

PROVA DE INGLÊS DO VESTIBULAR 2001/2002 DO INSTITUTO MILITAR DE ENGENHARIA

1ª Questão

Valor: 3,0 (0,6 cada item)

READ THE FOLLOWING TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT IT

Like it or not, English is the *lingua franca* of Europe. According to the European Commission, some 84% of young people in the EC are currently learning English as a second language. No language – neither French in the Middle Ages, nor Latin before it - has ever been taught so widely in Europe.

It is the world language, the most popular second language in China and Japan and spoken by 760-800 million people around the world. Some 1.2 billion people live in countries where English is the official language.

This often has an adverse effect on native speakers. It makes them more reluctant to learn other languages (and the only way really to understand a culture is to speak its language). According to EC figures, Anglophone Ireland has the worst score for language learning in Europe.

This international language cannot accurately be called “English” at all. It ought, rather, to be called world English, International English or Anglo American. The language is no longer the intellectual property of Britain.

One of its great advantages as a world language is that there is no academy to decide what is and what is not “good English”. English, like the Common Law, is what it has become – a less formal and more flexible instrument than either French or German. And it is seen in rich and poor countries alike as the language of modern consumerism. It holds out the (probably illusory) promise of prosperity and material progress.

If international English has a spiritual home it is in the United States. Opposition to the spread of English is often animated by a certain anti-Americanism, or the kind of narrow-minded nationalism that is re-emerging in post-communist Europe.

1ª Questão

Continuação

But for most of those who learn it, it is a language of hope – “the true Esperanto” as George Steiner calls it. For young people in Europe there is no chauvinism involved in choosing it as a second language, nor does it follow that a student of English has an interest in British culture. This is not well understood in Britain. The language has become a sign of a cosmopolitan, outward-looking attitude of life, not of the insularity with which Britain is all too often associated.

European English is spoken from Brussels to Bratislava and as a first or second language by more than half the people in the European Community. The percentage of young people learning English as a foreign language at school in the EC countries, apart from Britain and Ireland, is 100 per cent in Denmark, 95 per cent in the Netherlands, 91 per cent in Luxembourg, 90 per cent in France, 84 per cent in Germany, 80 per cent in Belgium, 76 per cent in Greece, 72 per cent in Italy, 65 per cent in Spain and 55 per cent in Portugal.

The EC is debating whether to recognise more languages, such as Welsh, Basque, Catalan or Frisian. Countries like Britain and France are opposing the idea because they say it will mean more bureaucracy.

But what could be more bureaucratic than the present system which equates European languages with their national boundaries? Language is perhaps the greatest barrier to trade and the Single Market. Promoting English within the EC Lingua programme or perhaps some new EC programme would surely be the cheapest, most sensible way of overcoming it.

Jon Packer

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1ª Questão	Continuação
<p>1. Match the two columns according to what you have just read and tick the correct alternative.</p>	
I - Ireland II - Portugal III - Denmark IV - America	A. () is the spiritual home of 'world English'. B. () has the worst foreign language learning record in Europe. C. () has the best foreign language learning record. D. () has the lowest proportion of young people learning English. E. () has the highest proportion of young people learning English. F. () is opposed to official recognition of minority languages. G. () is in favor of promoting English alone within the EC Lingua program.
a) I - B b) I - G c) I - B d) I - A	II - C II - F II - D II - D
III - F III - C III - E III - E	III - F III - C III - E III - E
IV - D IV - A IV - A IV - B	IV - D IV - A IV - A IV - B
<p>2. Which of the following categories of text type would you say the article belongs to?</p> <p>a) opinion b) descriptive c) imaginative d) informational</p>	
<p>3. Which would be an appropriate title for the article?</p> <p>a) The European Community b) Native speakers of English c) Latin and French versus English d) English is no longer an intellectual property of Britain</p>	

1ª Questão	Continuação
<p>4. Which of the arguments below does the author of the article put forward to support the use of English as an international communication medium? Tick the correct alternative.</p> <p>I - English is already the European lingua franca. II - English represents the cheapest solution for overcoming language barriers. III - English symbolizes modern consumerism, prosperity, material progress, and hope.</p> <p>a) I and II b) I and III c) II and III d) I, II and III</p>	
<p>5. According to the article, which of the statement(s) is (are) true?</p> <p>I - English is more formal than French or German. II - Only in Britain and the USA English is the official language. III - There is no English academy to prevent the language development. IV - English is more spoken in European countries than in other countries around the world.</p> <p>a) I, II, III and IV b) only III c) II and III d) II and IV</p>	

2ª Questão: Translate the following text into Portuguese (Valor: 4,0)

Renewable Energy

The sun is the source of all life on Earth and provides us with almost all the energy we use. Fossil fuels, such as gas, oil and coal are simply stored solar energy: the product of photosynthesis millions of years ago; while the renewable energy sources (solar, wind, tidal, wave, biomass, and hydro) are all the direct result of the sun's energy.

More energy arrives at the earth's surface in an hour than is consumed in the world in a whole year. Even in cloudy northern countries like Britain there is more than enough solar energy for our needs. The total falling on Britain every year is more than one hundred times greater than all the energy used.

This energy can be used to heat buildings either directly (passive solar energy) or by use of solar collectors (active solar energy). The sun is also responsible for rain, which can be harnessed as hydro-power. Falling or flowing water generates 25% of the world's electricity. Waves are the result of winds over the ocean and the ways of harnessing this new source of energy are being developed at present, while the complex interaction of earth, moon and the sun results in the tides, which can also be used to produce electricity.

The official view in Britain is that renewable sources of energy such as these will be unable to provide more than a small proportion of our needs until well into the next century. But such pessimistic predictions are directly linked to the lack of money for research and development. We need to develop many of the more promising renewable energy options now if we are to ensure that the world has enough energy to take us through to the new century.

3ª Questão: Translate the following text into Portuguese (Valor: 3,0)

How a Vacuum Tube Works

Back in 1904, British scientist John Ambrose Fleming first showed his device to convert an alternating current signal into direct current. The "Fleming diode" was based on an effect that Thomas Edison first discovered in 1880, and had not put to useful work at the time. This diode essentially consisted of an incandescent light bulb with an extra electrode inside. When the bulb's filament is heated white-hot, electrons are boiled off its surface and into the vacuum inside the bulb. If the extra electrode (also called a "plate" or "anode") is made more positive than the hot filament, a direct current flows through the vacuum. And since the extra electrode is cold and the filament is hot, this current can only flow from the filament to the electrode, not the other way. So, AC signals can be converted into DC. Fleming's diode was first used as a sensitive detector of the weak signals produced by the new wireless telegraph. Later (and to this day), the diode vacuum tube was used to convert AC into DC in power supplies for electronic equipment.

Various tubes were developed for radio, television, transmission, radar, computers, and specialized applications. The vast majority of these tubes have been replaced by semiconductors, leaving only a few types in regular manufacture and use in some very specific areas unchallenged by the semiconductors.

Vocabulary:

vacuum tube = válvula eletrônica