Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Educació
Escoles Oficials d'Idiomes

ANGLÈS

Prova Mostra

CERTIFICAT DE NIVELL B2

LLEGIU ATENTAMENT AQUESTES INSTRUCCIONS

Aquest quadernet conté les proves de:

Comprensió escrita_____50 minuts
Comprensió oral_____40 minuts
Mediació escrita_____40 minuts
Durada total aproximada_____**130 minuts**

MOSTRA

En acabar aquest quadernet, hi haurà un descans de 30 minuts i, a continuació, s'administrarà la prova d'Expressió i interacció escrita. S'assignarà dia i hora per a la prova d'Expressió i interacció oral i de Mediació oral.

Important

- Contesteu als **fulls de respostes**, no en aquest **quadernet**.
- Les anotacions que feu en aquest quadernet no es tindran en compte.
- Al final de la prova, heu de lliurar els **fulls de respostes**, amb totes les dades, i aquest **quadernet**.

B2

Material propietat del Departament d'Educació de la Generalitat de Catalunya. Ús restringit a les proves de certificació d'EOI

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Task 1.

Read the text and select T (True) or F (False) for each of the statements. Mark your answers with a cross (X) on your answer sheet.

T F

The Real Price of Gold

For thousands of years the desire to possess gold has driven people to extremes, fuelling wars and conquests, girding empires and currencies, levelling mountains and forests. Gold's unusual density and malleability along with its imperishable shine have made it one of the world's most coveted commodities, a transcendent symbol of beauty, wealth, and immortality.

Nowhere is the gold obsession more culturally entrenched than it is in India, which has been the world's runaway leader in gold demand for several decades. India produces very little gold of its own, but its citizens have hoarded up to 18,000 tons of the yellow metal.

India's fixation stems not simply from a love of extravagance or the rising prosperity of an emerging middle class. For Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians alike, gold plays a central role at nearly every turning point in life – most of all when a couple marries. There are some ten million weddings in India every year, and in all but a few, gold is crucial both to the spectacle and to the transaction between families and generations. Gold equals good fortune.

This manifests itself most palpably during the springtime festival of Akshaya Tritiya, considered the most auspicious day to buy gold on the Hindu calendar. The quantity of gold jewellery Indians purchase on this day so exceeds the amount bought on any other day of the year that it often nudges gold prices higher.

Throughout the year, though, the epicentre of gold consumption is Kerala, a state that claims just 3% of the country's population but 7 to 8% of its gold market. Local histori-ans say it was the region's revolt against the Hindu caste system (before which the low-est castes were allowed to adorn themselves only with polished stones and bones), and the mass conversion to Christianity and Islam that followed, that turned gold into some-thing more than commerce: a powerful symbol of independence and upward mobility.

Despite the long history, no era in Kerala has been hungrier for gold than the present. Among the upper classes and younger consumers in Delhi and Mumbai, gold may be starting to lose ground to more understated – and expensive – materials like platinum and diamonds. Dowries, though officially banned, dominate most wedding proceedings in India, and in Kerala, the largest portion of the dowry is usually gold.

As the price of the metal goes up, however, poor Indian families are having a harder time raising the gold they need for dowries. Though the dowry retains a social function – balancing the wealth between the families of bride and groom – the rising price of gold has only fuelled its abusive side. In the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu, the struggle to acquire gold has led to dowry-related domestic violence (usually when grooms' families beat the brides for bringing too little gold Even in Kerala, the pressure is sometimes too much for the poor to take. Rajam Chidambaram, a 59-year-old widow living in a slum on the outskirts of Cochin, recently found a young man to marry her only daughter, age 27. The groom's family, however, demanded a dowry far out of her reach: 25 sovereigns, or 200 grams, of gold. Chidambaram, a cleaning woman, has only the two earrings she wears. "I had to agree to the groom's demand," Chidambaram says, wiping away tears. "If I refuse, my daughter will stay home forever."

In the end, local financiers advanced a loan for her daughter's dowry. Chidambaram may have averted the shame of an unmarried daughter, but she is now burdened with a debt that she may spend the rest of her life trying to repay.

Adapted from *National Geographic Magazine,* January 2009

MOSTRA

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. People have been prepared to destroy our environment just to get gold. TRUE FALSE

2. Gold's colour has made it the most sought after metal in the world. TRUE FALSE

3. Although India doesn't produce much gold, it is most coveted there. TRUE FALSE

4. Gold is used to impress guests at weddings. TRUE FALSE

5. The price of gold in India may vary, reflecting cultural beliefs. TRUE FALSE

6. Kerala is reported to be number one in gold production in India. TRUE FALSE

7. Gold is no longer a symbol of which caste you belong to. TRUE FALSE

8. In large cities in India other cheaper metals are becoming more popular than gold. TRUE FALSE

9. There is increasing pressure to forbid the dowry tradition. TRUE FALSE

10. Gold has ceased to play its former dominant role in dowries. TRUE FALSE

11. Rajam Chidambaram was reluctant for her daughter to get married as she would have to give up her earrings. TRUE FALSE

12. A woman is reported to have fallen into lifelong financial difficulties in order to marry off her daughter. TRUE FALSE

LIVEWORKSHEETS