Generalitat de Catalunya
Consell Interuniversitari de Catalunya
Oficina d'Accés a la Universitat

Proves d'accés a la universitat 2019

Llengua estrangera
Anglès

Sèrie 4 - A

Qualificació		TR
Comprensió escrita		
Redacció		
Comprensió oral		
Suma de notes parcials		
Qualificació final		

Etiqueta de l'alumne/a

Ubicació del tribunal .....

Número del tribunal .....

Etiqueta de qualificació

Etiqueta del corrector/a

LIVEWORKSHEETS

THRILLER: MICHAEL JACKSON'S SURPRISING SUCCESS

The album that would become the most successful record in music history went unnoticed by the magazine *Time* when it was first **released** 35 years ago, on November 30, 1982. But it didn't take too long for that to change, as the album sat atop the charts for weeks and revolutionized the entire record industry and the music-video culture. About a year after its **release**, *Thriller* was still selling 200,000 copies a week. By the time Michael Jackson appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1984, the album had become the best-selling album ever (and it still claims that title).

But, while it could be said that a success of that magnitude is always a surprise in some way, *Time*'s music critic Jay Cocks also suggests a deeper reason why the editors at *Time* may have **overlooked** the album when it was first released:

For the record industry, *Thriller* was a restoration of confidence, a rejuvenation. Its effect on listeners, especially younger ones, was nearer to a revelation. *Thriller* brought Black music back to mainstream radio, from which it had been **banished** in the mid-'70s. "No doubt about it," says composer-arranger Quincy Jones, who produced the albums *Off the Wall* and *Thriller* with Jackson. "He took us right up there where we belong. Black music had to **play second fiddle** for a long time, but its spirit is the whole motor of pop. Michael connected with every soul in the world."

Thriller does not have the mean, challenging immediacy of rap, but it is consummate contemporary rhythm and blues. Jane Fonda, one of Jackson's pals, put it as nicely as any music critic: "Michael had a fresh, original sound. The music is energetic, and it's sensual. You can dance to it, work out to it, make love to it, sing to it. It's hard to sit still to."

The pulse of America and much of the rest of the world **beat** in time to the tough **strut** of *Billie Jean*, the asphalt aria of *Beat It*, the cool chills of *Thriller*. *Thriller* was on the Japanese charts for 65 consecutive weeks, and local teens were copying Michael's moves and singing his songs. *Thriller* was also South Africa's top seller: "Jackson bridged the apartheid gap," declared one record executive. The Soviet press in Moscow denounced Jackson, and his fans couldn't buy his records in any stores, but **bootleg** tapes were swapped and treasured.

"Michael used to say, when he wrote, he'd write for everyone," says his mother Katherine, "even though the music business would list it as rhythm and blues because of him being Black." Jackson was the biggest thing in music since The Beatles. He was the hottest single phenomenon since Elvis Presley. He just may be the most popular Black singer ever.

This success, Jones says, "had never happened to a Black performer." Rock critics (who are mostly white) liked *Thriller* well enough and wrote respectfully of it when it was released in December 1982, but they were as surprised as record-company executives (who are mostly white) when the album started **burning its way into** the country's collective musical consciousness. The message is obvious anyway: soul is for sharing, not segregating.

When Jackson died in 2009, *Thriller* was still remembered by many as a high point in his career. "For a generation, the magic is partly nostalgic; everyone in his fifties remembers exactly where they were when they heard *Beat It* for the first time," wrote *Time*'s Richard Corliss in his remembrance of the pop idol. "As a piece of music, it remains the greatest pop album of all time."

Text adapted from an article by
Lily Rothman. *Time* [online] (November 29, 2017)

to release: publicar
release: publicació / publicación
to overlook: passar per alt / pasar por alto
to banish: bandejar / desterrar
to play second fiddle: ser a l'ombra / estar en la sombra
to beat: marcar el ritme / marcar el ritmo
strut: estil de caminar fatxenda / pavoneo
bootleg: còpia pirata / copia pirata
to burn one's way into: establir-se ràpidament i amb força / establecerse rápidamente y con fuerza

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 1: Reading comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is correct.

