

*PROPUESTAS PARA LA PRUEBA MAYORES DE 25 AÑOS*

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*INGLÉS*

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# PROPUESTA A

## THE YOUNG ELVIS

Elvis Presley was born in a two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi, an area that can experience extremes of weather, from hot summers to unbelievably cold winters. His twin brother, Jessie, was dead at birth, leaving Elvis to grow up as an only child. From an early age, Elvis showed a tendency for music. For his 11th birthday, as a gift from his parents, Elvis chose an acoustic guitar. The Tupelo Hardware Store on Main Street, where the guitar was purchased, is famous to this day and is visited by thousands of fans. The owners are proud of their Elvis connection.

Elvis used to spend all evenings sitting around on his family porch and trying to master the rudiments of guitar playing. Dreaming, imagining, but never in his wildest dreams knowing where his passion for music would lead him. Folks who knew Elvis at that time remember that he often gave away whatever toys he had to other children.

In 1946 Elvis commenced at Junior High School in Tupelo, entering the 6th grade class in which he looks very much out of place, the only pupil wearing overalls. By 7th grade, he used to take his guitar to school daily and play in the lunch and break periods, trying to impress his classmates. While he was in the 8th grade, school bullies cut the strings of his guitar, but classmates collected enough money to buy him new ones.

The only few photos that exist of Elvis during the time he lived in Tupelo and attended the school give very little inkling of the devastatingly handsome looks that would wow millions of female fans once he became a worldwide phenomenon.

Adapted from *The Elvis Archives*. Todd Slaughter

**Answer the following questions using the information given in the text.**

1. Where was Elvis born?
2. What is the weather like in Tupelo?
3. How many brothers did Elvis have when he was a teenager?
4. What present did Elvis get for his 11th birthday?
5. Why is Tupelo Hardware Store visited by thousands of tourists nowadays?
6. How did Elvis use to spend his evenings in Tupelo?
7. Was Elvis generous when he was a kid?
8. Why did Elvis take his guitar to school?
9. What problem did Elvis have when he was in the 8th grade?
10. Was Elvis a good-looking boy during the time that he lived in Tupelo?

## PROPUESTA B

### ENGLISH IN THE WORLD

When Shakespeare was young, English was known almost exclusively to native speakers and there were only seven millions of them.

The contrast with the position of English four hundred years later is extraordinary: now it is in daily use by seven hundred million people, and only half of them are native speakers of the language. It is the language on which the sun does not set, whose users never sleep. For between 1600 and 1900, speakers of English pushed themselves into every part of the globe, so that at this present time, English is the chief language of more countries than any other language is or has ever been.

Though not so relevant, there is another contrast between 1600 and nowadays. In the 17th Century almost no one who was not actually brought up speaking English even bothered to learn it. However, English is at present in daily use among over five hundred million people who were not brought up speaking English as their native language. Most of them live in countries requiring English for “external purposes”: contact with people in other countries, trade and scientific advance. We refer to these countries as EFL (English as a Foreign Language) countries.

There are also many people who live in countries where English is not a native language, but where English is in widespread use for “internal purposes”: in administration, in broadcasting, in education. In countries like India English is, rather than a foreign language, a second language, that is, one of the national languages, along with indigenous ones.

English has become the world’s lingua franca in the globalized world of the 21st Century, in the same way as Latin was the main language for communication in the ancient world.

Adapted from *English in the World*. R. Quirk and H.G. Widdowson

**Answer the following questions using the information given in the text.**

1. Who spoke English when Shakespeare was young?
2. What is the main contrast between English in 1600 and English nowadays?
3. Why is English the language “on which the sun does not set, whose users never sleep”?
4. Did people use to learn English four hundred years ago?
5. How many non-native speakers of English are there nowadays?
6. What do you understand by “EFL”?
7. What do people who live in EFL countries want English for?
8. Why is English considered as a second language and not a foreign language in India?
9. Is Latin a lingua franca nowadays?
10. What do English and Latin have in common?

## PROPUESTA A

### THE MYSTERY OF THE MAYA

The Mayan Indians lived in Mexico for thousands of years before the Spanish arrived in the 1500s. The Maya were culturally rich people. They had farms, beautiful palaces, and cities with many buildings. The Mayan people knew a lot about nature and the world around them. This knowledge helped them to live a better life than most people of that time, because they could use it to make their lives more comfortable and rewarding.

The Maya believed in many gods, including rain gods, sun gods, and corn gods. The people built large temples to honour the Mayan gods. Skilful workers built cities around these temples. It was difficult for them to construct these cities, because they had no horses to carry the heavy stone they used to build with. Workers had to carry all of the building materials themselves. Today, many of these ancient Mayan cities and temples are still standing.

Measuring time was important to the Maya, so they developed a system for measuring it accurately. They wrote numbers as dots (...) and bars (-). A dot was one and a bar was five. The Mayan priests studied the Sun, Moon, stars, and planets. They made a calendar from what they learned. The year was divided into 18 months of 20 days each with five days left over.

Around the year 800, the Maya left their villages and beautiful cities, never to return. No one really knows why this happened. They may have died from an infectious disease. They may have left because the soil could no longer grow crops. Archaeologists are still trying to find the lost secrets of the Maya. They are still one of our greatest mysteries.

Adapted from  
[www.pearsonlongman.com](http://www.pearsonlongman.com)

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS USING THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT.

1. Where did the Maya live before the Spanish arrived?
2. Did they know nature in depth?
3. Why was the knowledge of nature useful for the Mayan Indians?
4. What gods did the Maya believe in?
5. Why did the Maya build temples?
6. Did they use horses to carry the building materials?
7. Can we visit the ancient Mayan temples?
8. How many days were there in a year for the Maya?
9. What are the possible reasons why the Maya did not return to their villages and cities?
10. Do we know everything about the Maya today?

## **PROPUESTA B**

### **NOAH WEBSTER**

Noah Webster was born in Connecticut. He was a descendant of John Webster, who had been the state governor in the mid-1600's. He lived during the time of George Washington. He attended law school for a while, then he went home and found his family needed help. He took a job teaching at school to earn money to support them.

The school was in a shack and as the teacher, he had to do everything. He had to clean and repair the building as well as teach. But he wanted to set a good example for his students, so he did every task cheerfully. He was a good teacher.

Later when he was a schoolmaster in Hartford, he lived with a judge who had a large library. He was able to study law using the judge's books. He became a lawyer, but what he really wanted to do was to teach others. He decided to write a spelling book and a grammar book. More than 100 million copies of the spelling book were sold.

He rode by horseback and in stagecoaches from town to town in the original 13 states showing people his books. He called them "American books for American children". The schools usually ordered hundreds of the books for their students.

He had observed that the people in America spoke many languages and they could not understand each other. They would get into fights because of these misunderstandings. He thought there needed to be one language; a "mother tongue", so that people could work together and be united. He made a dictionary for the people.

When the dictionary was finished, it had 70,000 English words in it. He called it "An American Dictionary of the English Language". It has sold more copies than any English book except the Bible.

Adapted from [www.gardenofpraise.com/ibdnoahw.htm](http://www.gardenofpraise.com/ibdnoahw.htm)

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS USING THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT.

1. Was Noah Webster the state governor of Connecticut?
2. Why did he become a school teacher?
3. What did he do to be a good example for his students?
4. Did Webster own a big library?
5. What did he study?
6. What was his real desire?
7. What books did he write?
8. What did he call these books?
9. Why did he make a dictionary?
10. Did the dictionary sell more copies than the Bible?