

**INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR EN LENGUAS VIVAS "J.R. FERNÁNDEZ"
ENTRANCE EXAM - FEBRUARY 2015**

EXERCISE A: READING COMPREHENSION.

Read the following passage carefully, then CIRCLE the right answer below:

ARE WE FACING THE DEATH OF EMAIL?

Imagine it: a life freed from the drudgery of deleting an inbox full of "unbeatable offers" and the latest missive on paper clips from head office. Email could follow the telex into the dustbin of communication tools we have loved and discarded if John Breton, CEO of the information technology services company Atos, is a guide to the future. Breton plans to ban his staff from sending each other emails, complaining that they are already outmoded. Only 10 per cent of the 200 electronic messages his employees receive per day turn out to be useful, Breton claims. "The deluge of information will be one of the most important problems a company will have to face in the future. It is time to think differently," he claims.

Internal email will be phased out within 18 months at Atos. The 75,000 staff will instead use instant messaging and chat-style collaborative services inspired by social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter. Atos staff used to spend between five and twenty hours a day dealing with email, but Breton's replacements have cut its use by up to 20 per cent. His strategy has already been adopted by teenagers, who are shunning the now middle-aged email, which was first developed in 1971.

Mobile Instant Messaging (IM) services such as Blackberry Messenger and Yahoo! Messenger, designed to facilitate quick, real-time communication, have supplanted email for the tech-savvy next generation. Mobile IM users are predicted to exceed 1.3 billion worldwide by 2016. It's a development which Mark Zuckerberg sought to capitalise on with Facebook Messages, the social network's "modern messaging system", which merges text messages, IM and email into a single interface for 750 million users. "High school kids don't use email, they use SMS a lot," the 27-year-old technology pioneer said. "People want lighter-weight things like SMS and IM to message each other." For users, IM offers the instant chat-like service that an email, often left unread, cannot.

However, if those teens are fortunate enough to find jobs, they are likely to still find themselves enmeshed in email's grip. The proportion of companies sending more than 50,000 emails each month has gradually increased in the last four years, from 40 per cent in 2007 to almost 60 per cent in 2011. Spam still accounts for an estimated 89 per cent of all emails. Tim Walters, senior analyst at the technology research company Forrester Research, said: "Granted: email is disruptive, and it is a far-cry from time-saving. But that is not why it is on its last legs. What we are really talking about is that email is not the tool that allows the kind of networking and information sharing that is needed in today's business world. However, it's still used daily by 85 per cent of workers." He added: "Email isn't a beast to be killed. Sometimes it's the most appropriate tool for communication. Other times people send them thoughtlessly or to cover themselves at work. And in government, emails have much greater potential for future discovery than IM."

What will fill in the hole that email will leave in offices in the near future? A few years ago, experts predicted that Facebook would do the trick, and indeed it is widely used by the so-called Generation Y nowadays. Twitter, used primarily for newsgathering, broadcasting and simply passing time, was also on the list of likely replacements. Popular though both Facebook and Twitter are, they are still personal communications tools, and much of what email does now in terms of information sharing remains beyond their scope. Yammer, a micro-blogging system which allows groups of employees to share ideas through private communication, is now used by more than

CANDIDATE N°:

80,000 firms. Breton has introduced the Atos Wiki, which allows all employees to communicate by contributing or modifying online content, and Office Communicator, the company's online chat system which allows video conferencing, file and application sharing.

If email is dying, it will be a lingering demise. Without a ready audience through email, deal-a-day website Groupon would not have built a network of 143 million subscribers. More than 107 trillion emails will be sent this year, while the IM industry is hampered by fragmented services which do not communicate with each other.

But the Instant Messaging Generation Y, when they break into the workforce, is likely to demand new, liberating communication tools and free us from the web of email despair. Mr Walters said: "The Atos directive is working because the average age of their employees is 35 – it reflects their young workforce."

1. John Breton predicts that future employees will have to . . .
 - a) . . . deal with 10% of the electronic messages they get today.
 - b) . . . face a great deal more information than they do today.
 - c) . . . think of alternative ways of exchanging information online.
 - d) . . . ban the use of emails in their offices.

2. The key to the success of the other forms of communication mentioned in the text over email is their . . .
 - a) . . . immediacy.
 - b) . . . appropriacy.
 - c) . . . reliability.
 - d) . . . cost-effectiveness.

3. The weakest point of email is that . . .
 - a) . . . it is full of spam.
 - b) . . . it does not foster collaborative work.
 - c) . . . it is time-consuming.
 - d) . . . it is an old-fashioned tool of communication.

4. Through the references to Facebook and Twitter, the author of the article aims to highlight . . .
 - a) . . . how likely they are to replace email as communication tools.
 - b) . . . their shortcomings as communication tools in the office.
 - c) . . . how widely used they are at work.
 - d) . . . how often the Generation Y uses them.

5. According to the article . . .
 - a) . . . young employees are likely to demand a faster form of email.
 - b) . . . the workforce of the future will be made up of young people in their 30s.
 - c) . . . email is on its slow way out.
 - d) . . . the Instant Messaging industry will collapse.

