



Exercise N°		Professor's Name	Mark
Part I	1. Reading Comp.	.....	.../20
	2. Paraphrasing	.....	.../30
	<b>Total Part I (Min. 26).....</b>		<b>.../50</b>
Part II	3. Essay	.....	.../50
	3. Recorrección	.....	.../50
	3. Essay Nota Final (do NOT fill in)	.....	.../50
	<b>Total, Part II (Min.26) ...</b>		<b>.../50</b>

**CARRERA DE TRADUCTOR PÚBLICO**

**ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - November 2016**

**APELLIDO y NOMBRES:** .....

**Nº de ORDEN:** ..... **PAPER 1**

**PART I (Minimum Passing Mark: 26 points)**

**Reading comprehension:**

Although rare, what we might call peak experiences can deliver lasting and profound belief transformations. Irrespective of whether they are interpreted as religious, spiritual, mystical or something else altogether, peak experiences offer deep, insightful revelations that can bring about significant shifts in the ways we see the world.

Peak experiences arrive in various flavours, effects and magnitudes, including something brief and weak like becoming lost in the performance of a ritual, the middle ground where time around an action is blurred or absent, and the extreme end when a person undergoes a unique sense of unity and transcendence for a fleeting but remarkable period.

The kinds of strange, trance-like experiences I am talking about are not the exclusive purview of practices such as meditation and prayer. Unusual reveries accompany numerous practices, from ritual participation to sports watching. All share some disengagement with the conscious awareness of time, space and personal boundaries.

A useful pointer comes from neuroscientific research reporting on brain states at times of strong belief, disbelief and uncertainty. The interesting part is less

about where the brain does the processing and more about how the load shifts between areas well known for certain chores.

Of most relevance is the finding that the brain areas controlling higher thinking (when hard or challenging thinking is done) get busy when people try to make truth assessments about something important, the most notable example being judgments about beliefs.

But while truth evaluations stress the mind's higher reasoning, the more insightful result shows that the final acceptance of a belief—something quite different to its truth or factual assessment—is controlled by parts of the brain dedicated to primitive, hedonic functions.

In fact, research shows that the brain reacts to disbelief in the same way that it does to disgust! As neuroscientists have observed, truth is indeed beauty in more than a figurative sense. For example, in one study, when subjects were introduced to a disagreeable belief, their brains went nuts, more like what you would expect if the person discovered that the gift-wrapped box they just received actually contained a thoroughly used diaper.

Delving deeper into the research reveals that thinking about beliefs activates brain regions governing emotion, self-identity and even conflict, while conventional facts stimulate memory centers.

Brain engagement escalates the more a person believes in a concept. This means that the brain works harder when it is fed with inputs it already likes, in the brain equivalent of a rat running faster on the wheel when offered more feed.

Pre-formed beliefs provide the foundations for expectations about the nature of personalized, highly charged emotional experiences. This is especially pertinent for those experiences taking on another level of impact, transforming into weird, almost impossible to describe, transcendental moments.

Due to the very nature of a difficult to describe, weird experience, when it does happen the natural response is to search for its meaning. So while prevailing cultural forces help to make sense of what happened, a more satisfying construal needs a stronger hand, which conveniently arrives in the form of personal beliefs.

Preformed concepts place structure around odd moments allowing meaning and relevance to envelop them like a picture frame.

The brain uses its oldest, most primitive center of operations to deal with accepting or rejecting a belief, and its newest center of higher reasoning to ramp up the intensity of responses to likable ideas.

While the relationship between these two types of mind functions remains critical to the success of belief change, peak experiences emanate from the former. In fact, a substantial body of research shows that the oldest part of the brain, the limbic system, stimulates peak episodes before shunting the interpretation work to the newer part along with memory.

The beauty of peak experiences from a belief perspective is that they are effectively fluid in content. An experiencer reflects on the episode after the fact, which in practice means that he or she manufactures the content to explain the incident. We come out with what we take in. 671 w

**All the correct answers are awarded 2 points each.**

1-According to the text, the only insights that can deliver lasting and profound belief transformations are the religious ones.

- a-True
- b-False
- 3-Don't know

2- People undergo a unique sense of unity and transcendence for a remarkable period of time.

