



**Govern de les Illes Balears**

Conselleria d'Educació  
i Universitats

Escoles Oficials d'Idiomes de les Illes Balears

**MOSTRA**  
**PROVA DE CERTIFICACIÓ**  
**NIVELL INTERMEDI B2**  
**ANGLÈS**

**Prova escrita**

<b>CTE</b>	COMPRESIÓ DE TEXTOS ESCRITS	70 minuts aprox.
<b>CTO</b>	COMPRESIÓ DE TEXTOS ORALS	40 minuts aprox.
<b>PCTE</b>	PRODUCCIÓ I COPRODUCCIÓ DE TEXTOS ESCRITS	70 minuts aprox.
<b>MLE</b>	MEDIACIÓ LINGÜÍSTICA ESCRITA	45 minuts aprox.

**Prova oral**

<b>PCTO</b>	PRODUCCIÓ I COPRODUCCIÓ DE TEXTOS ORALS	20 minuts aprox.
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**CTE COMPRESIÓ DE TEXTOS ESCRITS** 70 minuts aprox.

**PART 1. MULTIPLE CHOICE.** Read the following text. Choose the best option (A, B or C) to respond to the questions. The activity begins with an example (0). Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. The task is worth a total of 10 marks.

**Is Your Personality Set in Stone?**

Have you ever wished you could be better organised or more sociable? Or more inventive and original? Perhaps you're a constant worrier, and you'd prefer to be a little more carefree?

If any of these thoughts ring true, you are far from alone. A number of surveys show that at least two-thirds of people would like to change some element of their personality. In the past, such desires appeared to be unsuccessful. Our personalities were thought to be formed in childhood and to remain fixed throughout lives. Recent scientific research, however, challenges this expectation of personality's permanence. With the right psychological strategies and enough effort, many people can successfully shape their core traits into the shape they desire.

There are many ways of measuring personality, but much of the research has centred on five specific traits that are thought to contain our most fundamental characteristics: the "big five". They are extraversion, conscientiousness, agreeableness, neuroticism and openness to experience. In thousands of studies, psychologists have shown that people's scores for the big five can predict important outcomes in a range of areas. People who score highly on being conscientious, for example, get better grades at school and earn more. Those who score highly on neuroticism, meanwhile, are more predisposed to stress, which has knock-on effects for their health.

Our genes almost certainly play a role: it's why people's personalities often reflect their biological parents' traits, and why identical twins are more similar than non-identical siblings. The influence of our social environment was thought to end in early adulthood, as the brain reached maturity. If this were true, you would not expect adults' personalities to change naturally over time, and it wouldn't be possible to shape personality at will. Yet that is exactly what psychology professor Nathan Hudson and his colleagues have shown with a series of groundbreaking studies.

Their interventions typically involve prescribing regular activities that reflect the personality traits people wish to adopt. An introvert who wished to be more extraverted, for example, might have the goal of introducing themselves to a stranger once a week, or making small talk with the cashier at their local supermarket. Someone who wished to be more conscientious might be asked to carefully proofread an email before sending it, or to write a to-do list before going to bed. While these tasks may seem insignificant, the aim is for the thinking patterns and behaviours they generate to become habitual. And the evidence so far suggests it works remarkably well. Conditions such as depression and anxiety are often characterised by feelings of helplessness. What if educating people about their potential for personality change placed them on a more positive trajectory? To test this idea, Jessica Schleider, assistant professor of clinical psychology at Stony Brook University, New York, and John R Weisz, professor of psychology at Harvard, selected a group of around 100 adolescents who had previously shown signs of anxiety or depression. They

took a brief computerised course that explained the science of brain plasticity, together with statements from older students, who described the ways they had grown over their school years. They were then given worksheets to consolidate what they had learned.

When Schleider and Weisz checked in on the teens' mental health nine months later, the students reported a significant decrease in their anxiety and depression compared with those who had instead taken part in a course on "emotional expression". The same strategy has since been tested in other settings, with larger numbers of participants that have produced equally positive outcomes. Teaching people about personality growth is not a panacea, but these results suggest that it may be a useful tool to help build greater psychological resilience.

Whether you are battling with serious issues or simply want to polish off your rougher edges, it is reassuring to know that character is ultimately within your own hands. DNA and our upbringing may predispose us to certain traits, but we also have the power to shape our future selves.

