



PREMIO EXTRAORDINARIO DE BACHILLERATO. CURSO 2009-2010

EJERCICIO DE LENGUA INGLESA

Criterios generales de de calificación:

Se valorará el uso de vocabulario adecuado y la correcta descripción científica. Los errores ortográficos, el desorden, la falta de limpieza en la presentación y la mala redacción se tendrán en cuenta en la calificación.

Especificaciones para la realización del ejercicio

Las respuestas se realizarán en las hojas que contienen el enunciado.

SURPRISE NOBEL FOR OBAMA CAUSES PRAISE AND DOUBTS

The choice of Barack Obama on Friday as the recipient of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, less than nine months into his newly presidency, was an unexpected honour that elicited praise and puzzlement around the globe.

Normally the prize has been presented, even controversially, for accomplishment. However, this prize has been given to a 48-year-old freshman president, for “extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.”

But the prize quickly appeared as a potential political responsibility — perhaps more burden than glory — for Mr. Obama. Republicans mentioned that he had won more for his star power and oratorical skills than for his actual achievements, and even some Democrats privately questioned whether he deserved it.

“To be honest,” the president said, “I do not feel that I deserve to be in the company of so many of the transformative figures who have been honoured by this prize, men and women who’ve inspired me and inspired the entire world through their courageous pursuit of peace.” On the domestic front the social and economic situation has to improve. He is pressing Congress to implement a new nation’s health care system, which is going to be expensive, and on the other hand the unemployment rate may soon rise above ten per cent. In foreign affairs, he is wrestling with his advisers over how to draw a map of a new course in Afghanistan and has been working, with little movement, to restart peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, at the expense of offending some of his Jewish supporters.

Mr. Obama has generated considerable goodwill overseas, with polls showing him hugely popular. He has vowed to pursue a world without nuclear weapons; reached out to the Muslim world, delivering a major speech in Cairo in June.

“The question we have to ask is who has done the most in the previous year to enhance peace in the world,” said the Nobel Committee Chairman, Thorbjorn Jagland.



1. Find a synonym of the following words in the text (1 punto; 0,25 puntos cada una)

a) Paragraph 1 – surprise: _____

b) Paragraph 4 – fighting: _____

c) Paragraph 5 – sworn: _____

d) Paragraph 6 – increase: _____

2. Answer the following questions (2 puntos; 1 punto cada una)

a) Why does the writer think that the Nobel Peace Prize can be more a burden than a glory for the President of the United States?

b) What kind of problems does Mr. Obama have to face in his own country?

3. Rephrase the following sentences using the words given (2 puntos; 0,5 puntos cada una)

a) Normally the prize has been presented, even controversially, for accomplishment. However, this prize has been given to a 48-year-old freshman president.

Although.....
.....
.....



b) Republicans mention that he has won for his star power and oratorical skills.

If he didn't have
.....
.....

c) Mr Obama is pressing the Congress to implement a new nation's health care system.

The Congress
.....

d) The president said: "I do not feel that I deserve to be in the company of so many of the transformative figures who have been honoured by this prize."

The president said that
.....
.....

4. Circle the correct option (1 punto; 0,5 puntos cada una)

A. The second paragraph suggests that:

- a) the Nobel Peace Prize has been given to very old people.
- b) the Nobel Peace Prize has always been given with all countries' support to an important personality.
- c) the Nobel Peace Prize has been given this year to Mr Obama's for his achievements.
- d) the Nobel Peace Prize has been given to Mr Obama for his programme of good intentions.

B. The following paragraph: *"In foreign affairs, he is wrestling with his advisers over how to draw a map of a new course in Afghanistan and has been working, with little movement, to restart peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, at the expense of offending some of his Jewish supporters."* means that:

- a) Barack Obama has been successful in reaching an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis.
- b) Barack Obama has been unsuccessful in reaching an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis.
- c) Barack Obama has suspended the talks to reach an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis.
- d) Barack Obama is planning to reach an agreement with his Jewish supporters before starting the talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis.



5. Composition: (80 – 100 words.) Choose one of the two options (4 puntos)

- a) In your opinion has Barack Obama been a good nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize? Support your opinion with your own ideas and contrast them.
- b) What changes have taken place in our world with Mr. Obama's election? What does he symbolize?