

B1 ACCREDITATION EXAM

READING TASK



UCO IDIOMAS

UNIVERSIDAD DE CÓRDOBA



CANDIDATE'S INFORMATION.

D.N.I. _____ DATE _____

FULL NAME _____

TASK INSTRUCTIONS.

Time : 60 minutes.

There are two tasks (reading A and reading B). Candidates should answer both readings. Read the questions carefully before answering. Remember to mark the correct answers on the answer sheet.

READING A

Memories from Chard

I have returned to my hometown of Chard after an absence of ten years. Chard is a market town set in South Somerset surrounded by beautiful countryside near the Devon and Dorset borders.

I started my visit at the house where I lived from the time I was born until I left home at 18. I first noticed some lost memories when I opened a cupboard in the dining room and I remembered the doll house that my older sister made in that cupboard, complete with lights, rugs, and all the miniature furniture. It wasn't an exciting memory, but it was significant to me, especially since my older sister has passed away. This brought to my mind a whole sequence of memories about my sister and I growing up in that house. I began looking curiously around the house opening closets, exploring long unexplored places and reliving much of my childhood. Then I decided to expand my trip down to my hometown.

So many things have changed around here. When I left Chard, there was a small park on the right as you left town. They have built a large shopping mall there, full of shops, cinemas, bars, etc. A new post office has also been built just across from my old school which has been made into a nursing home. I popped in and met some familiar faces. Mrs Coins, my teacher, was there, and also Mr Brown the postman.

I went on with my trip and found that the football field where I used to play with my classmates has been changed completely. They have now added a new stand where probably a few thousand people could sit. It looks really great. Further in towards the center of town I passed the old roller skating rink that only survived as a roller rink for a few years. It is now a warehouse for a clothing manufacturer.

The biggest changes have taken place in the downtown area. They have pedestrianised the centre so you can't drive there anymore. A fountain has been built and some benches have also been added along with a grassy area and a new street cafe. There are lots of shops all along Maine Street. The government has granted some help for those who wanted to open a shop in town, making it easier for them to set up their businesses.

Another improvement is the number of new restaurants that offer people of Chard a bit more variety. A Japanese and a Spanish restaurant have opened in the town centre and a Mexican restaurant has set up shop near my home - which is where I am going tonight!

Read about Zoe returning to her hometown after being abroad for some years. Then answer the questions. (maximum 15 words per answer)

1. How long has she been away?
2. How did she describe her memories about the doll house?
3. What has happened to her older sister?
4. What did the nursing home use to be?
5. Which improvement has been made to the football field?
6. Where are cars not allowed?
7. Who has promoted the city centre?
8. Which of the town's installations mentioned was least successful?



READING B

The Spanish Woman

The Spanish Woman and I are just fundamentally different, and I can't seem to get a grasp on her. Often imitated but never duplicated, men around the world would probably all say the same thing: what a woman!

The Spanish Woman may have possibly been born in high heels. It hasn't been confirmed but evidence suggests this, as demonstrated by her unabated love for any type of shoe either extremely tall, narrow, uncomfortable, or difficult to walk in (a combination of these things is optimal). High heels are appropriate footwear for just about any occasion, from walking the dog, to grocery store shopping, to taking your 3 month old infant for a stroll through town. Even better if these errands take you down cobblestone streets. There must be some kind of school that I don't know about where the Spanish Woman goes to learn to walk on cobblestone in high heels, because they've got it down to a science.

Makeup is fundamental, and one must never leave the house without being properly *pintada*, or done-up. It doesn't matter if you're just taking the trash out or even going to the gym, makeup must always be worn. The more color the better, so pair your purple lipstick with some neon-blue eyeliner and you're good to go. What would a Spanish Woman say to the old adage that less is more? Probably that you're crazy!

It is interesting to observe the Spanish Woman at the gym, because the gym in its very nature is a contradiction of who *la mujer española* is at heart: it is a place where you are sweaty and disgusting and wear whatever is comfortable. Though high heels are a no-no, cute color-coordinated track-suits and workout apparel are a definite *si*. And contrary to popular belief, the gym is more a time to socialize than actually work out. Not that they need the gym anyway, the Mediterranean diet does the body wonders.

Lastly, an important subset of the Spanish Woman would be the Older Spanish Woman. This species is characterized by a love of chatting with anybody and everybody, an intense devotion to fur coats in not-that-cold weather, and rather rude umbrella etiquette (I've almost had my eye taken out by an old lady's umbrella a fair few times). This woman is often seen walking arm in arm with another Older Spanish Woman wearing a similar fur coat with stockings and the best makeup you've ever seen. Beware when talking with the Older Spanish Woman because no topic is ever off-limits, especially those uncomfortable ones like your weight and your relationship status.

DRD

Posted by [Danielle Decker](#)

Answer the following questions according to the text;

- 1) What is the most appropriate definition of the word 'stroll' in the second paragraph?
 - a) Walk without any particular destination
 - b) Have a look in different shops without buying
 - c) Carry a child carefully
 - d) Look for something to do
- 2) When do Spanish women wear high heels shoes?
 - a) Always
 - b) Never
 - c) to go to work
 - d) to go shopping
- 3) How did the author explain the Spanish Woman's skill wearing high heels?
 - a) Training
 - b) Acquired talent
 - c) A high heels shoes school
 - d) They were born in them
- 4) What did the writer suggest for Spanish women?
 - a) Make up must always be worn
 - b) Less is more
 - c) The more color the better
 - d) High heels are a must
- 5) What do Spanish people do at the gym?
 - a) Sweat
 - b) Eat healthy
 - c) Socialize
 - d) Sports
- 6) What element of the Older Spanish Woman's outfit concerns the author the most?
 - a) Fur coat
 - b) High heel shoes
 - c) Umbrella
 - d) Stockings



- 7) Why does the author warn us about talking to older Spanish women?
- a) They enjoy talking to anybody
 - b) They like to talk about uncomfortable topics
 - c) They will criticize your weight
 - d) They will gossip about you to other people
- 8) The author's general attitude is that she is ... the Spanish Woman
- a) Positive about
 - b) Negative about
 - c) Confused by
 - d) Angered by