Source: adapted from *theguardian.com*

**0. What belief about personality was commonly held in the past?**

- A) People's character traits were unchangeable after early years.
- B) Most individuals successfully modified their personality throughout life.
- C) Surveys indicated that personality changes naturally occur in adulthood.

**1. How do psychologists use "the big five" personality traits in their research?**

- A) To label individuals.
- B) To foresee life results.
- C) To determine a fixed personality type.

**2. What theory about personality and genes has been questioned by recent research?**

- A) Twins were thought to have similar personalities.
- B) Personality was thought to be fixed by genes and not change.
- C) Personality was thought to change easily throughout life.

**3. How do psychologists help people develop new personality traits?**

- A) Assigning small, consistent tasks.
- B) Focusing on deep therapeutic tasks.
- C) Relying on personality tests alone.

**4. How did researchers attempt to help teenagers with anxiety and depression?**

- A) Doing online therapy providing real-life testimonials to see the results.
- B) Encouraging students to develop a more positive view towards education.
- C) Providing an educational program on how the brain works and personal growth.

**5. What did the follow-up study reveal about the impact of teaching personality growth?**

- A) No significant difference was found among participants.
- B) It eliminated anxiety and depression in participants.
- C) It showed greater improvements in mental health among participants.

**PART 2. MULTIPLE MATCHING.** Read the texts about different people deciding which job to choose. Match each paragraph to the questions below. The activity begins with an example (0). Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. The task is worth a total of 5 marks.

**A Difficult Decision****A. Carol**

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in educational technology, Carol moved to a bigger city, applied for jobs, and received several offers although she is mainly interested in two. She has to choose one right away in order to continue to pay her rent, a loan and basic expenses. The first offer is as a specialist at a distance education department of a university. It's an entry-level position with a modest annual salary which could only cover her basic necessities leaving only a little left over. The main benefits would include subsidized meals, a minimum annual pay rise of 15% and a 70% tuition discount if she does a Master's degree in the educational technology program. On the other hand, the second offer is from an education company that provides digital products to schools. The salary would be the same she currently has, but they'd pay for her transportation costs. She'd also be eligible for quarterly bonuses. She doesn't know whether or not to accept the offer.

**B. Joe**

Joe has been working as a front desk receptionist at a five-star hotel for over years now. He enjoys meeting and working with different people at his job. The atmosphere of the hotel is warm and friendly, and he gets 20 vacation days a year. The only problem is that he doesn't really see himself as a receptionist for the long-term, and in order to get promoted he'll have to wait until someone retires. The bad news is that no one is expected to retire in the next couple of years. Therefore, he's eventually planning a career change. He has experience dealing with customers face-to-face and working in dynamic environments, therefore, he believes he could be successful in sales. He has had a couple of interviews and received an offer as an entry-level sales associate for a bedding company, whose products are used at the hotel he works at. The annual salary is lower than his current salary, and he'd only get 10 vacation days every year. He'd have to work by himself a lot as he visits different clients. He's not sure if it's a good option.

**C. Sally**

Sally has worked as a senior accountant at an established, successful clothing company for about ten years. She enjoys the job and likes the company. The office is also close to her home. However, she's been working in the same position for six years now, and it seems she won't get a promotion in the near future unless someone leaves or retires. She has been recently contacted by a recruiter

and has been offered a job for an executive-level position in the finance department of a newly founded company that's a competitor in the same industry. They've offered her a salary 40% approximately higher than what she's currently earning. Moreover, she has also been offered a company car since she'd have to visit another office once a week, and it takes almost two hours to get there. The company offers employee discounts on its products, like her current employer, but it also has an annual bonus plan, which her current company does not. She is persuaded by the offer, but she's uncertain.

#### D. Jake

After earning a bachelor's degree in marketing, Jake relocated to a larger city, applied for jobs, and quickly received many offers. However, he's torn between two options and must decide soon to keep up with his rent, car payments, and daily expenses. The first offer is for a junior marketing analyst role at a well-known university. It's an entry-level position with a modest salary that would cover his essential costs, leaving him with little extra. The job includes perks like subsidized meals, an annual salary increase of at least 15%, and a 85% discount on education fees if he chooses to undertake a Master's in marketing or business administration. The second offer comes from a fast-growing tech startup specializing in digital advertising solutions. The salary is higher, and the company covers commuting expenses. He'd also be suitable for quarterly bonuses based on his performance, which could significantly boost his income. Now, Jake has to decide which path lines up best with his future goals.

