

Instrucciones: a) Duración: 1 h.30m. b) No se permite el uso de diccionario. c) La puntuación de las preguntas está indicada en las mismas. d) Los alumnos deberán realizar completa una de las dos opciones A o B, sin poder mezclar las respuestas.

OPTION X: HOW PLASTIC BECAME A VICTIM OF ITS OWN SUCCESS

- 1 Leo Baekeland produced the first fully synthetic plastic, which he called Bakelite. He said about it, "This invention
2 will prove important in the future." Baekeland made his first fortune in his thirties by selling his photographic printing
3 business to Kodak. On his invention of Bakelite, he became so rich and famous that *Time* magazine put his face on
4 the cover without needing to mention his name, just the words "It will not burn or melt," in reference to the amazing
5 properties of his plastic.
6 Earlier plastics were based on plants, and Baekeland himself had been seeking an alternative to shellac, a resin
7 secreted by beetles that was used for electrical insulation. Yet he quickly realised that Bakelite could become far
8 more versatile than that. In the 1920s and 1930s, different kinds of plastic poured out of labs around the world. As
9 World War Two made natural resources scarce, production of plastics dramatically increased to fill the gap. After the
10 war, exciting new products like Tupperware hit the consumer market.
11 However, plastic would not remain exciting for long: from originally meaning modernity, it now stands for cheap
12 stuff. Lately it has become synonymous with environmental problems. The long lifecycle of chemical-loaded plastics,
13 which affect animal development and reproduction, poses a problem for the environment. However, plastic has
14 benefits that aren't just economic, but eco-friendly too. Vehicles made with plastic parts are lighter, and so use less
15 fuel. Transportation of plastic-contained goods is also lighter, and thus greener. Plastic packaging keeps food fresh
16 for longer, reducing waste. It is no wonder that scientists are trying to improve ways of recycling and reusing plastics
17 – the material once considered a miracle product.

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points)

CHOOSE AND WRITE THE CORRECT OPTION (A, B, C or D). (0.5 points each)

1. **Leo Baekeland...**
(a) failed to realize the significance of his invention. (b) had two big hits in his business career.
(c) wrote about Bakelite in *Time* magazine. (d) was not recognized by the press as the inventor of Bakelite.
2. **The use of plastic...**
(a) brings advantages only to manufacturers. (b) makes life easier but has no green effects whatsoever.
(c) should be banned. (d) can also contribute to preserving the environment.

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS. (0.5 points each)

3. **Bakelite was a plastic substance produced by beetles.**
4. **The impoverished conditions of wartime required producing more plastic to replace unavailable products.**
5. **The connotations associated with plastic have changed drastically over the years.**
6. **Using plastic containers and wrapping for food is terrible for the environment.**

7. **FIND IN THE TEXT:** (0.5 points)

7.1. ONE SYNONYM FOR "recently" (adverb).

7.2. ONE OPPOSITE FOR "boring" (adjective).

8. **FIND IN THE TEXT:** (0.5 points)

8.1. ONE WORD MEANING "an attribute, characteristic, or quality."

8.2. ONE WORD MEANING "at one time in the past; formerly."

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; 0.5 points each)

9. **FILL IN THE GAPS WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS:**

9.1. "I'd rather you... (speak) less loudly."

9.2. "I can't help... (laugh) when I see that poster."

10. **FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE CORRECT OPTION:**

10.1. "She hangs... with the weirdest people." over / out / up / on

10.2. "I don't like that..." absolute / at all / indeed / nothing

11. **THERE ARE TWO MISTAKES IN THIS SENTENCE. FIND THE MISTAKES AND REWRITE THE SENTENCE CORRECTLY: "Sam is the nicer doctor I have ever have."**

12. **GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: "My dad has his heart checked twice a year."**

13. **TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE PASSIVE VOICE: "They haven't fixed my laptop yet."**

14. **REWRITE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED. "You are allowed to drive my car only if it is an emergency." Unless...**

III * WRITING (3 points)

15. **WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT: How can people and governments help preserve the environment?**