



*Elija una opción (A o B) e indíquela al principio del cuadernillo de respuestas; no mezcle preguntas de ambas opciones. No firme ni haga marcas en el cuadernillo de respuestas. Lo que se escriba en las dos caras marcadas con "borrador" no se corregirá. La duración del examen es de 75 minutos.*

### OPCIÓN A

#### Poinsettias (Flowers of the Holy Night)

Poinsettias are native to an area of southern Mexico known as Taxco del Alarcón, where they flower during the winter. The ancient Aztecs (who called this plant 'cuetlaxochitl') used its leaves to make a purple dye<sup>1</sup> for clothes and cosmetics, and its milky white sap<sup>2</sup> to make a medicine to treat fevers.

The plant became widely known because of Joel R. Poinsett, the first ambassador from the USA to Mexico. He had greenhouses<sup>3</sup> on his plantations in South Carolina and, while visiting the Taxco area in 1828, became very interested in this plant. He immediately sent some of them back to South Carolina, where he began growing them and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.

The plant became known as Poinsettia in the mid 1830s, when people found out who had first brought it to the USA from Mexico.

But what do Poinsettias have to do with Christmas? According to an old Mexican legend, there was once a poor girl, Pepita, who was very sad because she had no present to give to Jesus on Christmas Eve. Her cousin, Pedro, tried to cheer her up: "Pepita, I'm sure even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him, will make Jesus happy." Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked some weeds<sup>4</sup> from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet<sup>5</sup>. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked to the altar, she remembered her cousin's words and began to feel better. She put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene<sup>6</sup> and it suddenly turned into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the Flowers of the Holy Night.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves is considered a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Three Wise Men to Jesus. The red leaves symbolize the blood of Christ and the white ones his purity.

<sup>1</sup> **Dye:** Tinte.

<sup>2</sup> **Sap:** Savia.

<sup>3</sup> **Greenhouse:** Invernadero.

<sup>4</sup> **Weed:** Hierbajo.

<sup>5</sup> **Bouquet:** Ramo

<sup>6</sup> **Nativity scene:** Belén.

**I. Reading comprehension.** Choose the correct answer and write it on your answer sheet, like this: I.1.x; I.2.x; I.3.x; 1.4.x, and 1.5.x, where "x" is your answer (A, B, or C). [Total: 2.5 marks (5x0.5 marks)]

**I.1. Choose THE BEST option (A, B, or C):**

A) The Aztecs cured their fevers by drinking the milky white sap directly from the poinsettia.

**B) Mexico is the country of origin of poinsettias.**

C) The Aztecs used the purple leaves of the poinsettia to make dye.

**I.2. Choose the statement (A, B, or C) that BEST completes the following:** Joel R. Poinsett...

**A) ... first found out about the poinsettia when he was working in Mexico.**

B) ... decided to call this plant after himself (since his surname was Poinsett).

C) ... cultivated poinsettias in Mexico and, in 1828, sent some of them to South Carolina.

**I.3. Choose the statement (A, B or C) that BEST completes the following:** Poinsettias ...

**A) ... were not known in the US until the 1830s.**

B) ... were cultivated by the Mexicans in greenhouses and botanical gardens.

C) ... were cultivated in Mexico and sent to Poinsett's friends in the US.

**I.4. Choose the BEST option (A, B, or C):**

A) Pepita did not have anything to give to baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

B) Pepita and Pedro bought a small bouquet of weeds to give to baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

**C) Pedro told his cousin Pepita that baby Jesus would like any present, even a small one.**

**I.5. Choose the BEST option (A, B, or C):**

A) The weeds turned into bright red flowers because of the miracle that happened on Christmas Eve.

**B) Flowers of the Holy Night is another name by which poinsettias are known.**

C) The Wise Men followed the Star of Bethlehem to bring poinsettias to baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

**II. Grammar and use of English.** [Total: 3.5 marks]

**II.1. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense.** Write your answers on your answer sheet, like this: II.1.1 xxx; II.1.2. xxx, and II.1.3. xxx, where "xxx" is your answer. [0.75 marks (3x0.25 marks)]

II.1.1. It \_\_\_ (say) that its milky white sap could be used to reduce fever symptoms. **WAS SAID**

II.1.2. In the winter of 1828, Poinsett \_\_\_ (take) a diplomatic trip to Mexico on behalf of the US President.

**TOOK**

II.1.3. In the early 1900s, P. Ecke began \_\_\_ (sell) poinsettias at roadside stands in Hollywood, California.