- a-True
- b-False
- 3-Don't know

3- **Purview** in paragraph 3 stands for:

- a- The limit of someone's responsibility.
- b- The capacity to foresee an action.
- c- The manifestation of an event.
- d- The amount of money that you pay to witness such events.

4- Neuroscientists try to unravel the mystery of which area of the brain is at work when a person experiences disbelief or uncertainty.

- a-True
- b-False
- 3-Don't know

5- When you come to accept a certain belief as true, the part of the brain that is activated is the one in charge of managing the principle of pleasure.

- a-True
- b-False

3-Don't know

6- Neuroscientists have observed that: **(Choose two)**

- a-People reacted badly in the presence of a used diaper.
- b-Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
- c-Scepticism and appal are gauged similarly by the brain.
- d-Truth is to the brain what beauty is to the eye.

7- **Delving**, at the beginning of paragraph 8, stands for.

- 1- Reading
- 2- Observing
- 3- Enquiring
- 4- Discussing

8- In the middle of paragraph 11, **construal** stands for:

- 1-Anatomy
- 2-Understanding
- 3-Figure
- 4-Build

9- The brain uses its core of higher reflection to:

- 1-Respond faster to pleasant ideas.
- 2-Increase the quality of reaction to engaging concepts.
- 3-Respond with great intensity when faced with challenging views.
- 4-Increase the speed of response when faced with innovative concepts.

10- **Shunting**, two lines before the end of the penultimate paragraph, stands for:

- 1-Leaving aside
- 2-Moving
- 3-Closing
- 4-recycling

## 2. USE OF ENGLISH: PARAPHRASING (30 points)

All the correct answers are awarded 3 points each.

**Use the words in brackets somewhere in the sentence and/or use the given beginnings.**

**DO NOT change the meaning.**

- 1- Although rare, what we might call peak experiences can deliver lasting and profound belief transformations.

(In spite) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2- Both ritual participation and sports watching share some disengagement with the conscious awareness of time, space and personal boundaries.

Not only \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3- Pre-formed beliefs provide the foundations for expectations about the nature of personalized, highly charged emotional experiences.

The foundations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4- We know that ritual participation and sports watching share some disengagement with the conscious awareness of time, space and personal boundaries.

Ritual participation and sports watching are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5- The brain areas controlling higher thinking get busy when people try to make truth assessments about something important, the most notable example being judgments about beliefs.

Only when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6- Pre-formed beliefs provide the foundations for expectations about the nature of personalized, highly charged emotional experiences, in turn we are able to describe transcendental moments.

If it weren't \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7- we have been endowed with brain regions governing emotion, self-identity and even conflict, that's why we can be called human beings now.

Had it not \_\_\_\_\_

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8- Scientists are yet to unveil the reason why pre-formed beliefs provide the foundations for expectations about the nature of personalized, highly charged emotional experiences.

It is high time \_\_\_\_\_

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9- (Look forward to) \_\_\_\_\_

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10- Brain engagement escalates the more when a person believes in a concept, therefore, it is a good idea to feed our brain with inputs it already likes.

The suggestion is \_\_\_\_\_,

for it is \_\_\_\_\_

PART II (Minimum Passing Mark 26)

**3. ESSAY WRITING: OPINION ESSAY (320-350 words)**

Write an **opinion essay** on one of the following rubrics:

- 1- It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books" Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why? You may also comment on the proverb: Ask the experienced rather than the learned.
- 2- Discuss these quotes: "Experience purchased by suffering teaches wisdom." "A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions." Feel free to enlarge on these topics.
- 3- People attend college or university for many different reasons (for example, new experiences, career preparation, increased knowledge). Why do you think people attend college or university? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

The brain uses its oldest, most primitive center of operations to deal with accepting or rejecting a belief, and its newest center of higher reasoning to ramp up the intensity of responses to likable ideas.

While the relationship between these two types of mind functions remains critical to the success of belief change, peak experiences emanate from the former. In fact, a substantial body of research shows that the oldest part of the brain, the limbic system, stimulates peak episodes before shunting the interpretation work to the newer part along with memory.

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ESSAY

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