Source: adapted from *prospects.ac.uk*

#### Who ...

0. would have fewer holidays if they changed jobs?	<u>B</u>
1. need to be mindful of their expenses when selecting a job?	__ / __
2. are considering a new job opportunity that comes with a rise in their wage?	__ / __
3. have been offered educational benefits?	__ / __
4. is considering a radical job change?	__
5. might have to wait a long time for a promotion in their current job?	__ / __

**PART 3. WORD BUILDING.** For questions 1-8, read the text. Use the word given to form a word that fits in the space. Some of the words may require a negative/plural affix. The activity begins with an example (0). Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. The task is worth a total of 10 marks.

### How Healthy Is Your 'Social Biome'?

We interact with people every day: A brief nod to a neighbor. A **(0. FRIEND)** *friendly* chat in the school pick-up line. A heart-to-heart with a friend.

Together, these moments add up to your "social biome" (i.e. your social environment or network), a term coined by the communication **(1. SEARCH)** Andy Merolla, of the University of California, and Jeffrey Hall, of the University of Kansas, to describe the complex ecosystem of relationships that can shape your quality of life.

In today's hyper connected world, many people underestimate the **(2. IMPORTANT)** of a well-balanced social biome. An unhealthy social biome, filled with **(3. RELY)** and disrespectful individuals, can lead to stress, anxiety and even depression. On the other hand, a(n) **(4. BENEFIT)** and understanding network fosters happiness and resilience.

To maintain a healthier social biome, it is crucial to engage in **(5. MEAN)** relationships while avoiding toxic and unnecessary interactions. Over-dependence and **(6. REAL)** expectations on social media can create a false sense of connection, leading to loneliness and **(7. SATISFY)**. Instead, prioritising face-to-face interactions and practicing **(8. MIND)** in communication can significantly improve social well-being.

**(9. ADD)**, self-reflection helps identify unhelpful patterns and allows for the rebuilding of stronger, more fulfilling connections. Therefore, by surrounding ourselves with **(10. POSITIVE)**, kindness and genuine connections, we can create a more balanced and enriching social life.

Source: adapted from *nytimes.com*

**PART 4. VERB FORM GAP FILL.** Read the following text and fill in the gaps with the verb that best fits each space using the correct verb form and tense (affirmative or negative). Each verb can be used only once. There are TWO extra verbs you will not need. The activity begins with an example (0). The task is worth a total of 8 marks.

harm	<b>grow up</b>	express	study	gain	remain
	expect	speak	release	face	struggle

### Julien Baker

Julien Baker is an American singer and songwriter, born on 29 September 1995 in Memphis, Tennessee. She **--(0)--** *grew up* in a religious household, where music was present, but it wasn't always clear that it would become her career. As a teenager, she began writing songs, even though she wasn't trying to become famous and **--(1)--** her music to reach a wide audience.

While she --(2)-- at university, Baker recorded her debut album, "Sprained Ankle", which --(3)-- in 2015. At that point in her life, she was going through a difficult period. --(4)-- with her mental health made everything much harder. However, she was also learning how --(5)-- her emotions honestly through music. The album was recorded without a big production team, but it was very well received by critics. After she --(6)-- significant recognition, she started touring, and her audience slowly grew.

In the years that followed, Baker became known for her emotional lyrics and powerful performances. From then on, she --(7)-- openly about topics that are not always easy to discuss and she has never pretended that success solved all her problems. Even though her career has changed over time, she has continued to develop as an artist and still --(8)-- an important voice in modern indie music.

Source: adapted from *nytimes.com*

**PART 5. OPEN CLOZE.** Read the following text and fill in the blanks with ONE word. The activity begins with an example (0). Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. The task is worth a total of 7 marks.

### Learning Languages

I have a confession to --(0)-- make. I am not proud of the fact that I am anything but fluent in my favourite language. I speak Spanish up to a decent level. I can also read and write in the language to a certain extent. My colleagues and friends believe my command of the language is great. --(1)-- , I am aware it is not true.

Having said that, I have unlearned a fair bit, considering that I do --(2)-- have to make use of the language --(3)-- a regular basis. My initial efforts to learn (and use) Spanish spread across continents. I picked up a bit over multiple vacations in the Iberian Peninsula and also while being stationed for an indefinite period (for work) in Argentina. Later, I got an opportunity to make use of --(4)-- I had learned during a study program in Mexico.

Despite these opportunities, I never managed to turn Spanish into a natural part of my daily life. I relied --(5)-- much on short-term memory and didn't build solid habits. Watching movies or reading the occasional article was helpful, but it is not --(6)--. Now, I'm trying to get back on track by practising regularly and speaking with native speakers online. It's a slow process, but I know that consistency is the key --(7)-- real progress.

Source: adapted from *medium.com*

**ANSWER SHEET**

**PART 1. MULTIPLE CHOICE. Is Your Personality Set in Stone?**

0.	<u>B</u>		2.		4.	
1.			3.		5.	

**PART 2. MULTIPLE MATCHING. A Difficult Decision**

0.	<u>B</u>			2.				4.			
1.				3.				5.			

**PART 3. WORD BUILDING. How Healthy Is Your 'Social Biome'?**

0.	<u>friendly</u>		5.		
1.			6.		
2.			8.		
3.			9.		
4.			10.		
5.					

**PART 4. VERB FORM GAP FILL. Julien Baker**

0.	<u>grew up</u>		5.		
1.			6.		
2.			7.		
3.			8.		
4.					

**PART 5. OPEN CLOZE. Learning Languages**

0.	<u>make</u>		4.		
1.			5.		
2.			6.		
3.			7.		

**CTO COMPRESIÓ DE TEXTOS ORALS** 40 minuts aprox.

**PART 1. MULTIPLE CHOICE.** You will hear an extract about Susan Bennett, the original voice of Siri. Choose the option (A, B or C) which best answers the questions according to what you hear. You will hear the recording twice. You have TWO minutes to read the questions. The activity begins with an example (0). The task is worth a total of 6 marks.

**Siri's Voice****0. Susan Bennett says she ...**

- A. had a clear idea of her career.
- B. worked in clubs serving.
- C. accidentally found her career path.

**1. Why did she become a voice actor?**

- A. Because the voice actor for the spot didn't attend the studio.
- B. Because the studio owner noticed her strong accent.
- C. Because a voice coach and a talent agent convinced her.

**2. She found out she was the new voice of Apple ...**

- A. thanks to a relative who was playing with his iPhone.
- B. and was pleased to have been chosen for the job.
- C. but kept it secret for a bit longer.

**3. According to Susan, being Siri's voice ...**

- A. made her feel sure about her career prospects.
- B. has more pros than cons in her career.
- C. is apparently a drawback in her business.

**4. Why does Susan say being Siri has been a life lesson?**

- A. Because she turned into a social butterfly.
- B. Because she had to confront her lack of confidence.
- C. Because she had to decide if she wanted to keep up with her career.

**5. Since it became known that she is Siri's voice, she ...**

- A. regards it as an entirely positive experience.
- B. has been recording more Siri work.
- C. has paid the price with fewer auditions.

**6. What happened the first time Susan talked to Siri?**

- A. Siri stated the obvious.
- B. Siri asked Susan how she was.
- C. Siri and Susan had a deep conversation.

**PART 2. SENTENCE SELECTION.** You will hear an extract discussing the issue of children using smartphones. Decide which sentences are TRUE (✓) and which are FALSE (X) according to what you hear. You will hear the recording twice. You have ONE AND A HALF minutes to read the sentences. The activity begins with an example (0). The task is worth a total of 9 marks.

### A Smartphone Free Childhood?

	TRUE ✓	FALSE X
0. <i>Beth can do without her smartphone.</i>		X
1. Girls who use a smartphone tend to suffer from emotional distress.		
2. Approximately 60% of children aged 8 to 11 already have a smartphone in Britain.		
3. Myra Anubi has a daughter who rejects the idea of having a smartphone.		
4. Her daughter's friends at school have a smartphone.		
5. Myra Anubi has decided to give her 9-year-old daughter a smartphone.		
6. A group of parents started a WhatsApp group to encourage giving children under 14 access to social media.		
7. Daisy Greenwell says parents allow children to have a phone because of social pressure.		
8. At the beginning it was tough, but the group eventually went viral and more parents got involved.		
9. Unluckily, the campaign has made little progress in schools.		

Source: adapted from *BBC Learning English*

**PART 3. SENTENCE COMPLETION.** You will hear Sam Bentley, a social media creator, talking about good environmental news. Complete each sentence with one or two words you hear in the recording. You will hear the recording twice. You have TWO minutes to read the sentences. The activity begins with an example (0). The task is worth a total of 10 marks.

### Some Good News

0. Sam's aim is to make his audience feel **(0) optimistic** about the environment.
1. Beagle Freedom Project is a(n) **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ organisation that rehomes animals used in laboratory testing.
2. Freedom Field will give medical care and safe **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ for the animals to recover.
3. The Swedish ban intends to recover **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ species to improve overall ocean health.
4. Sweden has banned bottom trawling because it's a **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ fishing practice.
5. Scientists have developed a healthier, more **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ and tastier chocolate.
6. The creative recipe will help farmers bring **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ and reduce the amount of land.
7. A Seattle based startup has invented a new way to make coffee reducing **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ by 50%.
8. By 2050 more than half the land used for coffee plantations could become unsuitable due to **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ rainfall among other threats.
9. The Maple River is back to its natural state after suffering from water **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. At the end, he tells the audience he hopes they feel **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ better after this news.

Source: adapted from *YouTube*

**PCTE PRODUCCIÓ I COPRODUCCIÓ DE TEXTOS ESCRITS** 70 minuts aprox.

You must complete **PART 1** and choose **ONE** option from **PART 2**. Make sure you follow the instructions for each task carefully and include all the information required. Write your compositions in the space provided. Each task is worth a total of 10 marks.

**PART 1**

You are a student and new restrictions have been introduced regarding the use of mobile phones at your school. You and many of your classmates disagree with these changes, as you believe they are too strict:

- Phones are not allowed during class time.
- Phones must be kept off and stored in bags.
- Penalties: confiscation and/or disciplinary action.

Write your **letter of complaint** to the headteacher, Mrs Stevens, to express your dissatisfaction with the new decision. Use **110** words approximately.

**PART 2**

Write about **ONE** of the following topics. Use **180** words approximately.

**Option A**

You have been asked to write an article on fake news in today's society for the school magazine. Give your point of view on the topic and support it with reasons and examples. You should also include:

- Is fake news damaging society?
- Do you think it is a manageable problem?
- What can we do to prevent it?

Write your **article**.

**Option B**

You have seen a literary contest in a magazine asking for short stories to be published in the next issue. All short stories must begin as follows: "I walked into the abandoned house and noticed everything was spotless, the candles were burning, and a soft melody was playing in the background. But no one was there ... or so I thought."

The short story must include:

- At least two characters.
- Describe the setting and atmosphere in detail.
- A brief dialogue between characters.

Write your **short story**. Do not write the beginning of the short story provided above.

## MLE MEDIACIÓ LINGÜÍSTICA ESCRITA 45 minuts aprox.

There are **TWO** tasks in this test. You must complete BOTH tasks using the information given. Use your own words as far as possible. Write your compositions in the space provided. Each task is worth a total of 10 marks.

### TASK 1

CONTEXT: Your 16-year-old younger brother, who is unemployed, has seen an advertisement for a shop assistant position at a skateboarding shop. He has sent you a draft text of his letter of application.

TASK: Rewrite his job application email turning it into an accurate and formal email. Include the information that is relevant, so that you increase his chances of getting the job he is applying for. Use 90 words approximately.

Hey y'all!

My name is Richard Lynch. I'm 16 and I'm English. I have passed my CGSE (ordinary level) and I speak English (as you can clearly see) and French (at a very basic level). I saw the ad on findingjobs.com and man, I do match for the job offered. I don't really have any experience at all, 'cause I'm 16, but I need the job 'cause I need the money! I don't mind working long shifts or even weekends, but if possible, I'd like to have the day off on my birthday which is on the 23rd June.