**TO SELL/SELLING**

**II.2. Complete each sentence with ONE adequate word.** Write your answer on your answer sheet, like this: II.2.1. xxx; II.2.2. xxx, and II.2.3. xxx, where "xxx" is your answer.] [0.75 marks (3x0.25 marks)]

II.2.1. Pepita did not have \_\_\_ money to buy a present to give to baby Jesus on Christmas Eve. **ENOUGH / MUCH / ANY**

II.2.2. \_\_\_ J.R. Poinsett visited Mexico, he became enchanted by the brilliant red leaves of a plant that was unknown to him. **WHEN**

II.2.3. Today, the poinsettia is the \_\_\_ popular plant sold during the Christmas holidays. **MOST**

**II.3. Rewrite the following sentences, changing the grammatical structure but maintaining the meaning.** Write the new sentences on your answer sheet, like this: II.3.1. xxx and II.3.2. xxx, where "xxx" is the complete new sentence. [1 mark (2x0.5 marks)]

II.3.1. The ancient Aztecs very much appreciated the properties of the "cuetlaxochitl" (i.e., the poinsettia). The properties **of the "cuetlaxochitl" (i.e., the poinsettia) were very much appreciated by the ancient Aztecs.**

II.3.2. Pepita told Pedro: "I'm sad because I don't have anything to give to baby Jesus on Christmas Eve." Pepita told Pedro that **she was sad because she didn't have anything to give to baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.**

**II.4. Vocabulary: Pick the odd word out.** Write your answer on your answer sheet, like this: II.4.1. xxx and II.4.2. xxx, where "xxx" is the word you have chosen in each case. [1 mark (2x0.5 marks)]

II.4.1. have a fever

**be ill**

have a cold

have the flu

II.4.2. branch

leaf

flower

**forest**

**III. Writing.** Answer the question below. Express your ideas by using your own words. Write between 50 and 60 words. [Total: 4 marks (1x4 marks)]

*Does your family celebrate Christmas? Whether you say "yes" or "no", please, explain why. If you say "yes, you can also explain how you celebrate Christmas. If you say "no", you can also explain what you do instead.*



*Elija una opción (A o B) e indíquela al principio del cuadernillo de respuestas; no mezcle preguntas de ambas opciones. No firme ni haga marcas en el cuadernillo de respuestas. Lo que se escriba en las dos caras marcadas con "borrador" no se corregirá. La duración del examen es de 75 minutos.*

## OPCIÓN B

### Jeans

Jeans are pants<sup>1</sup> made from denim. They were invented by Jacob W. Davis and Levi Strauss in 1873. Their name comes from the name of the city of Genoa (Italy), where the type of cotton employed to make denim was manufactured.

Levi Strauss came from Germany to New York in 1851 to join his older brother, who had a dry goods store<sup>2</sup>. In 1853, Strauss heard about the Gold Rush in California and moved to San Francisco to establish the western branch of the family's business. There he sold, among other things, cotton cloth<sup>3</sup>. One of his customers was Jacob W. Davis, a tailor from Nevada, who made functional items such as tents, horse blankets, and wagon covers. One day, one of Davis's customers ordered a pair of pants that could resist hard work. Davis made them from denim that he bought from Levi Strauss & Co., and made them stronger by adding copper rivets<sup>4</sup> where pants are more easily torn: pockets and flies. As Davis did not have the money to patent the idea, he asked Strauss to become partners and share the patent, which they obtained in 1873. After that, they opened a larger factory and that is how jeans were born.

Jeans were working clothes at first. They were made from durable materials and could last long. Men's jeans had the zipper at the front, while women's had it at the left side; both were designed in form of overalls<sup>5</sup>. In the 1950s, jeans without the bib<sup>6</sup> became symbol of youth rebellion after James Dean popularized them in "Rebel without a cause". Because of their meaning they were prohibited in schools, theaters, and restaurants. They became more acceptable in the 1960s and in the 1970s they were even fashionable. In 1965, a New York boutique was the first to wash a new pair of jeans to make them look used, decorated them with patches<sup>7</sup>, and sold them for \$200. The idea soon became a hit. With the passing of time, jeans have changed their appearance but have never gone out of style.

<sup>1</sup> **Pants:** (Inglés americano) Pantalones.

<sup>2</sup> **Dry goods store:** Tienda de productos no frescos (incluyendo alimentos y tejidos).

<sup>3</sup> **Cloth:** Tela.

<sup>4</sup> **Copper rivets:** Remaches de cobre.

<sup>5</sup> **Overalls:** (Inglés americano) Peto/Mono.

