



# Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad (PAU)

Universidad de Extremadura

Curso 2025-2026

Materia: Lengua Extranjera (Inglés)

Duración de la prueba: 1h 30 min

## INSTRUCCIONES PARA REALIZAR EL EXAMEN

El estudiante deberá elegir UNO de los dos textos propuestos y responder a todas las preguntas de Comprensión únicamente del texto elegido (Preguntas 1-4). No podrán mezclarse preguntas de los dos textos. En la pregunta de Expresión (Pregunta 5), el estudiante deberá responder a una de las dos opciones propuestas, independientemente del texto elegido.

La calificación de la pregunta de Expresión (Redacción) será como sigue: a) Coherencia, cohesión y adecuación a la temática y estilo del texto propuesto: 1.5 puntos; b) Corrección gramatical, léxica y ortográfica del texto producido, así como su presentación: 1.5 puntos.

### Text 1: Juan Carlos I: From “Savior” of Democracy to King in Exile

A memoir by Spain’s disgraced former king chronicles his anointment as heir to the dictator Francisco Franco, his role in saving democracy from a coup attempt in 1981, and his grief at the death of his younger brother when the two were “playing” with a pistol as teenagers.

The book, published 11 years after Juan Carlos’s abdication and exile, is titled *Reconciliation* but appears to do anything but, instead detailing how he feels abandoned and misunderstood by his son and heir, King Felipe VI, and by other close family members.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of Franco’s death but Juan Carlos, 87, has not been invited to the ceremony, further evidence of what he sees as his rejection and abandonment by his country and his family.

Referring to his role in defending Spain’s transition to democracy in the face of the 1981 attempted coup led by Lieutenant-colonel Antonio Tejero, he wrote: “I gave freedom to the Spanish people by establishing democracy, but I was never able to enjoy that freedom for myself.

Whatever credit he gained from opposing the coup was squandered over the years as news of his extramarital affairs and allegations of tax fraud emerged. He said he bitterly regretted his long-running affair with the Danish-German socialite Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, saying it had harmed his reputation among his compatriots and led to his downfall and self-imposed exile in Abu Dhabi.

Public opinion turned decisively against him at the height of Spain’s financial crisis in 2012 after details emerged of a lavish elephant-hunting trip in Botswana when tens of thousands of Spaniards were losing their jobs. He abdicated in 2014 and moved to the United Arab Emirates in 2020 in the midst of the Covid pandemic, which cost the lives of nearly 35,000 Spaniards. Felipe cancelled his €200,000 annual stipend when it emerged that he was the subject of money-laundering investigations in Spain and Switzerland. Both cases were eventually dropped.

He says it was a “grave mistake” to accept a €65m gift in 2008 from the late King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, adding it was “a gift I did not know how to refuse.” As a man with an allegedly vast but undisclosed fortune, he is unlikely to gain the favour of Spaniards with the comment: “I am the only Spaniard who receives no pension after almost 40 years of service.”

Source: The Guardian (2025, adapted)

### Comprehension questions:

- Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Quote the fragment from the text that justifies your answer. Marks: 2 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
  - In his memoir *Reconciliation*, Juan Carlos expresses that his abdication brought him closer to his son, King Felipe VI.
  - The former monarch admits that his relationship with Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn damaged both his public image and his personal life.
  - The book portrays Juan Carlos as fully reconciled with Spain’s royal family and political institutions.
  - Juan Carlos claims that despite helping establish democracy, he was never able to fully enjoy personal freedom.
- Answer 2 of the following 3 questions with one or two sentences. Use your own words as far as possible. Marks: 2 points (1 point per correct answer).
  - How does Juan Carlos portray himself in relation to Spain’s political history and his own legacy?
  - How does the former king justify his controversial decisions during and after his reign?
  - What does the text suggest about the evolution of public opinion toward Juan Carlos throughout his life?
- Find words in the text to match these definitions. Use one word in each case. Marks: 1.5 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
  - occurring outside of marriage.
  - loss of power, status, or success.
  - financial crime that involves illicit fund processing.
- Complete these sentences with one of the options given that best suits each of the following sentences in relation to the text provided. Marks: 1.5 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
  - Juan Carlos believes he \_\_\_\_\_ unfairly treated by both his family and his country.
    - has been
    - was being
    - are being
    - had been
  - The former king admitted he was deeply ashamed \_\_\_\_\_ his behavior during his affair.
    - from
    - for
    - of
    - about
  - If Juan Carlos \_\_\_\_\_ the €65 million gift, his reputation might not have suffered so much.
    - hadn’t accepted
    - wouldn’t have accepted
    - didn’t accept
    - wouldn’t accept

