GOBIERNO DE LA CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES

INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR EN LENGUAS VIVAS
"JUAN RAMON FERNANDEZ"

INSTITUTO DE ENSEÑANZA SUPERIOR EN LENGUAS VIVAS
"J. R. FERNÁNDEZ"

ENTRANCE EXAM – MARCH 2021

PAPER 2

DNI:

Candidate's full name:

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS VERY CAREFULLY

- You have **60 MINUTES** to finish the test. The invigilator will tell you the exact time before which you should send your test. You will find this information in the chat box on Meet. Tests emailed after the deadline will not be accepted.

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  APELLIDO, nombre – Examen de ingreso 2021 – Sala (número) – Ejercicio A
  Example: GÓMEZ, Luisina – Examen de ingreso 2021 – Sala 12 – Ejercicio A

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EXERCISE A: READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions below:

THE CODE TALKER PARADOX

paragraph 1   DEEP MYSTERIES OF LANGUAGE are illustrated by an incident that occurred in 1943, when the Japanese military was firmly entrenched around the Bismarck Archipelago. American pilots had nicknamed the harbor of Rabaul "Dead End" because so many of them were shot down by antiaircraft guns placed in the surrounding hills. It became apparent that the Japanese could easily decode Allied messages and thus were warned about the time and place of each attack.

paragraph 2   The Marine Corps responded by calling in one of their most effective secret weapons: eleven Navajo Indians. These were members of the famous Code Talkers, whose native language was the one cipher the Japanese cryptographers were never able to break. The Navajos quickly provided secure communications, and the area was soon taken with minimal further losses. Such incidents were repeated throughout the Pacific theater in World War II. Years after the end of the war, a U.S. president commended the Navajo Code Talkers with the following words: "Their resourcefulness, tenacity, integrity and courage saved the lives of countless men and women and sped the realization of peace for war-torn lands." But it was not only their resourcefulness, tenacity, integrity, and courage that made possible their remarkable contribution: It was also their *language*.

paragraph 3   This incident vividly illustrates the fundamental puzzle of linguistics. On the one hand, Navajo must be extremely different from English (and Japanese), or the men listening to the Code Talkers' transmissions would eventually have been able to figure out what they were saying. On the other hand, Navajo must be extremely similar to English (and Japanese), or the Code Talkers could not have transmitted with precision the messages formulated by their English-speaking commanders. Navajo was effective as a code because it had both of these properties. But this seems like a contradiction: How can two languages be simultaneously so similar and so different? This paradox has beset the comparative study of human languages for centuries.

Let us first consider more carefully the evidence that languages can be radically different. The Japanese readily solved the various artificial codes dreamed up by Allied cryptographers. Translating a message from English to Navajo evidently involves transforming it in ways that are more far-reaching than could be imagined by the most clever engineers or mathematicians of that era. This seems more remarkable if one knows something about the codes in use in World War II, which were markedly more sophisticated than any used before that time. In this respect, an ordinary human language goes far beyond the bounds of what can reasonably be called a code. If the differences between Navajo and English were only a matter of replacing words like *man* with Navajo-sounding vocabulary like *hastiin*, or putting the words in a slightly different order, decoding Navajo would not have been so difficult. It

paragraph 4 is clear that the characteristics one might expect to see emphasized in the first few pages of a grammar book barely scratch the surface of the complexity of a truly foreign language.

paragraph 5 Other signs of the complexity and diversity of human languages are closer to our everyday experience. Consider, for example, your personal computer. It is vastly smaller and more powerful than anything the inventors of the computer imagined back in the 1950s. Nevertheless, it falls far short of the early computer scientists' expectations in its ability to speak English. Since the beginning of the computer age, founders of artificial intelligence such as Alan Turing and Marvin Minsky have foreseen a time in which people and computers would interact in a natural human language, just as two people might talk to each other on a telephone. This expectation was communicated vividly to the world at large through the 1968 movie 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, in which the computer HAL understood and spoke grammatically perfect English. Indeed, natural language was not even considered one of the "hard" problems of computer engineering in the 1960s; the academic leaders thought that it would more or less take care of itself once people got around to it.

paragraph 6 Thirty-five years and billions of research dollars later, their confidence has proved unwarranted. Progress is being made, though: We only recently achieved the pleasure of listening to weather reports and phone solicitations generated by computers. But computer-generated speech still sounds quite strange, and one would not mistake it for the human-generated variety for long.

paragraph 7 This poor record contrasts with scientists' much greater success in programming computers to play chess. We usually think of chess as a quintessentially intellectual activity that can be mastered only by the best and brightest. Any ordinary person, in contrast, can talk your ear off in understandable English without necessarily being regarded as intelligent for doing so. Yet although computer programs can now beat the best chess players in the world, no artificial system exists that can match an average five-year-old at speaking and understanding English.

paragraph 8 The ability to speak and understand a human language is thus much more complex in objective terms than the task we usually consider to require great intelligence. We simply tend to take language for granted because it comes so quickly and automatically to us. Just as Navajo proved harder than any other code in World War II, so English proves harder than the Nimzowitsch variation of the French defense in chess.

Now, answer the questions below <u>using your own words</u>. Do not simply copy from the text. You may use derivation (i.e. change a noun into a verb or an adjective into a noun) but not lift full phrases. Your answer should not exceed 60 words. Write your answer in the box.

1) How did a group of Navajo Indians help the USA in World War II?

For examiner's use only:

2) What does the author mean by "the fundamental puzzle of linguistics"?

For examiner's use only:

3) What does the author try to illustrate by the example of the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*?

For examiner's use only:

4) Why does the author refer to chess in paragraph 7?

For examiner's use only:

5) What does the author conclude?

For examiner's use only:

For examiner's use only
Score:
Corrected

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EXERCISE B: WRITING (15 marks)

Choose ONE of the following and write between <u>250 and 300 words</u> on it. The following criteria will be used to assess your work:

- **Task achievement and discourse management:** has the task been achieved? Are all aspects of coherence and cohesion fully covered? Are ideas relevant and complex throughout?
- **Grammatical resource:** are grammatical structures varied and complex? Are grammatical structures used accurately and naturally?
- **Lexical resource:** is vocabulary varied? Is vocabulary used naturally, accurately and appropriately? Are spelling and punctuation accurate?

A) A local magazine has asked its readers to submit an **ARTICLE** on the question: "*Should everyone in the world speak the same language*?" Write your article for the magazine.

B) Imagine you are a war correspondent in the USA. You are asked to write a **NEWS REPORT** about the experience of one of the Code Talkers, whom you have recently interviewed.

C) Write an **ESSAY** on the benefits/importance of learning a foreign language in Argentina. Consider **at least two** of the following points:

- job opportunities
- multicultural awareness
- mass media
- social networks

I'VE CHOSEN OPTION: Elija un elemento.

Write your answer in the box below

For examiner's use only

- Task achievement:
- Grammatical resource:
- Lexical resource:

FINAL SCORE:

Corrected by: