## Proves d'Accés a la Universitat. Curs 2010-2011

## Llengua estrangera Anglès

## Sèrie 1-A

Suma de notes parcials
Etiqueta de qualificació


Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a


## WHAT THE AU PAIR SAN

Silvia, an 18-year-old from Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, could not believe how mean her employers were. They hardly spoketo her, madeher work very long hours for very little pay and restricted her access to food. Silvia didn't work in a shop. She was an au pair to a middle-class British family.

Silvia's story comes from a new book, called Au Pair, which takes a full and honest look at British families from the sincere point of view of the girls who come to look after their children and help around the house.

The book focuses on the experiences of 50 Slovakian au pairs who have lived with more than 100 host families in London. Its author is Zuzana Burikova, a Slovakian sociologist who has been working on this project for more than three years.

The book's most noticeable feature is the pejorative view that au pairs develop towards their host British families. In particular, they are highly critical of the 'having it all' culture. British parenting, it seems, is shockingly bad. The book suggests that the British concept of a woman's right to a career as well as a family is viewed negatively by au pairs. The author thinks that "au pairs generally feel that any family that chooses to have an au pair must, by definition, either be lazy, or lack proper care and consideration for children and for people in general".

In the book we can read about the experience of an au pair called Jarmila, whose host mother worked at home as a clothes designer. Even when she was not working, her child spent all his time with Jarmila, who really felt like a second mother. Another case is that of Darinka, who was fascinated by "English mothers constantly talking about quality time and feeling guilty if they were not actually reading to or playing with their children". In fact, in most cases it was pretty clear they spent very little time with their children. "English women do love their children," Darinka reluctantly admits, "but the problem is that they are just not able to combine childcare, housework and a career."

From the experiences in the book we can learn that "food is a particularly tricky issue," says M s. Burikova. "I'm surprised that children and parents do not eat the same food and that parents buy healthy food like vegetables and fish for themselves but not for their children." Zuzana Burikova explains that "the British like TV programmes where experts tell them how to keep their home, since they don't know how to do it themselves. That's why they need au pairs."

And yet, as with all things, there is a flip side. And not all families are cold and unfeeling. In the book we can read the experience of Tina. Tina worked in London as an au pair about nine years ago. She had an absolutely terrific time in there, and there was good understanding between Tina and her host family, as a result of which the family decided to put her up until she finished her studies.

After having studied all these experiences, Zuzana Burikova comes to the conclusion that none of all these au pairs' negative experiences stop people from applying for the job. Most Slovakian women go to Britain to work as an au pair in order to learn the language and earn some money at the same time, but there are also others that accept this job because it's a way of escaping from their families or simply because they have just split up with their boyfriend. So, up to a point, the arrangement suits them.

Text adapted from The Sunday Times (August 1, 2010)
mean: mesquí, gasiu / mezquino, tacaño
host family: família d'acollida / familia de acogida
parenting: criança / crianza
reluctantly: a contracor / a su pesar
flip side: I'altra cara de la moneda / la otra cara de la moneda
to put her up: acollir-la, contractar-la / acogerla, contratarla

## Part 1: Reading comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.
[ 0.5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

## Espai per al corrector/a

## No

Correcta Incorrecta | No |
| :---: |
| contestada |

1. The book called Au Pair is about...
the way Slovakian au pairs look after their own children. how Slovakian families should raise their children. what Slovakian au pairs think about British families. the way Slovakian girls can get a job in England.
2. After reading the text, the 'having it all' culture could be explained as...
$\square$ British women's aim of working out instead of being mothers. the idea of bringing up children and working at the same time.
the difficult choice between having a family and working at the same time.
$\square$ the idea of having an au pair at home to look after the children.
3. According to the text, the British idea of a modern woman...
$\square$ is not shared by Slovakian au pairs.
$\square$ is generally accepted by au pairs.
$\square$ is never criticised by au pairs.
$\square$ has become a model for Slovakian au pairs.
4. According to M s. Burikova's book, some British families contract au pairs because...
they think it is the cheapest way of educating their children.
they can't survive without the au pair's help.
they can't afford to raise their children on their own.
they don't care enough about their children.
5. Darinka thinks that most English mothers...
do their best to look after their children.
do not spend enough time with their children.
prefer their careers to their children.
play their role successfully.
6. By saying that "food is a particularly tricky issue" M s. Burikova suggests that parents...
$\square$ don't feed their children healthily.
only care about what their children eat.
do not care about their health problems.
believe their children are healthy enough.
7. Tina's experience as an au pair was...
terrible.
$\square$ wonderful.
depressing.unbelievable.
8. M ost Slovakian au pairs apply for the job mainly because...
they want to travel abroad to get a well-paid job.it's a good opportunity to leave their homes and relatives.their love relationships are broken and they want to meet new people.
$\square$ it's a way of learning a language and earning some money.

## Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2 . Minimum length: 100 words. [4 points]

1. Imagine you want to apply for a job as an au pair. Write a formal letter to an au pair agency explaining the reasons why you think you are the ideal person for the job.
2. Write an opinion essay about the following question:
"Is it better to work in your own country instead of working abroad?" Explain the advantages or disadvantages in either case.

| Grammar |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Vocabulary |  |
| Text |  |
| Maturity |  |
| Total |  |
| Nota de la redacció |  |

## Part 3: Listening comprehension

## LOST... OR MAYBE NOT?

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. M ake sure you know what they mean.

```
crew: equip / equipo
sequel: continuació / continuación
due: pista
source: font / fuente
huge: enorme
stage: etapa
thread: fil / hilo
to wrap up: concloure / concluir
```

Ready?
Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully beforelistening to the interview.

Since Lost, one of the most successful TV shows in recent times, came to a dramatic finish at the end of the sixth season, many fans have been wondering whether the last episode could have possibly left any options for a sequel. In the following interview, Pat Lawson chats with M atthew Fox, Dr. Jack Shepard in the show, and tries to find out how truly final the end was.
[Now listen to the interview.]

## QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct.
[ 0.25 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.08 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

Look at number 0 as an example.
0. Lost was a TV show that...
$\square$ had a successful sequel in recent times.
was one of the most successful shows in recent times.
$\square$ finished at the beginning of the sixth season.
$\square$ not many fans have been wondering about.

1. M atthew Fox is surprised that...
$\square$ people have lost interest in the show so soon. so many people are still interested in the show. people's interests have moved to other shows. speculation about the show lasted for one month.
2. About the show's end...
everybody was happy with it.
everybody was disappointed with it.
people were neither happy nor disappointed.
$\square$ some people liked it a lot, some didn't like it at all.
3. What are some fans looking for in the last episode?
$\square$ Hidden secrets about the last episode.
$\square$ The presence of a hidden message.
$\square$ Hidden cues about the possibility for a sequel.
$\square$ Evidence of extraterrestrials.
4. M atthew Fox finds it fascinating that...
$\square$ they were all abducted by aliens but didn't know it.
$\square$ the show was a source of aliens.
$\square$ so many people discussed the show.
$\square$ the aliens helped to create the source of discussion.
5. How does M atthew Fox feel about the possibility of a sequel?
$\square$ He will know if there will be one as soon as the interview is published.
$\square$ He's convinced that there will not be one.
$\square$ He thinks the other actors disagree with him.
$\square$ He thinks a sequel would be a turning point in his career.
6. A sequel without Dr. Shepard or Hurley wouldn't be the same because...

these characters did not generate a lot of interest in the forums.
Lost was a unique thing that can't be repeated.
they weren't interested in serious time travel.
it would ruin the theories about the island.
7. According to M atthew Fox, the last episode is...
$\square$ appropriate because it is so complicated.
$\square$ appropriate because it concludes a very complicated story line.
$\square$ inappropriate because it finished all the open threads.
$\square$ inappropriate because all questions were answered.
8. Was Lost a realistic show?
$\square$ Yes, because the people in the island lived for hundreds of years.
$\square$ No, because polar bears and smoke monsters don't live hundreds of years.
$\square$ Yes, because tropical islands are usually inhabited by polar bears.
$\square$ No, because it showed a tropical island inhabited by polar bears and smoke monsters.

|  | Espai per al corrector/a <br> Correcta <br> Incorrecta <br> contestada |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\square$ | $\square$ |


$\square$

Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a


## THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO, THE ENGLISH WAY

I was somewhere near Betanzos and I didn't know I was lost, but a passer-by guessed I was doing the Camino, said something I did not understand and pointed down the hill. So I retraced my steps about 50 metres, and there was the sign of the scallop shell.

The Camino de Santiago-or St James's Way-started attracting international pilgrims more than 1,000 years ago. By the 12th century, half a million a year were arriving in Santiago de Compostela to pay homage to a mythical early missionary who had a habit of appearing on battlefields to help the Christians. An early guidebook, the Codex Calixtinus, detailed the route, and a chain of hostels (called albergues) was built to give the pilgrims places of rest.

Nowadays, the hostels are still there, and they are so cheap as to be almost free. In Galicia official hostels cost $€ 6$ per night; some hostels along the way ask only for donations. The route is still waymarked with the scallop shell that became the pilgrim symbol, and after many centuries of little use the numbers of pilgrims are increasing again.

In a Holy Year, the pilgrimage is even more valued. Holy Years pilgrims occur whenever St James's Day (25 July) falls on a Sunday, as was the case in 2010, when 250,000 pilgrimsdouble the usual number-arrived in Santiago to claim their compostela (certificate of completion) and hug the statue of St James in the cathedral in the hope of absolute forgiveness. Even the Pope made an appearance this year.

There's not just one Camino across Spain, but five. The main route is the French Way, a difficult walk across northern Spain. Then there's the Portuguese Way, the Silver Way, the Northern Way and the English Way. This one is the shortest and the least crowded-and the one I was taking. It starts from the ports of either La Coruña or El Ferrol, where the English originally arrived by boat. It mixes coastal scenery with rural Spain, includes some handsome seaside towns and less handsome industrial sites, and can be done in less than a week. At times it felt to mequite English, too, as I walked between flower-rich hedgerows and crossed rivulets that could have been in Cornwall, except for the fragrant eucalyptus and vineyards on south-facing hills. And although it would probably have been more appropriate to stay in an albergue, I chose to do it the easy way, walking between designated points, and stopping at lovely rural hotels in the evening.

I'm not, really, a true pilgrim and I'm no believer (but neither are many of the walkers who set out every year on this oldest example of mass tourism). I wasn't expecting absolution. I wanted simply to enjoy an inexpensive long-distance walk through a little known part of Spain. That didn't diminish my satisfaction on arriving in Santiago, however, a historic city which makes an appropriate end to a form of tourism that hasn't fundamentally changed since medieval times.

Although I hadn't done enough to collect my compostela (you must complete at least 100 km and have the stamps to prove it), I felt so satisfied with myself on arrival that I went to pilgrim $M$ ass in the magnificent sculpture covered cathedral. Outside, the main square was full of buskers, beggars and pilgrims, tanned and smiley, just as it's been happening over the centuries.

Text adapted from The Independent (July 24, 2010)
scallop shell: petxina de vieira / concha de vieira
pilgrim: pelegrí / peregrino
waymarked: senyalitzat / señalizado
hedgerow: tanca / valla
forgiveness: perdó / perdón

## Part 1: Reading comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.
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Espai per al corrector/a
No
Correcta Incorrecta contestada


2. According to the text, which of the following sentences is FALSE?

Pilgrims started to come to Santiago in the 12th century.
Pilgrims who take on St James' Way come from many different countries.
$\square$ St James is a legendary character who helped win many battles. The Codex Calixtinus was written as a guide for the pilgrims.
3. The author explains that...
$\square$ you can stay for free in all the hostels on the route.
you just pay a small amount to spend a night in an albergue.
you must make a donation in all the hostels.
official hostels are cheap, but unofficial ones are not.
4. In a Holy Year...
the Pope always visits Santiago.
pilgrims cannot get their compostela.
the number of pilgrims always doubles that of a normal year.
pilgrims who take on the Camino expect absolute forgiveness.
5. The English way...
starts in Cornwall and runs through coastal towns.
must be taken along the seaside by boat.
was preferred by the English people because it was easier.
doesn't take as long to complete as the other routes.
6. As he was walking, the author felt...
$\square$ as if he was in England because the landscape was similar to that of Cornwall.
$\square$ that the eucalyptus and the vineyards he found on the way are typically English.
$\square$ that it was just as easy to stay in an albergue or in a hotel.that staying in rural hotels was what an English pilgrim should do.
7. The author did the Camino because...
he had strong religious beliefs, just like many other pilgrims.
as a pilgrim, he was looking for absolution.
he wanted to experience a cheap walking holiday.
he had never been to Santiago before.
8. When he reached Santiago, he was very pleased because...
$\square$ he had won his compostela.
$\square$ he had to attend M ass in the cathedral.
$\square$ he could see the buskers and beggars in the square.
$\square$ he had completed the Camino.

