

**PREMIOS EXTRAORDINARIOS DE BACHILLERATO  
CURSO 2014-2015****PRIMER EJERCICIO. PARTE B)****INGLÉS****Análisis de un texto en la primera lengua extranjera cursada****Gluttony is good for you**

Clichés only turn into clichés because they're true. Otherwise, they just become a weird thing that someone in a bank once said to you. Scientists in Bristol have discovered that fat people are more cheerful than their thin peers. I thought this was just a revivification of the ancient (well ... maybe 25-year-old) wisdom that says you shouldn't go on a totally fat-free diet because your brain needs its fat surround to keep from crashing against your skull.

The usefulness of this survey was opaque. It appeared to demonstrate that hedonists were happier than puritans. Nobody needs a scientist to tell them that. They just need to study the works of Chaucer. Or Dickens. The people enjoying themselves are the fat, jolly ones. The people who worry about how they look, and what people think of them, and what God might think, and whether drinking too much will turn out to be a signal that they are bound for hell - those people don't enjoy themselves so much.

In fact, the new research is quite new. It merely asked whether fat people kill themselves. Are they prone to depression or anxiety? The answers were all no. Not only are you less depressed when overweight, it works in proportion. The fatter you get, the less likely you are to commit suicide.

Doctors hazarded a guess that thin people made themselves depressed with the effort of keeping thin. It's feasible, I suppose, but there are plenty of fat people on diets who are making all that effort and failing, and they seem pretty cheerful. Consider the pleasure that can be derived from food. There is: a) the comforting taste of something nice, generally with a heap of fat; and b) the warped pleasure of self-denial. People who go for the last band will be the most miserable. They have misery written into their DNA.

What makes this fat/happy curve so surprising is that fat people have a horrible time at the hands of society. This year it was revealed that they were less likely to land jobs. And still they smile.

**I. COMPREHENSION ( 3 POINTS)**

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-2 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

1. In what sense was the Bristol survey original? (1 point)
2. How does society penalize fat people? (1 point)

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

3. Fat people seldom commit suicide. (0,5 points)
4. According to the author, unhappiness is something genetic. (0,5 points)

**II. USE OF ENGLISH** (4 points)

5. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR “**cheerful**” (0,25 points)
6. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE WORD MEANING “**distorted or perverted**” (0,25 points)
7. GIVE AN ADJECTIVE WITH THE SAME ROOT AS “**suicide**” (0,25 points)
8. WHICH WORD DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME MEANING?: **strange / mild / bizarre / weird** (0,25 points)
9. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: **Nobody needs a scientist to state the obvious.** (0,5 points)
10. REWRITE THE SENTENCE CORRECTLY: **Jack is a boy so fat that everyone calls him Stuff.** (0,5 points)
11. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: **We asked him: "How can the problem be solved?"** (0,5 points)
12. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED: **I made a tremendous effort, but I failed. Even though ...** (0,5 points)
13. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY: **Many people find comfort in eating. Their lives are sad and pathetic.** (0,5 points)
14. USE THE WORDS IN THE BOXES TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL SENTENCE. USE ALL AND ONLY THE WORDS IN THE BOXES WITHOUT CHANGING THEIR FORM: **more / fatter / the / eat / the / you / get / you.** (0,5 points)

**III. PRODUCTION** (3 points)

15. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 100 WORDS. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT. SPECIFY YOUR OPTION.
  - A) “**Personality is more important than physical beauty**”. Give your opinion.
  - B) **What do you think is the key to a healthy life? Give reasons.**