

EvAU Practice Examination (Comunidad de Madrid)

INSTRUCCIONES GENERALES Y VALORACIÓN

Después de leer atentamente los textos y las cuestiones siguientes, el alumno deberá escoger una de las dos opciones propuestas y responder en INGLÉS a las cuestiones de la opción elegida.

CALIFICACIÓN: Las cuestiones 1^a, 2^a y 4^a se valorarán sobre 2 puntos cada una, la pregunta 3^a sobre 1 punto y la pregunta 5^a sobre 3 puntos.

TIEMPO: 90 minutos

The Ghost Orchid

The Ghost Orchid is one of Britain's rarest and loveliest wild flowers. The plant's name refers to its pallid features, mysterious beauty, and intermittent appearances. The Ghost Orchid rarely appears above ground and is very well camouflaged in the woods and forests where it grows. Traditionally, the best time to see a ghost is at night, and in fact botanists sometimes look for the Ghost Orchid when it is dark; they use a powerful torch, shining the light parallel to the ground to help them to see the flower.

The Ghost Orchid was first found in Britain in 1854 by Mary Anderton Smith. Botany was considered a very suitable pastime for young ladies at the time, and in 19th-century Britain women often made important botanical discoveries. But although a lot of people have looked for it since Mary first found it, this plant has only occasionally been spotted in Britain again.

One notable sighting came in 1953, when botanist Rex Graham, who had been searching for years in the hope of finding the Ghost Orchid, decided to take a moment's rest, sat down on a tree stump and, while lighting his pipe, saw the orchid in front of him. History does not relate whether he ever actually smoked his pipe!

More years went by with no confirmed sightings, and in 2001 the Ghost Orchid was officially declared extinct in the British Isles. The last British specimen, we were told, had died. Nevertheless, botanists continued to look for the orchid. One of them, Mark Jannink, carefully researched its preferred habitats and records of where and when it had been found. He discovered that many of the sightings came after a cold winter.

The winter of 2008-9 was cold. Jannink identified ten possible sites and visited each one of them every fortnight throughout the summer of 2009. Finally, on 20 September 2009, he found a single small specimen in a wood only a few kilometres from where Mary Anderton Smith had first found it all those years ago.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

- a) The Ghost Orchid is especially difficult to find at night
- b) Rex Graham had been looking for the Ghost Orchid for a long time.

(Puntuación máxima: **2 puntos**)

2. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

- a) Why is it difficult to see the Ghost Orchid?
- b) Why, in your opinion, do people look for the Ghost Orchid?

(Puntuación máxima: **2 puntos**)

3. Find the words in the text that mean:

a) the most beautiful (paragraph 1)

b) hobby (paragraph 2)

c) seen (paragraph 2)

d) two weeks (paragraph 4)

(Puntuación máxima: **1 punto**)

4. Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

a) What would you do if you (see) a Ghost Orchid taking a walk?

b) Some of these flowers (not sight) for hundreds years.

c) Botanists study wild flowers are uncertain when the next Ghost Orchid (find)

d) Complete the following sentence to report what was said.

“These are very rare flowers.”

The botanist said

(Puntuación máxima: **2 puntos**)

5. Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of countryside living?

(Puntuación máxima: **3 puntos**)