## Text 2: *The Growing Youth Employment Crisis in the UK*

The United Kingdom is facing a growing youth employment crisis, as the number of young people aged 16 to 24 who are “NEET” — not in education, employment or training — has risen to almost one million. This is the highest figure recorded in more than ten years, according to the latest government data.

Economists and social researchers say that this situation reflects deeper structural problems in the British economy. The combination of slow economic growth, high living costs and limited access to well-paid entry-level jobs has created an increasingly difficult environment for young people. While many of them are eager to work or study, opportunities are becoming scarcer. In some regions, particularly in the north of England, youth unemployment rates are double the national average.

Experts also point out that the effects of the Covid pandemic continue to be felt. Many young people lost their first jobs during lockdowns and have struggled to re-enter the labour market since then. Apprenticeship programmes and internships were reduced, leaving fewer options for those who want to gain experience or practical skills. At the same time, higher education has become more expensive, discouraging some students from continuing their studies.

The social impact of this crisis could be long-lasting. Studies show that young people who spend extended periods out of work are more likely to face difficulties later in life — such as lower wages, job insecurity and mental health issues. “We are risking a lost generation,” said one expert from the Institute for Fiscal Studies. “Without urgent action, this could have serious consequences for the country’s future workforce.”

In response, the government has announced new initiatives to support youth employment, including job placement schemes, training grants and collaborations with local businesses. However, critics argue that these measures are insufficient and that a more ambitious strategy is needed to ensure all young people have a fair chance to build a stable and rewarding career.

**Source: The Guardian (27th Feb 2025, adapted)**

### Comprehension questions:

- Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Quote the fragment from the text that justifies your answer. Marks: 2 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
  - The number of young people who are NEET has reached its highest figure in over twenty years.
  - High living costs and slow economic growth are mentioned as possible structural causes of the crisis.
  - The text suggests that the government's current initiatives are considered adequately effective by all critics.
  - Young people who are unemployed for a long time will probably have higher wages later in life.
- Answer 2 of the following 3 questions with one or two sentences. Use your own words as far as possible. Marks: 2 points (1 point per correct answer).
  - What age group defines the "youth" facing the employment crisis?
  - What are the three main factors that economists say have created a difficult environment for young people?
  - What specific type of jobs became scarcer for young people during the pandemic?
- Find words in the text to match these definitions. Use one word in each case. Marks: 1.5 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
  - Very important and needing to be dealt with immediately.
  - The total number or amount of something.
  - Not enough; inadequate for a particular purpose.
- Complete these sentences with one of the options given that best suits each of the following sentences in relation to the text provided. Marks: 1.5 points (0.5 points per correct answer).
  - The number of NEETs \_\_\_\_\_ to almost one million, illustrating the seriousness of the crisis.
    - have increased
    - is increased
    - are increasing
    - has increased
  - The government announced new initiatives \_\_\_\_\_ support youth employment and training.
    - so that
    - in order to
    - because
    - despite
  - Apprenticeship programmes and internships were disrupted \_\_\_\_\_ the pandemic, leaving fewer options for skill development.
    - for
    - with
    - by
    - because

### Written Expression:

- Write ONE of the following two compositions. Write between 120-150 words. Marks: 3 points.
  - In today's world, do you think monarchies still have a meaningful role? Discuss advantages and disadvantages of maintaining a royal family in a modern democracy.
  - "The rising number of young people who are NEET in the UK signals a catastrophic failure of national economic planning". To what extent do you agree with this statement, and what should be the priority for intervention?"



