

PRUEBAS DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD
 EXAMEN DE INGLÉS
 CURSO 2007/2008

INSTRUCCIONES:

Responda en inglés a las cuestiones planteadas sobre el texto. Lea atentamente el enunciado de cada una de las preguntas.

En cada cuestión se señala la puntuación máxima correspondiente a la misma.

THE DEBATE ON SCHOOL TRIPS

The debate around the safety of school trips has been raging for more than a decade. Ever since four teenagers drowned while canoeing in Dorset in 1993, parents and teachers have fought to save excursions. But a string of disasters has threatened to put an end to the idyllic image of children trekking through countryside. Research revealed by the Education Secretary confirms that many teachers fear taking on responsibility for outings because, in a number of cases, schools or individuals have been *prosecuted** or jailed when things go wrong. This has led to a culture of fear among schools.

In 2002 Max Palmer, 10, drowned during a trip to Cumbria. His teacher, Paul Ellis, was sentenced to 12 months for homicide. The following year, Ellis's *union** called for its 223,000 members to boycott trips. "Society no longer appears to accept the concept of a genuine accident," they said at the time. In the past four years the union has supported at least 20 members through legal action relating to trips. However, it has also worked closely with the government on the latest reforms.

The government has joined the debate announcing significant reforms aimed at saving and expanding the traditional school trip. The Department for Education and Skills wants to ensure every pupil gets regular time outside the classroom, whether on trips to the country, cultural visits to galleries and museums or even classes in schools' own grounds. The Education Secretary announced £ 2.7 million dedicated to putting school trips at the top of the school agenda.

Among the new policies will be the formation of an independent council dedicated to promoting the school trip. It will give teachers special training and schools clear advice and information to plan, fund and evaluate all their education activities outside the classroom. Reforms will also be aimed at reassuring teachers and parents who have read about teenagers being killed and staff prosecuted. The Secretary pointed out that incidents are rare and prosecutions even less common.

Some teachers are actually supportive of the reforms. Parents, teachers and politicians all agree that the value of taking children on school trips can be huge. As well as learning about the environment, history and culture they experience the independence of being away from home.

(Adapted from *The Observer*)

(**prosecuted*: taken to court accused of a crime)

(**union*: organization formed by workers which represents their rights)

QUESTIONS

1. Why are so many teachers afraid of taking their pupils on school trips?

Use your own words as far as possible.

(2 marks)

2. For each series of statements choose the best alternative. Justify your choice by quoting evidence from the text.

(0.5 marks each)

1. a) Only teachers are afraid of having to deal with the consequences of an accident.
- b) Only schools may be held responsible for their students' accidents while on school trips.
- c) Both teachers and schools might suffer the consequences of students' accidents during trips.

- 2.a) Ellis's union called for a boycott of school trips after he had been found guilty of homicide the year before.
 b) Over the past five years many members of Ellis's union have needed its support for refusing to participate in school trips.
 c) Despite its collaboration with the government, the union has boycotted school trips for the last six years.
3. a) Keeping school trips has become top priority for the Education Secretary.
 b) Students who don't behave won't be allowed to take part in outside school activities.
 c) The new council will be held fully responsible for eventual accidents during trips.
- 4.a) Parents as well as politicians consider that taking children on trips contributes significantly to their education.
 b) What is most important about school trips is that students learn how to be independent in life.
 c) With the new reforms teachers can confidently expect they won't be prosecuted again.

3. Find in the text the words or group of words which match these definitions:(1 mark)

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|----------------------------------|------------------|
| a) died in water or other liquid | (lines 1 to 10) |
| b) not any more | (lines 1 to 10) |
| c) concerning, with reference to | (lines 11 to 20) |
| d) intended, directed to | (lines 11 to 20) |
| e) provide something with money | (lines 21 to 27) |

4. Complete the text using the correct words from the box below. There are 2 words too many. (2 marks)

"I know it probably seems silly to ...1...people, but I'm really, really concerned about the safety of my child," was the message of a mother on the Parents Centre website ...2... a school trip to the beach. "It just doesn't seem safe to have so ...3... five-year-olds near the water." Ross Fry, on the other side, said trips were 'invaluable' for her sons, Matt and Dominic. Matt, ...4... attends a local comprehensive school, returned from a trip to Belfast this month ...5... he took part in a mock United Nations conference. The 14-year-old was so inspired by the visit ...6... he has decided to pursue a career in politics. He has ...7... written to his local MP (Member of Parliament) to ask him ...8... he can do work experience in his office.

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5. Write a composition of about 150 words on ONE of the following topics: (3 marks)

- A) You took part in a school trip in which one of your classmates had a serious accident for not observing the rules. The trip had nearly to be cut short. Write about it.
 B) Write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper complaining about the behaviour of some students on a school trip staying at a hotel in the area where you live.