OPCIÓ A / OPCIÓN A

Part A. Reading Comprehension
Read the following text:

‘READ RECEIPTS’ SUCH AS WHATSAPP’S ‘BLUE DOUBLE TICK’
CAN DESTROY YOUR LIFE

Most platforms tell you when your message has been opened. On WhatsApp, the double tick turns blue. It sounds straightforward enough, but when a message lingers on “seen” without a reply for anything beyond a few minutes, you think you’ve been ignored. It’s enough to make you feel depressed.

Was what you said so inappropriate? You thought not, but you were obviously wrong, because why else would they have read it and not replied? It works both ways, too: if you’ve read a message and you’re either unable or unwilling to respond to it immediately, the countdown has already started. The implicit message of your silence is that you’re ignoring them -not the best starting point for a conversation.

The anxiety of not getting a reply is silly but it is real, and unique to this time, the web 2.0, when everyone is assumed to be available at all times. And, if not, it’s personal. Combined with notifications for “last active” (which tell you how long since someone was on the platform) and “is typing” (which tell you when they’ve started typing their reply), well, is it any wonder that anxiety is so common among the young nowadays?

Communication has gone downhill, even though it’s ostensibly improved. When we’re used to good things happening instantly, time taken to type a reply is considered a bad thing. Personally, I want “read receipts” abolished. Ignorance (of the exact moment you read my message and decided not to reply to it) is wonderful.

Adapted from an article by Elle Hunt, The Guardian, March 17th 2017
I. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points: 1 point each)

a. Why does the double tick make people feel depressed?
b. Why is anxiety so typical among the young nowadays?

II. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage on the answer sheet. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

a. Only WhatsApp tells you when a message has been opened.
b. The fact that we are supposed to be connected all the time makes this anxiety of “no reply” special.
c. Today, you are not expected to spend a long time writing a message.

III. Find a synonym for each of the four words below from these six options. (1 point: 0.25 each)

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<tr>
<th>turns</th>
<th>lingers</th>
<th>wonder</th>
<th>considered</th>
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<td>d. becomes</td>
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IV. Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

1. You think you’ve been ignored...
a. when, after a few minutes, the double tick turns blue and you get no reply.
b. when the double tick turns blue and you expect an immediate reply.
c. when the double tick turns blue and you get no reply after a few minutes.

2. If you don’t reply to a message immediately...
a. the person who sent the message is right in thinking that you are ignoring him/her.
b. the person who sent the message may think that you are ignoring him/her.
c. the person who sent the message may also ignore you.

3. Notifications and “is typing” messages...
a. contribute to the anxiety of today’s youth.
b. increase the need to be available in today’s youth.
c. allow today’s youth to be more in control of their interactions.

Part B. Composition (130 to 150 words approximately) (4 points)

How do blue double ticks, notifications and “is typing” messages make you feel? Do you think they should be eliminated? Give reasons.
OPCIÓ B / OPCIÓN B

Part A. Reading Comprehension

Read the following text:

THE VICTORIAN ORIGINS OF THE MANNEQUIN CHALLENGE

A group of Florida high schoolers made the first Mannequin Challenge video, and they started a movement that went viral, with pop music groups, sports teams and politicians jumping in to make videos of their own.

Like most internet fads, the Mannequin Challenge’s moment will likely be brief. However, in this case, there’s some historical precedent. It was called tableau vivant (literally, “living picture”). The technique has its roots in medieval drama, but it became a fashionable Victorian-era dinner party game. People would select a famous scene from history or literature or art and position themselves in that scene, frozen, for their guests and friends to observe.

One fashion writer said “In the production of tableaux, the greatest attention must be paid to the grouping of figures and the harmony of colours. When they are animated and controlled by a fine taste, their effect is charming.” The tableau's combination of animation and control, its carefully choreographed suspension of movement, illustrates the appeal of the Mannequin Challenge.

Queen Victoria loved this entertainment. In an 1852 pencil sketch, she drew her six children in a tableau of John Milton’s “L’Allegro” that they performed for her husband’s 33rd birthday. “Albert was delighted and could not imagine how it had been so well arranged,” she wrote in her journal.

Part of the joy in producing a tableau vivant was watching the audience’s recognition and reaction. I believe that if Queen Victoria had owned an iPhone, she would have filmed the moment and shared it on Instagram for the world to see.

Adapted from an article by Ellen J. Stockstill, The Conversation, December 2016
I. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points: 1 point each)

   a. What scenes did people imitate in a tableau vivant?
   b. What makes a tableau vivant and a mannequin challenge video similar?

II. Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage on the answer sheet. (1.5 point: 0.5 each)

   a. It is probable that the Mannequin Challenge will not last long.
   b. A tableau vivant was a popular medieval game.
   c. In the production of a tableau, colour was the only important feature.

III. Find a synonym for each of the four words below from these six options: (1 point: 0.25 each)

   fads   roots      frozen  guests       taste    joy

   a. motionless
   b. delight
   c. origins
   d. trends

IV. Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)

   1. A group of Florida high schoolers…
      a. made a video with pop music groups.
      b. started a viral movement.
      c. jumped in their own videos.

   2. A tableau vivant…
      a. is a popular Victorian game.
      b. is a popular Victorian party.
      c. is a famous Victorian sport.

   3. Queen Victoria’s children…
      a. drew L’Allegro.
      b. drew a pencil sketch of L’Allegro for her husband’s birthday.
      c. performed a tableau of L’Allegro.

Part B. Composition (130 to 150 words approximately) (4 points)

In your opinion, why are viral videos such as the Mannequin Challenge so popular?