INSTRUCCIONES GENERALES Y VALORACIÓN
El alumno deberá responder a todas las cuestiones del examen. Haga una primera lectura cuidadosa del texto y de las preguntas. Lea una segunda vez y conteste a las preguntas en inglés, según el texto dado. Escriba sus respuestas en el cuadernillo de examen. Compruebe sus respuestas antes de entregar la prueba.

TIEMPO: 1 hora.

CALIFICACIÓN: La puntuación máxima de la prueba es de 10 puntos.

YOUR 20s ARE THE HAPPIEST YEARS, A STUDY SUGGESTS

People are happiest during their 20s, a new study suggests. Dr Ioana Ramia, a researcher at the Australian University of New South Wales, said that her research found that life satisfaction decreases from the late 20s, remains at a stable level for about 40 years and then increases from about 65 up. Dr Ramia, who was speaking at the Australian Social Policy Conference, said people are at their happiest again around the age of 80.

According to Dr Ramia, couples reported their highest satisfaction just before having their first child, followed by a dip from the child’s first year of life through to around age six, when the child started school. Dr Ramia considered the amount of importance placed on professional and financial situation as the reason why people become unhappier during their middle years: “At this time happiness is at its lowest and it only starts to increase when people start focusing on other things,” she said. The study also found quality of housing was of little importance to the overall happiness of younger people, compared to those who are middle aged and beyond.

Although her research examined the ages at which people are happiest, Dr Ramia said the peaks at young and old age remain poorly understood and would be a challenge for future research to examine.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: 2 puntos.)

   a) Couples said that they were happiest during their first child’s early years.
   b) Having a good house is less important for young people than for other age groups.

2. Find a synonym in the text for the following words or phrases. (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto.)

   a) investigator (paragraph 1).
   b) approximately (paragraph 2).

3. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer this question. (Puntuación máxima: 1 punto.)

   According to Dr Ramia, why are old people happier than middle aged people?

4. Follow the instructions for each part of this question. (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos.)

   a) Rewrite the sentence in reported speech. Start as indicated below.

      Mary said: “My grandmother is happy at 90.”

      Five years ago Mary told me ____________________

   b) Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form:

      If Jim ______ (study) hard now that he is young, he ______ (have) more chances to get a good job after university.

   c) Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition:

      Dr John Williams has been researching ______ fifteen years on the effects ______ pollution on people’s happiness.

5. Write about 80 to 100 words on the following topic. (Puntuación máxima: 3 puntos.)

   In your opinion, at which age are people happiest? Give reasons.