



**Pruebas de acceso a la Universidad 2006
Mayores de 25 años**

INGLÉS

Read the following text and answer the 3 questions set on it.

London plan for a £5 daily vehicle charge

- 1 Traffic in our cities has become a nightmare. We are trying to pack a growing number of cars into streets that were never designed for them. Compare any photograph of a city road taken in 1963 with one taken today, and it is as though some alien growth has taken over. People are squeezed on to the margins of narrow pavements suffering the consequences of congestion and pollution.

Angry drivers will not stop at zebra crossings and they will park anywhere and on anything, provided there is no immediate danger of prosecution or towing.

- 10 This cannot go on. There are people who say it can, but they are mad. There are people who say it can't and try to do something about it, like Ken Livingstone, the mayor of London. Finally, there are people who are happy to have something done about it, as long as it doesn't affect them in any way.

On 17 February, London gets the new congestion charge; 800 cameras will scan the number plates of the 250,000 cars that enter the centre of the capital each day. Between 7am and 6.30pm, vehicles not specifically exempted will have to pay a charge of £5 a day.

- 15 There are lots of unwise people who are trying to make sure, or who are predicting, that Ken's plan will be a catastrophe. Among the most common objections are that technology might not work, that car number plates will not always be visible and the wrong people will be charged as a result. Another common complaint is that buses and tube stations will be overcrowded.
- 20 Meanwhile, in cities like Durham, a very small congestion charging experiment has proved to be a huge success. Since a £2 exit charge was imposed last October, traffic levels have fallen from 2,000 vehicles a day to 200.

(Edited from The Observer)

Questions

1. Read the following statements and say whether they are **true (T)**, **false (F)** or there is **no information (NI)**. See example 0 below. (10 marks)

Example: 0. The title is irrelevant to the content of the article

Answer: (F)

1. Most people welcome the congestion charge.
2. The mayor of London has decided to take action against heavy traffic.
3. A quarter million cars drive into the centre of London every day.
4. The writer compares traffic to a tumour that spreads and grows unstopably.
5. Congestion charges had never been introduced in the country before.
6. The writer is against this measure.
7. The article implies that drivers are very irresponsible.
8. The control system introduced in London is based on satellite pictures.
9. The writer is extremely irritated at the effects of traffic
10. There're plans to increase the number of buses and underground trains.

2. Find words in the text which match the following definitions:

Example: 0. The amount of money that somebody asks for goods and services.

Answer: charge

1. A terrifying or very unpleasant experience. (lines 1 to 10)
 2. Forced into a small space (1. 1 to 10)
 3. The head of the municipal corporation of a city (1. 1 to 10)
 4. A piece of metal displaying the registration number of a vehicle (1.10 to 20)
 5. A reason for not being satisfied (1.10 to 20)
 6. Filled with too many people (1.10 to 20)
- (3 marks)**

3. The 8 phrases missing from the text are listed on the right. Say where they belong matching the letters with the numbers. **Number 0 is an example.**

.... 0/A.... did you work last week?	<u>A. How many hours</u>
• The regulation 35 hours. I 1 I leave on time.	B. to get off early
• None- I caught up on daytime TV 2 another week off sick.	C. had to stay late
• 3 60. I like my job as the bags 4 and the disintegration of my personal relationships 5	D. after taking
• About 40. I 6 a couple of evenings to clear the backlog of work. I hope7 this week, though.	E. under my eyes
	F. More than
	G. always make sure
	H. will testify

(7 marks)