<sup>6</sup> **Bib:** La parte superior del peto/mono, que tiene forma de babero y cubre la parte central del torso.

<sup>7</sup> **Patch:** Parche.

**I. Reading comprehension.** Choose the correct answer and write it on your answer sheet, like this: I.1.x; I.2.x; I.3.x; I.4.x, and I.5.x, where "x" is your answer (A, B, or C). [Total: 2.5 marks (5x0.5 marks)]

#### I.1. Choose the BEST option (A, B, or C):

- A) Denim was invented by Jacob Davis and Levi Strauss in 1873.
- B) Jeans have a European origin, as they were initially manufactured in Genoa (Italy).
- C) The cotton employed to make denim for jeans was originally manufactured in Europe.**

#### I.2. Choose the BEST option (A, B, or C).

- A) Levi Strauss arrived in New York from Germany with his older brother to open a dry goods store.
- B) Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis met in San Francisco, where both lived.
- C) Jacob Davis bought denim from Levi Strauss & Co. in order to make resistant pants.**

**I.3. Choose the BEST option (A, B, or C):**

- A) It was Strauss's idea to use copper rivets in pockets and flies.  
**B) Copper rivets were used to make pockets and flies even more resistant.**  
C) Levi Strauss & Co. made stronger pants than Jacob Davis.

**II.4. ONE of the options below (A, B, or C) is FALSE. Which?**

- A) Originally, jeans were made to be used at work.  
B) The first jeans were designed in the form of overalls.  
**C) There was no difference between the first men's and women's jeans.**

**II.5. Choose the statement (A, B, or C) that BEST completes the following:** Wearing jeans ...

- A) ... was once considered a sign of being young and rebel.**  
B) ... began to be considered fashionable in the 1960s.  
C) ... was only allowed in restaurants, theaters and schools.

**II. Grammar and use of English.** [Total: 3.5 marks]

**II.1. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense.** Write your answers on your answer sheet, like this: II.1.1 xxx; II.1.2. xxx, and II.1.3. xxx, where "xxx" is your answer. [0.75 marks (3x0.25 marks)]

- II.1.1. Levi's jeans used to \_\_\_ (wear) by American cowboys. **BE WORN**  
II.1.2. After \_\_\_ (work) with his brothers in New York, Levi Strauss migrated to Gold Rush San Francisco. **WORKING**  
II.1.3. Adding copper rivets in the corner of pockets \_\_\_ (make) the openings stronger and more secure.

**II.2. Complete each sentence with ONE adequate word.** Write your answer on your answer sheet, like this: II.2.1. xxx; II.2.2. xxx, and II.2.3. xxx, where "xxx" is your answer.] [0.75 marks (3x0.25 marks)]

- II.2.1. Levi Strauss was a Bavarian immigrant \_\_\_ arrived in San Francisco during the Gold Rush. **WHO / THAT**  
II.2.2. \_\_\_ Levi Strauss died in 1902, the company passed to four nephews. **AFTER / WHEN / SINCE / BECAUSE / AS**  
II.2.3. Did you know that the \_\_\_ expensive pair of blue jeans was sold for \$250,000? **MOST**

**II.3. Rewrite the following sentences, changing the grammatical structure but maintaining the meaning.** Write the new sentences on your answer sheet, like this: II.3.1. xxx and II.3.2. xxx, where "xxx" is the complete new sentence. [1 mark (2x0.5 marks)]

- II.3.1. In the 1930s, many women used men's 501 Jeans.  
Men's 501 jeans **were used by many women in the 1930s.**
- II.3.2. Levi's jeans are perhaps much more popular than any other brand of jeans.  
No other brand of jeans is perhaps **as popular as Levi's jeans.**  
No other brand of jeans is perhaps **more popular than Levi's jeans.**

**II.4. Vocabulary: Pick the odd word out.** Write your answer on your answer sheet, like this: II.4.1. xxx and II.4.2. xxx, where "xxx" is the word you have chosen in each case. [1 mark (2x0.5 marks)]

- |      |         |               |          |        |
|------|---------|---------------|----------|--------|
| 4.1. | bra     | <b>cloth</b>  | raincoat | jeans  |
| 4.2. | cartoon | <b>camera</b> | movie    | series |

**III. Writing.** Answer the question below. Express your ideas by using your own words. Write between 50 and 60 words. [Total: 4 marks (1x4 marks)]

*Do you like wearing jeans? Whether you answer "yes" or "no", please, explain why. If you don't like wearing jeans, say which is (are) your favorite clothing item(s) and explain why.*