FOR EXAMINER'S USE: _____ / 10

EXAMINER'S NAME: _____

CANDIDATE N°:

**INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR EN LENGUAS VIVAS “J.R. FERNÁNDEZ”
ENTRANCE EXAM - FEBRUARY 2015**

EXERCISE B: WRITING.

Choose ONE of the following and write between 250 and 300 words on it:

A) Imagine that the editor of your school newspaper has asked you to write an **ARTICLE** entitled “The importance of online communication.” You may wish to consider the following points:

- The importance of communicating with people through the internet.
- The relevance of social networks in the world today.
- The Internet as a tool to access knowledge.
- Networking and information sharing at work.

B) Imagine you have just handed in your first assignment at college. Write an **EMAIL** to a friend of yours, telling him/her about how the Internet helped you to fulfill the task.

C) Your school is organizing a writing competition. You are expected to submit a **STORY** entitled “The day technology saved my life”. Write your **STORY**.

FOR EXAMINER’S USE: _____ / 17

EXAMINER’S NAME: _____

**INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR EN LENGUAS VIVAS “J. R. FERNANDEZ”
ENTRANCE EXAM - FEBRUARY 2015**

EXERCISE C:

Read the text below and **CIRCLE** the best answer A, B, or C. The first one (0) has been done for you as an example:

A PEEK INSIDE GRAMERCY PARK.

Over the last few years, Google (0) _____ much of the planet. This year, one of the most forbidden places in Manhattan, Gramercy Park, has become virtually accessible, too. And (1)_____being off limits to outsiders, all it took was a borrowed key and a smartphone. Shawn Christopher visited Gramercy Park in May (2)_____ on his honeymoon. Mr. Christopher took three 360-degree panoramas and uploaded them to Google’s Maps site. He had gotten in using one of the 383 keys to the park that came with the room he had rented, unaware that guests who were not accompanied by key holders were (3)_____ from entering the park. Now anyone can get past the park’s gates, and they (4)_____leave home. Mr. Christopher achieved something (5)_____ Woody Allen could manage: shooting inside the park. He said he did not regret his decision to post the photos online. “It’s such a beautiful part of New York. People shouldn’t miss (6)_____ that, and I wish everyone (7) _____ the chance to see it for themselves.” A Google spokeswoman said anyone could request a Google image (8)_____. Ms. Harrison, one of the most senior key holders, said she had no intention to do so, though she also said she would have turned Google down (9)_____ the company asked to photograph the park. (10)_____it opened in 1831, Gramercy Park has been off limits to anyone (11)_____ those living on the border of the park. Like many of time-honored rules, the one banning photography in the park is (12) _____ to be kept for many years. “There are people watching the park at all times,” Ms. Harrison said. “If something happens, if they see a camera or a ball, you had (13)_____ believe I’m getting a call about it.” I couldn’t help (14)_____that while Ms. Harrison allowed me into the park, my photographer was asked to remain outside during the whole interview.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| ①- A- HAS MAPPED OUT | B- MAPPED OUT | C-IS MAPPING OUT |
| 1- A- ALTHOUGH | B- INSPITE | C- DESPITE |
| 2- A- WHILE | B- DURING | C- MEANWHILE |
| 3- A-REFUSED | B-DENIED | C-BARRED |
| 4- A- NEED NOT | B- MUST NOT | C- SHOULD NOT |
| 5- A- EVEN | B- NOT EVEN | C- EXCEPT |
| 6- A- OUT ON | B- IN ON | C- OUT OF |
| 7- A-HAD | B-HAD HAD | C-HAVE |

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 8- A-REMOVED | B-BE REMOVED | C-TO BE REMOVED |
| 9- A- HAVE | B- HAS | C- HAD |
| 10- A-WHEN | B-AFTER | C-SINCE |
| 11- A- INCLUDING | B- BUT | C- WITHOUT |
| 12- A-PROBABLY | B-CERTAINLY | C-LIKELY |
| 13- A-BETTER | B-BEST | C-RATHER |
| 14- A-NOTICE | B-TO NOTICE | C-NOTICING |

FOR EXAMINER'S USE: _____ / 7

EXAMINER'S NAME: _____

CANDIDATE N°:

INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR EN LENGUAS VIVAS "J. R. FERNANDEZ"
ENTRANCE EXAM - FEBRUARY 2015

EXERCISE D

a. Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that its meaning stays the same.

1. The minute she walked out the door, she realized she'd left her keys inside.

No sooner _____.

2. This course of studies will take me five years.

In five years' time _____ **graduated.**

3. I didn't help you because I didn't know the answer to the question.

If I _____.

4. He would like it much better if she filled in for him at the meeting.

He'd rather _____.

b. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given in bold type. Do not change the word given.

1. It is no use trying to talk her into doing this: she simply won't change her mind. (**point**)
There _____: she simply won't change her mind.

2. Do you ever regret telling her the truth? (**you**)
Do you ever wish _____.

3. If you get into that college, you'll have to work hard. (**mean**)
Getting into _____.

4. It's possible that he took the money. (**have**)
He _____.

FOR EXAMINER'S USE: _____ / 8

EXAMINER'S NAME: _____