[3 points: 0.375 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.125 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

		Espai per al corrector/a		
		Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1.	When Michael Jackson's *Thriller* was released, ☐ *Time* magazine didn't pay much notice to it. ☐ it sold 200,000 copies on the first week. ☐ it was considered the best album ever. ☐ it didn't reach the charts immediately.	☐	☐	☐
2.	After *Thriller*, ☐ Black music was forbidden on the radio. ☐ young people started listening to the radio again. ☐ only Black people listened to the radio stations playing Jackson's music. ☐ Black music was heard on radio stations aimed at a general audience.	☐	☐	☐
3.	Which of these things does Quincy Jones NOT say? ☐ Michael Jackson made Black music important again. ☐ Pop music has a strong influence of Black music. ☐ Michael Jackson had connections all over the world. ☐ Black music was considered secondary for years.	☐	☐	☐
4.	When Jane Fonda said that "It's hard to sit still to [Michael Jackson's music]", she meant that ☐ his music makes you want to move. ☐ his music makes you want to sit down. ☐ it's difficult to listen to his music. ☐ it's difficult to dance like he did.	☐	☐	☐
5.	In Moscow, Michael Jackson's records ☐ were widely available in music stores. ☐ were only available as pirate copies. ☐ reached the top position in the charts. ☐ were played regularly on state-owned radio stations.	☐	☐	☐
6.	Michael Jackson's mother says that ☐ he didn't make music for a specific group of people. ☐ he composed music for a Black audience. ☐ he composed mainly rhythm and blues. ☐ he wrote for the music business.	☐	☐	☐
7.	Rock critics ☐ worked together with record companies. ☐ thought that Jackson's music would promote segregation. ☐ predicted the success of the album. ☐ didn't expect the album to be so successful.	☐	☐	☐
8.	Many people believe that *Thriller* ☐ is the most famous song of the 20th century. ☐ marked the end of a music era. ☐ is one of the best albums in Michael Jackson's career. ☐ is a song with a strong political message.	☐	☐	☐

	Correctes	Incorrectes	No contestades
Recompte de les respostes			

Nota de comprensió escrita

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Your answer should be 125-150 words in length. There is no specific penalty for exceeding 150 words in length. Extra points are not given for exceeding 150 words. [4 points]

1. Do you buy music or do you pirate it? Some people argue that we should put an end to music piracy, as it generates huge losses for the record companies and music artists. Others claim that the record companies already have enough money, and that the prices they charge are too expensive. **Write a for-and-against essay** in which you state the pros and cons of paying for music.

2. You have missed a flight due to unexpected delays but you are not offered any rebooking or any compensation from the airline. **Write an email** to the customer service department complaining about the service and asking for compensation. Make sure you do NOT use your own name in your email.

Grammar	
Vocabulary	
Text	
Maturity	
Total	
Nota de la redacció	

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 3: Listening comprehension

DO YOU GET ON WELL WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE?

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

overload: sobrecàrrega / sobrecarga
mindfulness: atenció plena / atención plena
dopamine: dopamina
boost: estimular

Ready?

Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

Presenter: Hello. My name is Anne Smith, and on today's programme Dr. John Thomson is going to help us find out why smartphones are so addictive and how we can break our dependence on them. Can we learn how to renegotiate our relationship with our smartphone?

[Now listen to the interview.]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

QUESTIONS

Choose the best answer according to the recording. Only ONE answer is correct.

[3 points: 0.375 points for each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.125 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

	Espai per al corrector/a		
	Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1. According to Dr. Thomson, ☐ we are very dependent on mobile phones. ☐ we are addicted to our emotions. ☐ technology harms our mind. ☐ we should not use our phones while eating.	☐	☐	☐
2. In Dr. Thomson's view, which of the following is NOT true? ☐ We need to learn to use digital devices intentionally. ☐ Mindfulness allows us to observe and reflect on our behaviour. ☐ We should change our text messaging habits to feel better. ☐ We should learn to observe consciously how we feel.	☐	☐	☐
3. In order to understand how to use technology well, we need to ☐ become aware of how devices affect our lives. ☐ have a lot of determination. ☐ learn how to carry on business with it. ☐ stop using smartphones for entertainment.	☐	☐	☐
4. Our addiction to technology is based on ☐ the high levels of dopamine in the food we eat. ☐ a neurobiological brain disorder related to eating habits. ☐ a mental condition that makes us forget what to do. ☐ a psychological system of reward related to survival.	☐	☐	☐
5. E-mails can cause a dopamine hit if they are ☐ answered intermittently. ☐ received at irregular time intervals. ☐ received at regular time intervals. ☐ answered within 30 seconds.	☐	☐	☐
6. To develop mindfulness, Dr. Thomson asks people to ☐ think about their body before thinking about their phone. ☐ take their phone out, hold it and put it away without turning it on. ☐ think about their phone and what happens in their mind and to their body. ☐ think of three questions to ask him.	☐	☐	☐
7. In mindfulness training people are supposed to ☐ stop thinking about their own emotions. ☐ avoid expressing their own feelings. ☐ develop an awareness of their own habits. ☐ pay close attention to the others in the room.	☐	☐	☐
8. When going through mindfulness training, some people ☐ feel anxious when asked to put their phone away. ☐ react violently and throw their phone away. ☐ relax when they put their phone away. ☐ create bad habits in the use of their phone.	☐	☐	☐

	Correctes	Incorrectes	No contestades
Recompte de les respostes			

Nota de comprensió oral

LIVEWORKSHEETS