



## Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad de Extremadura

### Curso 2013-14

Asignatura: Inglés

Tiempo máximo de la prueba: 1h.30 min.

El alumno deberá escoger una de las dos opciones, A o B, y responder **en inglés a todas las preguntas** que se formulan en la opción elegida, sin mezclar preguntas de una y otra. **En el caso de la primera pregunta (la redacción), deberá escribir tan sólo sobre uno de los dos temas propuestos.**

### Opción A

#### Game of Thrones

*Game of Thrones* is an epic fantasy television drama series created for HBO, an American cable TV channel, by David Benioff and D. B. Weiss. It is an adaptation of *A Song of Ice and Fire*, George Martin's series of fantasy novels, the first of which is entitled *A Game of Thrones*.

The series, set on two fictional continents at the end of a decade-long summer, combines several plot lines. The first follows the members of several noble houses in a civil war for the Iron Throne; the second covers the rising threat of the imminent winter and the mythical creatures of the North; the third narrates the attempts of the exiled last descendant of the realm's deposed dynasty to reclaim the throne. Through its morally ambiguous characters, the series explores issues of social hierarchy, religion, civil war, sexuality, crime and punishment.

The settings, characters and plot elements of the novels and the TV series are derived from a very broad range of periods in European history. An important source of inspiration for the novels is the English War of the Roses (1455–85) between the houses of Lancaster and York, reflected in the houses of Lannister and Stark. One of the continents, Westeros, with its castles and tournaments, is based on Medieval Western Europe. Moreover, the series also combines such varied inspirations as Hadrian's Wall (which appears as the Great Wall), the fall of Rome and the legend of Atlantis (ancient Valyria), Icelandic sagas of the Viking Age (the Ironborn) and the Mongol hordes (the Dothraki). The series' great popularity has in part been attributed to the author's skill at putting together these disparate elements into a coherent whole that appears credible as an alternative history.

*Game of Thrones* has obtained an exceptionally broad and active international success with fans. It has also received widespread acclaim by critics, although its use of nudity and explicit sex has often been criticized. Moreover, the series has won numerous awards and nominations.

- Write a composition about **one of the following topics** (maximum 4 points):
  - Do you think that TV series should avoid nudity or explicit sex scenes? Why or why not? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
  - Write a story of at least 80 words **beginning with this sentence**: "*Luke had never enjoyed fantasy stories in his life*". Remember that **the 9 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
- Answer the following **two** questions:
  - Does the writer say that *Game of Thrones* is not a popular TV series? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
  - According to the text, does *Game of Thrones* narrate just one single story? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
- Imagine your friend does not know what TV series to watch. Advise him or her to watch *Game of Thrones* and give him or her a good reason to do so (maximum 2 points).
- Grammatical transformation.
  - Rewrite the following sentence in the passive form of the past perfect tense. **Do not omit any part of the sentence** (maximum 1 point):

*Game of Thrones has obtained an exceptionally broad and active international success with fans.*
  - Rewrite the following sentence in the negative interrogative form of the past simple tense. **Write one sentence only** (maximum 1 point):

*The second plot line covers the rising threat of the imminent winter.*

## Opción B

### Gay Marriage in the United States

As of May 2013, gay marriage has been legalized in nine US states, while thirty-eight states have prohibited gay marriage through laws or constitutional amendments. Like with many other socially relevant issues, there exist at present many Americans with strong views in favour of or against marriage between persons of the same sex.

On the one hand, proponents argue that same-sex couples should have access to the same marriage benefits and public acknowledgment enjoyed by heterosexual couples. For them, prohibiting gay marriage is unconstitutional discrimination. On the other hand, opponents believe that altering the traditional definition of marriage as between a man and a woman will ruin that threatened institution. They also claim that legalizing gay marriage may lead to "worse" things such as making polygamous marriages legal.

The gay rights movement in the US can be traced back to the Stonewall Riots that occurred following a police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969. Police raids on gay bars were commonplace then, but on this occasion the gay and lesbian patrons fought back and that provoked several days of protests. The Stonewall Riots marked the beginning of a political movement for gay rights during a time when it was illegal to have homosexual sex in all states except for Illinois. Between 1969 and 1974, the number of gay organizations in the country increased from fewer than fifty to nearly a thousand.

Gay-rights activism in the 1970s focused more on personal liberation and visibility than on gaining access to institutions such as marriage. While some gay activists defended their right to marry already in the early 1970s, others rejected marriage as "heterosexist" and saw it as an outdated institution. The gay liberation movement achieved a victory in December 1973 when the American Psychiatric Association stopped classifying homosexuality as a mental disorder and the American Psychological Association did the same in 1975.

1. Write a composition about **one of the following two topics** (maximum 4 points):
  - a. Do you think that gay marriage should be prohibited in Spain? Give your opinion in at least 80 words.
  - b. Write a story of at least 80 words **ending with this sentence**: "*This is how John changed his idea about gay marriage*". Remember that **the 10 words in this sentence cannot be counted in the 80 words you must write**.
2. Answer the following **two** questions:
  - a. Does the writer say that gay people were prosecuted in the past in the US? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
  - b. According to the text, are people in the US today indifferent to gay marriage? Explain your answer, providing evidence from the text (maximum 1 point).
3. Imagine that your friend does not respect other people's views on love and marriage. Order him or her to be respectful with them and give him or her a good reason for it (maximum 2 points).
4. Grammatical transformation.
  - a. Rewrite the following sentence in the negative interrogative form of the simple future tense. **Write one sentence only** (maximum 1 point):

*The gay and lesbian patrons fought back.*
  - b. Rewrite the following sentence in indirect style (reported speech), beginning with the words *He said* (maximum 1 point):

*Proponents believe that altering the traditional definition of marriage will ruin that institution.*