OPTION A

SELFIE

1   Even as little as ten years ago, the idea of pointing a camera at your own face and taking a picture which you later share with a random group of people would have been considered unusual, a bit weird, ostentatious even. These days however, it's not only a perfectly acceptable but also a fashionable thing to do, as the popularity of social media steers us on a course of self-interest epitomized by the selfie.

7   A selfie is a picture of yourself that you take using a camera on a mobile phone or other hand-held device, usually composed of no more than head and shoulders. Selfies are often taken with a pose and/or camera angle that attempts to add a little something unique –not just a conventional picture of someone looking straight at the camera.

12   The domain of the selfie is almost always digital –they are not printed, framed and put on the mantelpiece, but circulated via mobile phones, tablets, etc. for consumption by fellow partakers of social media. Arguably this is the key to their appeal –we can use them to remind each other of what we actually look like, or to put a face to names where acquaintance is restricted to the online universe.

QUESTIONS

[1] FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS, ANSWER QUESTIONS A, B, C
  (3 POINTS AS A WHOLE).

A. Answer the following question <u>using your own words</u> (10 to 20 words) (1 point).

What is a selfie?

B. Are the following statements *true* or *false*? Indicate the line(s) in the text supporting your choice (1.5 points as a whole: 0.5 points each).
B1. Taking a selfie is a trendy action.
B2. Selfies may be taken in artificial positions.
B3. Selfies are printed pictures you send to your friends and family.

C. Choose *a*, *b* or *c* in the question below. <u>Only one choice</u> is correct (0.5 points).
According to the text, selfies are normally distributed…
  a) via mobile phones.
  b) via ordinary mail.
  c) via fax.

[2] COMPLETE TASKS a, b, c, d ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN (2 POINTS AS A WHOLE: 0.5 EACH).
  a) **Complete:** If I had a smartphone …
  b) **Rewrite into the passive voice:**
    A recent study found that posting photos of oneself correlates with lower levels of intimacy.
  c) **Write a question for which the underlined words are the answer:**
    Selfies are typically taken <u>either with a camera held at arm's length or in a mirror</u>.
  d) **Transform into reported speech:**
    I took this picture of myself looking at the mirror, Robert said.

[3] VOCABULARY (1 POINT AS A WHOLE: 0.2 EACH).
  - Find one word in the text for each of the following meanings:
    a) characterized by pretentious, showy, or vulgar display.
    b) a way of standing or sitting, especially in order to be photographed, painted, or drawn
  - Find synonyms in the text for each of the words below:
    c) leads
    d) exemplified
    e) attractiveness

[4] WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 100-120 WORDS (4 POINTS).

Do you enjoy taking selfies? Why? When?

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Castilla y León

LENGUA EXTRANJERA.
INGLÉS

EJERCICIO
Nº páginas: 2

OPTION B

SPEAKING MORE THAN ONE LANGUAGE COULD SHARPEN YOUR BRAIN

1   A recent study found that bilingual speakers may actually process information more efficiently than single-language speakers. Researchers used brain imaging to look at bilingual people's comprehension abilities and they found that they are comparatively better at filtering out unnecessary words than monolinguals, who had to work harder to
5 complete the same mental tasks.
    The researchers studied 17 Spanish-English bilinguals and 18 monolinguals, and had them undergo tests that assessed their brains' ability to eliminate irrelevant words. In one task the participants heard the word *cloud* and were then immediately shown four pictures. One of the photos was of a cloud, and another was a similar-sounding word like
10 *clown*. The goal was to watch how quickly the brain could make connections to the correct word. Bilinguals were consistently better at the task.
    The results create a bit of a chicken-or-the-egg scenario. Is a bilingual person better at such tasks because of their expertise in both languages, or are people with greater comprehension capacity better equipped to master multiple languages? It could be a
15 mixture of the two. The researchers of this study believe that being bilingual is a constant brain exercise. So instead of tackling a puzzle, why not give a new language a try?

QUESTIONS

[1] FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS, ANSWER QUESTIONS A, B, C
(3 POINTS AS A WHOLE).

A. Answer the following question using your own words (10 to 20 words) (1 point).
    What was the main result of the study mentioned in the text?

B. Are the following statements *true* or *false*? Indicate the line(s) in the text supporting your choice (1.5 points as a whole: 0.5 points each).
    B1. The participants of the research were single-language speakers.
    B2. Bilinguals' results were not consistently better at the task.
    B3. The results show a clear cause-effect relationship.

C. Choose *a*, *b* or *c* in the question below. Only one choice is correct (0.5 points as a whole).
    The materials used in one of the tasks included…
        a) videos and words.
        b) words and pictures.
        c) videos and pictures.

[2] COMPLETE TASKS a, b, c, d ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN (2 POINTS AS A WHOLE: 0.5 EACH).

a)   **Write a question for which the underlined words are the answer:**
    Researchers used brain imaging to look at bilingual people's comprehension abilities.
b)   **Transform into reported speech:** Bilingualism has already been shown to result in functional changes to the human brain. **Begin with:** *They argued*...
c)   **Transform into the passive:** Researchers believe that bilinguals are better at most tasks.
d)   **Complete:** If I were a bilingual speaker …

[3] VOCABULARY (1 POINT AS A WHOLE: 0.2 EACH).

- **Find one word in the text for each of the following meanings:**
    a) involving comparison
    b) a mass of water or ice particles visible in the sky
- **Find synonyms in the text for each of the words below:**
    c) undertake
    d) evaluated
    e) blend

[4] WRITE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING TOPIC USING BETWEEN 100-120 WORDS (4 POINTS).

    Write about the usefulness of speaking more than one language.