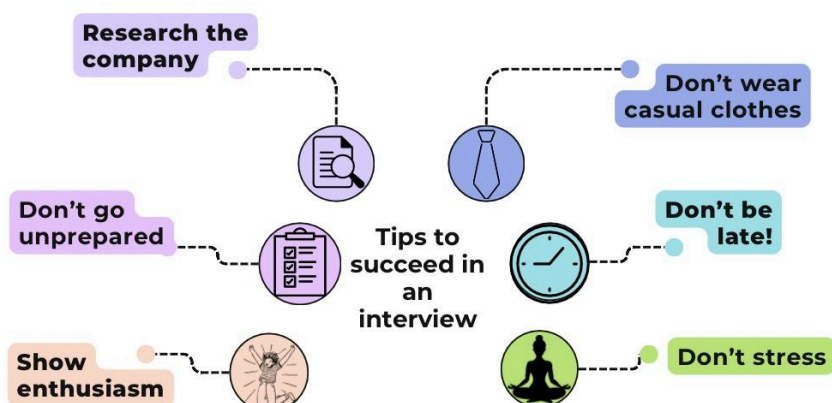
I'm hard-working, a bit stubborn at times, sensible but a bit bossy too. Oh! And I love skateboarding, it's my passion! Here you have my CV. I hope you find it interesting and hire me, I'm sure you'll be glad to have me in your team!

Cheers! R.L.

### TASK 2

CONTEXT: Your teenage brother has a job interview for the job he has applied for. Due to his lack of experience, he knows nothing about interviews. You have found the infographic below.

TASK: Write down a message explaining to him what he should take into account for the interview. Use 80 words approximately.



## EXPRESSIONS ORAL

There are **TWO** parts in this test. You must do **BOTH**.

**PART 1:** You have **1** minute to read the statements and begin the conversation. The task is worth a total of 10 marks.

**PART 2:** You have **3** minutes to prepare your monologue. The task is worth a total of 10 marks.

## TOPIC: HUMAN &amp; SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS



## PART 1. CONVERSATION (6 minutes approx.)

Talk to each other about some of the following.

1. Risks of exposing oneself online.
2. Teens and social networks: pros and cons.
3. Cutting toxic relationships is not being selfish; it is an act of self-defense.
4. Ghosting is disrespectful and immature.

## PART 2. MONOLOGUE (3 minutes approx.)

Preparation time: 3 minutes

Talk about at least **TWO** of the following ideas. You may make some notes (words, phrases or an outline) for your talk (5 lines max.). The examiner may ask you further questions about the topic.

## CANDIDATE A

- Alone but not lonely: embracing self-discovery.
- Do long-distance relationships work?
- Is social media good or bad for making friends?

## CANDIDATE B

- How do cultural differences affect relationships?
- Benefits of owning a pet regarding one's health.
- How has technology affected social interaction?

**FULL DE RESPOSTES**  
**COMPRESIÓ DE TEXTOS ESCRITS**

**PART 1. MULTIPLE CHOICE. Is Your Personality Set in Stone?**

0.	A		2.	B		4.	C		6.	A	
1.	B		3.	A		5.	C				

**PART 2. MULTIPLE MATCHING. A Difficult Decision**

0.	B			2.	C	D		4.	B		
1.	A	D		3.	A	D		5.	B	C	

**PART 3. WORD BUILDING. How Healthy Is Your 'Social Biome'?**

0.	<i>friendly</i>		6.	unrealistic	
1.	researchers		7.	dissatisfaction	
2.	importance		8.	mindfulness	
3.	non-reliable/unreliable		9.	Additionally	
4.	beneficial		10.	positivity	
5.	meaningful				

**PART 4. VERB FORM GAP FILL. Julien Baker**

0.	<i>grew up</i>		5.	to express	
1.	didn't expect / hadn't expected		6.	(had) gained	
2.	was studying		7.	has spoken / has been speaking	
3.	was released		8.	remains	
4.	struggling				

**PART 5. OPEN CLOZE. Learning Languages**

0.	<i>make</i>		4.	what	
1.	But / However / Nevertheless / Nonetheless		5.	too	
2.	not		6.	enough	
3.	on		7.	to	

## COMPRESIÓ DE TEXTOS ORALS

## PART 1. MULTIPLE CHOICE. Siri's Voice

0.	<u>C</u>
1.	A
2.	C
3.	C
4.	B
5.	B
6.	A

## PART 2. SENTENCE SELECTION. A Smartphone Free Childhood?

	✓	X
0.		<del>X</del>
1.	✓	
2.	✓	
3.		X
4.	✓	
5.		X
6.		X
7.	✓	
8.	✓	
9.		X

## PART 3. SENTENCE COMPLETION. Good News in July

0.	<b><i>optimistic</i></b>	4.	endangered	8.	unpredictable
1.	nonprofit / non-profit	5.	sustainable	9.	warming / flooding
2.	habitats	6.	income	10.	slightly
3.	harmful	7.	deforestation		