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## CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN

### PRIMER BLOQUE: COMPRENSIÓN LECTORA

#### Apartado 1:

El estudiante deberá responder con una formulación breve (True/False) y citar la parte del texto donde se encuentra la información pertinente para justificar la respuesta. Se otorgará la máxima puntuación (0.5 puntos por respuesta) a los estudiantes que ofrezcan alguna de las siguientes respuestas:

#### Texto 1.

- A. FALSE. "...how he feels abandoned and misunderstood by his son and heir, King Felipe VI..." Cualquier respuesta que no se ajuste a esta evidencia será calificada con 0 puntos.
- B. TRUE. "He said he bitterly regretted his long-running affair... saying it had harmed his reputation among his compatriots and led to his downfall..." Cualquier respuesta que no se ajuste a una de estas respuestas será calificada con 0 puntos.
- C. FALSE. "...but appears to do anything but, instead detailing how he feels abandoned and misunderstood by his son and heir..." Cualquier respuesta que no se ajuste a esta evidencia será calificada con 0 puntos.
- D. TRUE. "I gave freedom to the Spanish people by establishing democracy, but I was never able to enjoy that freedom for myself." Cualquier respuesta que no se ajuste a esta evidencia será calificada con 0 puntos.

#### Texto 2.

- A. FALSE. "...has risen to almost one million. This is the highest figure recorded in more than ten years..." Cualquier respuesta que no se ajuste a una de estas evidencias serán calificadas con 0 puntos.
- B. TRUE. "The combination of slow economic growth, high living costs and limited access to well-paid entry-level jobs has created an increasingly difficult environment..." Cualquier respuesta que no se ajuste a una de estas evidencias serán calificadas con 0 puntos.
- C. FALSE. "However, critics argue that these measures are insufficient and that a more ambitious strategy is needed..." Cualquier respuesta que no se ajuste a una de estas evidencias serán calificadas con 0 puntos.
- D. FALSE. "...young people who spend extended periods out of work are more likely to face difficulties later in life — such as lower wages, job insecurity..." Cualquier respuesta que no se ajuste a una de estas evidencias serán calificadas con 0 puntos.

Si el estudiante comienza con una respuesta incorrecta (True/False) pero cita la parte correcta del texto, se le puntuará con 0.25 puntos. Si la respuesta ofrece un inicio correcto, pero después este no se apoya en ninguna referencia al texto original o en una que no corresponda (esto es, si el alumno no demuestra haber entendido la pregunta), se otorgarán 0 puntos. Las respuestas en las que se cite un extracto mucho más largo de lo requerido o se dé una respuesta que evidencie que el estudiante no ha sabido localizar en los textos la información solicitada serán valoradas con 0 puntos.

#### Apartado 2:

El estudiante deberá responder con una o dos oraciones, utilizando sus palabras en la medida de lo posible. La respuesta deberá ceñirse a la información que se pide, si bien pueden ofrecerse menos datos de los posibles si hay muchos elementos que pueden citarse en la respuesta. Dada la naturaleza abierta de las preguntas, puede haber tantas respuestas acertadas como estudiantes. No obstante, de modo general, se valorará a partes iguales la corrección lingüística y la capacidad para localizar y parafrasear la información del texto (0.5 por las ideas reflejadas y 0.5 puntos por la expresión de las respuestas). Debajo se ofrecen modelos de respuesta correcta.

#### Texto 1.

- A. He presents himself as a key figure in Spain's transition to democracy, but also as someone who feels unappreciated and misunderstood by his country.
- B. He admits to having made mistakes, such as accepting a large gift, but claims he did not know how to refuse and that some of his actions were misinterpreted.
- C. He was once admired as a national hero but gradually lost public support due to scandals, corruption allegations, and poor judgment.

**Texto 2.**

- A. The age group facing the employment crisis is 16 to 24.
- B. The three main factors are: slow economic growth, high living costs, and limited access to well-paid entry-level jobs.
- C. The two specific types of jobs that became scarcer were apprenticeship programmes and internships.

Si el estudiante responde con información que no corresponde a la requerida por la pregunta, su respuesta se valorará con 0 puntos, independientemente de la corrección en la expresión.

**Apartado 3:**

Sólo se aceptarán las respuestas indicadas debajo (0.5 puntos). No obstante, si el estudiante comete un error que sea obviamente accidental al transcribir la palabra (una doble consonante por una simple, por ejemplo) o escribe una forma que no sea la que se pide (e.g., un plural por un singular, una forma verbal distinta), se le otorgarán 0.25 puntos.

