



UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ
PRUEBA DE ACCESO A ESTUDIOS UNIVERSITARIOS DE LOS MAYORES DE 25
AÑOS Curso 2018-2019
MATERIA: INGLÉS



INTRUCCIONES GENERALES Y VALORACIÓN

TIEMPO: Una hora. Se recomienda dedicar cuarenta minutos para responder a las preguntas 1, 2, 3 y 4, y veinte minutos para la número 5.

Puntuación máxima: 10 puntos.

INTRUCCIONES:

1. Haga una primera lectura cuidadosa del texto y de las preguntas.
2. Lea una segunda vez y conteste a las preguntas.
3. Conteste en LENGUA INGLESA.
4. Escriba sus respuestas en el cuadernillo de examen respetando el orden de las preguntas.

The Secrets of Tolkien's Rings

In the 1950s, J.R.R. Tolkien published his trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*. Almost 70 years later, the work remains a phenomenon: it has sold more than 50 million copies, it has appeared in different film versions, and it is considered one of the greatest stories of all fantasy fiction. Why has *The Lord of the Rings* enjoyed such popularity over the years?

Tom Shippey once knew and taught with J.R.R. Tolkien at Oxford University. Shippey explains why Tolkien's work still has an audience today: "More than the adventures of hobbits, elves and other creatures, Tolkien's imaginings are a reflection of the turbulent history of the 20th century. My colleagues in the literary department say it's all very escapist stuff, but I don't think so. It's actually all about what happened in the 20th century. The 20th century has basically been industrialized warfare. I think Tolkien was very preoccupied with the nature of evil, the nature of technology, the way in which things could be abused, and the way good intentions are subverted. That's what it's all about."

Shippey also thinks that Tolkien created a new genre: "Tolkien reintroduced the world of fairy tale to a new audience. It was a very traditional image of fairy tale – elves, dwarves, trolls, dragons, and wizards. But Tolkien turned the whole thing into a successful modern version of heroic fantasy. A lot of that stuff is traditional material that he has transformed in a kind of 20th-century way."

Adapted from "The Secret of Tolkien's 'Rings'", CNN.com
<http://edition.cnn.com/2001/SHOWBIZ/books/12/17/rings.tolkien/index.html> - 18 diciembre, 2001.

QUESTIONS

1. Look at the following statements. Write T for true, F for false, and DK (don't know) if you cannot tell from the text. If it is true or false, copy the evidence from the text.

- a. Tom Shippey never met Tolkien in person.
- b. Some literature teachers think that *The Lord of the Rings* is just a fantasy story.
- c. Tolkien took inspiration from the medieval literature he taught at Oxford University to create many of his characters.

(Calificación máxima: 3 puntos; no se obtendrán puntos por responder tan sólo T o F; se descontará medio punto por cada respuesta incorrecta)

2. Based on the ideas from the text, fill in the table below.

Tolkien's popularity
a) What makes you think that <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> is a very popular book:
b) Reasons why Tom Shippey thinks that the themes of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> are still interesting today:

(Calificación máxima: 1 punto)

3. Find the words or phrases in the text that mean:

- a. nearly (paragraph 1)
- b. concerned (paragraph 2)
- c. destroyed or weakened (paragraph 2)
- d. literary form (paragraph 3)

(Calificación máxima: 1 punto)

4. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

- a. J.R.R. Tolkien, _____ was born in South Africa, _____ (consider) to be one of the most popular English writers.
- b. Last week I _____ (read) *The Lord of the Rings* and learnt a lot _____ elves, dwarves, trolls, orcs and hobbits.
- c. _____ I could choose, I _____ (like) to read *The Lord of the Rings*.
- d. Thank you for _____ (invite) me, _____ I'm afraid that I can't go the cinema tomorrow.

(Calificación máxima: 2 puntos)

5. Write about 60 to 100 words on ONE of the following topics. Do not copy from the text.

- a. Write about your favourite book.
- b. Have you ever watched a film based on a book after you read it? Which did you prefer, and why?

(Calificación máxima: 3 puntos)