

PRUEBA DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD
MAYORES DE 25 AÑOS

PRUEBA COMÚN

PRUEBA 201(



INGLÉS

PRUEBA

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Murphy's Law

Are you the type of person who feels like...

Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong, at the worst possible time, all of the time, without fail, when you least expect it?

If that sounds like you, then you are living under the influence of *Murphy's Law*.

Welcome to the aggravating world of Murphy's Law. It is a very optimistic law, stating *if anything can go wrong, it will. If it can't go wrong, it will go wrong anyway*. This sad truth is the basic premise of Murphy's Law.

Another allegedly correct and original reading of Murphy's Law is that *if there are two or more ways to do something, and one of those ways can result in a catastrophe, then someone will do it*. But the statement that best expresses the explosive nature of Murphy's Law is undoubtedly *you will inevitably make the wrong choice whatever you decide*.

And it may just be right. This isn't because of some mysterious power the law possesses. In reality, it's us who give Murphy's Law relevance. When life goes well, little is made of it. After all, we expect that things should work out in our favour. But when things go badly, we look for reasons.

It's food for thought but there is no evidence to support Murphy's Law itself - it's all down to perception.

The law captures our imagination. There are countless examples in today's culture. It is generally accepted, for example, that bread will always land buttered-side down when dropped, that there will be rain as soon as you wash your car, and that when queuing, the other line will always move faster.

Many people will naturally interpret this law as a pessimistic view of life. In fact, they couldn't be further from the truth. Losers can take advantage of a good knowledge of Murphy's Law to help better prepare for the unexpected problems and challenges that life throws our way.

Don't worry about Murphy's Law, you know it's going to happen anyway, so just get on with it and get it over with!

Adapted from: <http://blog.iqmatrix.com/murphy-law> and
<http://people.howstuffworks.com/murphys-law.htm>



Reading Comprehension (4 points)

1. - Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Find evidence in the text to support your answers. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (2 points)

1. The catchphrase of Murphy's philosophy is that there are several ways of doing wrong things.
2. When everything goes well, we don't even think of Murphy's Law.

2. - Answer the following questions in full sentences using information from the text. (2 points)

1. Is there any scientific basis for a belief in Murphy's Law?
2. How can you benefit from Murphy's Law?

3. - Vocabulary. Find words in the text meaning the following: (2 points)

- a) disaster
- b) annoying
- c) very many, a great number of
- d) think seriously about something

4. - Write a composition (100 words) on the following topic: (4 points)

Murphy's Law in My Life

One look at a day in my life and anyone can see that Murphy's Law, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong" is absolutely true.



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The answers provided are just examples. Bear in mind that those taking the exam can copy from the text.

Reading Comprehension (4 points)

1. - Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Find evidence in the text to support your answers. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (2 points)

1. - The catchphrase of Murphy's philosophy is that there are several ways of doing wrong things. FALSE. *The catchphrase of Murphy's Law is whatever can go wrong will go wrong*

2. - When everything goes well, we don't even think of Murphy's Law. TRUE. *We just think of Murphy's Law when things go wrong and we look for reasons.*

2. - Answer the following questions in full sentences using information from the text. (2 points)

1. - Is there any scientific basis for a belief in Murphy's Law? **No there isn't. There is no scientific evidence, it's all perception.**

2. - How can you benefit from Murphy's Law? **You can anticipate any trouble or problem and take the adequate decisions.**

3. - Vocabulary. Find words in the text meaning the following: (2 points)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) disaster | <i>catastrophe</i> |
| b) annoying | <i>aggravating</i> |
| c) very many, a great number of | <i>countless</i> |
| d) think seriously about something | <i>food for thought</i> |

4. - Write a composition (100 words) on the following topic: *Murphy's Law in My Life* (4 points)

One look at a day in my life and anyone can see that Murphy's Law, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong" is absolutely true.

AZTERKETAKO GALDERAK ETA EZAGUTZA ADIERAZLEAK

galdera	Ezagutza-adierazleak
1	1.1, 2.1, 3.1
2	1.1, 1.5, 2.1, 2.6, 3.1, 3.7
3	2.1, 3.1
4	1.3, 1.5, 2.6, 3.4, 3.7



SCORE	0	1	2	3	4
ORGANIZATION	INADEQUATE ORGANIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks stated topic No logical pattern; difficult to follow Inadequate paragraphing 	MINIMAL ORGANIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of acceptable topic sentence Lacks clear organizational pattern, sequencing of ideas and/or paragraphing May lack introductory paragraph, supporting paragraphs and/or concluding paragraph 	LIMITED ORGANIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poorly stated topic sentence Some evidence of organization Introductory paragraph and concluding paragraph with limited supporting paragraphs 	ADEQUATE ORGANIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly stated topic sentence Evidence of a logical order Introductory paragraph, supporting paragraphs and concluding paragraph 	EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively placed topic sentence Clear and logical order Introductory paragraph, supporting paragraphs and concluding paragraph Appropriate transition within and between sentences, ideas and paragraphs
DEVELOPMENT	INADEQUATE DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little or no development of the topic Few or no examples, evidence and/or relevant details 	MINIMAL DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal development of the topic Lacks a logical progression of ideas Minimal use of examples, and/or relevant details 	LIMITED DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited development of the topic Limited progression of ideas Limited use of examples, evidence and/or relevant details 	ADEQUATE DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient development of the topic Progression of ideas Sufficient use of examples, evidence and/or relevant details 	EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate development of the topic Clear progression of ideas Clear use of examples, evidence or relevant details
SENTENCE STRUCTURE	INADEQUATE SENTENCE STRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous sentence fragments (incomplete sentences) Little or no sentence variation (errors in sentence structure) 	MINIMAL SENTENCE STRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains sentence fragments Minimal sentence variation most sentences are simple but there can be a compound one 	LIMITED SENTENCE STRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor errors in sentence structure Limited sentence variation (simple and some compound sentences) 	ADEQUATE SENTENCE STRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and correct sentences Sentence variation, simple, compound, and there can be a complex one, too 	EFFECTIVE SENTENCE STRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and correct sentences Sentence variation (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) Variation of phrases and clauses
WORD CHOICE	INADEQUATE WORD CHOICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inappropriate, incorrect, unclear 	MINIMAL WORD CHOICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate, imprecise, repetitive 	LIMITED WORD CHOICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vague, redundant, simplistic More precise and accurate words are needed to convey intended/clear message 	ADEQUATE WORD CHOICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate, specific 	EFFECTIVE WORD CHOICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate, precise, clear and relevant
GRAMMAR USAGE	INADEQUATE GRAMMAR USAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distracting inconsistencies in grammar usage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb 	MINIMAL GRAMMAR USAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent inconsistencies in grammar usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb 	LIMITED GRAMMAR USAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several inconsistencies in grammar usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb 	ADEQUATE GRAMMAR USAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly consistent grammar usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb 	EFFECTIVE GRAMMAR USAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent grammar usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject/verb agreement Singular/plural nouns Verb (tense and usage) Pronoun usage Adjective/Adverb
MECHANICS	INADEQUATE MECHANICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious and consistent errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Impedes understanding 	MINIMAL MECHANICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Impedes readability 	LIMITED MECHANICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Begins to impede readability 	ADEQUATE MECHANICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Needs editing but doesn't impede readability 	EFFECTIVE MECHANICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few errors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling Needs little or no editing