. He believes that it would be a lot safer for these children to have a special Facebook area with special protections set up just for tweens, rather than to be left out there in cyberland by themselves.

#### **Glossary**

To seek: try to find

Tween: child aged between 10 and 12

Security advocates: somebody who prioritizes safety

Outwardly driven: determined by external factors

*Adapted from: Yes magazine*

