

## SÈRIE 2

Comprensió Lectora

## DIGITAL AND TRADITIONAL TOOLS

**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.]

**1. The author...**

- a. prefers digital ties to personal relationships.
- b. thinks digital ties have destroyed personal conversation and commitment.
- c. is against friendships made through the networks.
- d. thinks personal friendships are stronger than those made through the net.**

**2. According to the article, the civil rights movement in the USA was an example of...**

- a. excellent communication and togetherness.
- b. the power of bringing people together in forums of discussion and protest.**
- c. very old forms of communicating.
- d. how the world could be saved by protesting.

**3. According to the author, Twitter and Facebook can be very useful in the future...**

- a. if they are used alongside traditional forms of communication.**
- b. whenever they are connected with one another.
- c. because they have been replaced by human togetherness.
- d. because the digital phenomenon is a true religion.

**4. The author thinks that we can learn a lot from our digital life if we...**

- a. combine the best of both worlds by bringing our digital world onto our real one.**
- b. use the new technologies to make more and more friends.
- c. never turn off the screen on our computer.
- d. expand networking and exclude traditional forms of communication.

**5. American writer Clay Shirky says that the real revolutions take place**

- a. in the digital world.
- b. among those who learn to live a more peaceful life.
- c. in the non-digital world.**
- d. among the followers of wise men.

**6. What is Professor Rheingold's opinion about Twitter?**

- a. He thinks Twitter is more open than any other network.
- b. He considers it to be useless and that it takes a lot of your time.
- c. He likes it because it is the best way for communicating.
- d. He finds it valuable if you know how to extract its benefits.**

7. The author's views on the new social networks could be said to be generally...

- a. **positive.**
- b. negative.
- c. sceptical.
- d. indifferent.

8. The article concludes that...

- a. it is impossible to tell what is good from what is bad on the net.
- b. there is too much information on the net.
- c. only those who control the net will be successful in the world.
- d. **the internet may become the most powerful political tool in the future.**

### Comprensió Auditiva

#### **THE END OF THE WORLD TRAIN**

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

**bay:** badia / bahía

**timber :** fusta per a la construcció /madera para la construcció

**bounded:** delimitat / delimitado

**convicts :** presos / presos

**woodcutting site:** serradora / serrería

**mainland:** terra ferma / tierra firme

Ready?

Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

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**PRESENTER:** Ushuaia in Argentina is the southernmost city in the world. No other place gives us the opportunity to make a trip on the Southern Railway, proudly advertised as *The end of the World Train*. Today in our program "Round the World", I'm pleased to introduce Chris Van Gils, a keen traveller. Hi Chris and welcome to our program.

**CHRIS:** Thanks a lot for your invitation.

**PRESENTER:** Chris, today we are going to talk about a train rather than about the city of Ushuaia. The train is the most popular tourist attraction in this city, isn't it?

**CHRIS:** Well, yeah. Ushuaia is the capital city of the Argentinean Province of *Tierra del Fuego* and commonly regarded as the entry to Antarctica. As you said, there is no other city which is more southern. It's located in a wide bay on one of the islands of Tierra del Fuego, ...- don't forget it IS an island- and bounded on the north by mountains, the Martial Mountain Range and by water, the Beagle Channel, on the

south. Besides, it has about 60,000 inhabitants. Not many people, I'm afraid, to have a lot of tourist attractions. So, yeah, the train is one of the most interesting attractions in the city.

**PRESENTER:** Ok, so let's concentrate on the train. Why is it called *The End of the World Train*?

**CHRIS:** Well, it is quite literally The End of the World Train because there is no other train anywhere closer to one of the poles.

**PRESENTER:** So why build a train on an island where so few people live?

**CHRIS:** To understand why this railroad is where it is, you have to realize that *Tierra del Fuego* is completely cut off from the rest of South America by virtually impassable mountains and is surrounded by water. It is almost impossible to reach except by ship or air and therefore, it served as Argentina's maximum-security prison. In the same way as England once deported those considered undesirable to Australia, Argentina sent its worst criminals to *Tierra del Fuego*. They built a prison for dangerous criminals. Escape from there was virtually impossible and the convicts had to survive as best as they could.

**PRESENTER:** Interesting. A prison in Ushuaia is the start of the train? When was that?

**CHRIS:** We are talking about the 1880s. That's when the first prison was established but it was not till the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the jail received its first prisoners. According to the Penal Code of the time, their sentences were just a bit below the death penalty. They were convicts of the worst kind; they were in prison for the second or third time.

**PRESENTER:** So then Ushuaia is also the name of the prison?

**CHRIS:** Yeah, yeah. But the name of the city does not mean prison or anything similar. It comes from the Yamanas, the indigenous people who inhabited *Tierra del Fuego*. In their language, Ushuaia means "deep bay to the west".

**PRESENTER:** And what about the train? Why was it built?

**CHRIS:** The jail was built using local materials: basalt rock, timber from the forests, clay and sand from the streams in the region. The convicts themselves built the prison. The train was set up to transport these materials. At the beginning it ran on wooden rails and later, in 1909, a real train was built which was popularly known as the "Convict Train".

**PRESENTER:** So the railway was built to transport wood from the forests for heating and building purposes, as well as other materials, wasn't it?

**CHRIS:** Exactly. The little train crossed the town along the waterfront, linking the jail to the woodcutting site where prisoners once collected timber.

**PRESENTER:** And, Chris, the train is still working today. So has it been running without interruption since 1909?

**CHRIS:** Yes and no. Let me explain. In 1949 there was a violent earthquake that destroyed the railway. Besides, by that time the prison had been closed down and things were very different from the way they were at the beginning of the century. So it wasn't until 1994 that the train started running again to and from the Tierra del Fuego National Park. The trip is now a tourist attraction and it is much shorter than it used to be, but one can still get the feeling of what it was like.

**PRESENTER:** Chris, I'm afraid we've run out of time. Thanks a lot for your interesting stories.

**CHRIS:** Thank you.

**1. Where is Ushuaia located?**

- On the mountainous island of Antarctica.
- On an island by a channel.**
- On the mainland near Beagle Channel.
- On mainland Argentina.

**2. What type of prison was built in Ushuaia?**

- A prison for first-time convicts.
- A prison for people sentenced to death.
- A prison for Australian and English prisoners.
- A maximum security prison.**

**3. When did the first prisoners arrive in Ushuaia?**

- At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**
- At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**4. Which of the following sentences is TRUE?**

- The Yamanas gave the name to the prison.
- Yamana is the name of the prison in Ushuaia.
- The name Ushuaia comes from the indigenous people.**
- There were no indigenous people in *Tierra del Fuego*.

**5. Who built the prison?**

- It was built by the people of Ushuaia.
- It was built by all the prisoners.**
- It was built only by the prisoners sentenced to death.
- We do not know exactly who built the prison.

**6. What other name did the train have?**

- The Wooden Train.
- The Convict Train.**
- The Prison Train
- The Transport Train.

**7. Which route did the train cover when it was used by the prisoners?**

- It started in the jail and ended in the city.
- It ran from the waterfront to the prison.
- It went from Ushuaia to the National Park.
- It started in the prison and ended in the forest.**

**8. Why did the train stop running in 1949?**

- The government closed it down.
- The National Park opened.
- The prison was closed and it was no longer needed.
- It was destroyed by an earthquake.**