**Texto 1.**

- A. extramarital
- B. downfall
- C. money-laundering

**Texto 2.**

- A. urgent
- B. figure
- C. insufficient

**Apartado 4:**

Sólo se aceptarán las respuestas indicadas debajo (0.5 puntos). Si el estudiante cita más de una respuesta, se le calificará con 0 puntos, independientemente de su orden.

**Texto 1.**

- A. option a) **has been**
- B. option c) **of**
- C. option a) **hadn't accepted**

**Texto 2.**

- A. option d) **has increased**
- B. option b) **in order to**
- C. option c) **by**

**SEGUNDO BLOQUE: PRODUCCIÓN ESCRITA**

**Apartado 5:**

Para obtener la calificación máxima de 3 puntos, la redacción reunirá las siguientes características: La exposición es clara y coherente y se aprecia un uso apropiado y discreto de conectores. El vocabulario empleado es suficiente para permitir el desarrollo completo de las ideas expresadas. La redacción no contiene errores gramaticales graves, aunque sí puede haber algún que otro error de poca importancia; y el manejo de las estructuras gramaticales es lo bastante flexible como para permitir una expresión cabal de las ideas. El uso de signos de puntuación es correcto, así como la división de los contenidos en párrafos, si los hubiera. La redacción no contiene errores ortográficos y la letra es clara y legible.

Para una calificación de 2 puntos, los siguientes rasgos estarán presentes en la redacción: La exposición es clara y coherente, aunque puede que se echen en falta algunos signos lingüísticos de cohesión o un uso excesivo -pero no incorrecto- de conectores en detrimento de la expresión de las ideas. El dominio del vocabulario es suficiente para expresar algunas ideas de forma aceptable. La presencia de algunos errores gramaticales no impide la expresión de las ideas y en todo caso no son el resultado de la traducción directa del español. A pesar de algunos errores ortográficos, el dominio de la puntuación y el uso de párrafos son correctos. La letra es completamente legible.

Para una calificación de 1 punto, se apreciará lo siguiente en la redacción: Los enunciados no constituyen un texto unido y coherente, no sólo por la ausencia de conectores sino por errores de concordancia y por la ausencia de párrafos que organicen el texto. El dominio del vocabulario no es suficiente para desarrollar el tema propuesto, aunque el texto resulta medianamente comprensible. Se aprecia la transferencia de formas y

significados de la lengua materna. Los errores gramaticales impiden la comprensión de algunas ideas y son a menudo el resultado de la traducción directa del español. Las faltas de ortografía o una letra poco cuidada dificultan una lectura fluida del texto.

Para una calificación de 0 puntos, será patente la presencia de defectos como los siguientes: El número de palabras es muy inferior al solicitado. No se demuestra un dominio básico del vocabulario necesario para escribir sobre el tema propuesto. Se emplean palabras en español. Los errores graves de gramática y vocabulario hacen que el texto sea incomprensible. La letra es tan mala que la redacción es casi ilegible. La respuesta se aparta por completo de la pregunta planteada.

En caso de que la redacción no permitiese la aplicación exacta de estas puntuaciones, la nota se deberá ajustar añadiendo o quitando 0.25 o 0.5 puntos a la nota correspondiente.

Además de lo anterior, habrá de tenerse en cuenta, con carácter general, lo siguiente:

- Serán objeto de penalización aquellas redacciones que evidencien un uso excesivo o injustificado de fórmulas y expresiones memorizadas, o de extensas porciones del texto original cuya presencia sustituya indebidamente las propias palabras del alumno. La sanción será proporcional a la cantidad y al carácter superfluo de dichas muletillas en el contexto de la respuesta.
- Se penalizará, de modo general, el sobrepasar o no alcanzar los límites de extensión superior e inferior, respectivamente. La penalización será de 0.25 puntos por cada quince palabras menos o treinta palabras de más.
- En los casos en que se proporciona al alumno la frase con que debe comenzar o terminar el texto solicitado, el uso indebido de la frase propuesta en una ubicación distinta a la indicada será penalizado con 0.5 puntos.
- Cuando el alumno opte por hacer más de una redacción, en vez de escoger una según se le indica, el corrector leerá y evaluará únicamente la primera que aparezca en la hoja de respuestas. La otra redacción quedará sin corregir y no sumará ni restará puntos, ni hará media aritmética con la primera.