



Universidad de Buenos Aires
Facultad de Derecho

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

**CARRERA DE TRADUCTOR PÚBLICO -
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - SEPTIEMBRE 2017**

NOMBRE y APELLIDO:
N° de ORDEN: (NO es el DNI)..... **PAPER 1**

(The paragraphs are numbered to facilitate correction)

1- Trolling ourselves to death in the age of Trump

Trolling is no longer confined to the darker corners of the internet, especially now the U.S. president himself is engaging in it. Author: Jason Hannan. Associate Professor of Rhetoric & Communications, University of Winnipeg.

2- Democracy as entertainment

In his 1985 book, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business*, Neil Postman argued that public discourse had been recreated in the image of television. American democracy had become a form of entertainment — equal parts sitcom, soap opera, and tabloid TV — in which the trivial and the superficial had come to hold greater persuasive power than the logical and the factual.

3- Television, Postman claimed, offered nothing less than a “philosophy of rhetoric,” a theory of persuasion according to which truth is decided by entertainment value. The more entertaining a public figure, the more persuasive the message. Postman, of course, wrote in a more innocent time, the age of Ronald Reagan. Would that he had written in the age of Donald Trump.

4- Obama’s social media success turned out to be a curse for his party. His fellow Democrats arrogantly assumed that the future belonged to them — that social media was the terrain of a younger generation of liberal hipsters fluent in irony, memes and hashtags — all the while assuming that conservatives were a largely clueless generation of technologically challenged old people scarcely able to make sense of the exotic world of “the Facebooks,” “the Twitters” and “the Snap Chaps.”

5- Conservatives as new rebels

There is a new generation of conservatives equally as cyber-savvy as their liberal counterparts, but whose politics are driven by a burning, insatiable rebellion against liberal orthodoxy.

6- In some sense, we have seen a reversal in the narrative of the culture wars: the rebels of yesterday are said to have become the mainstream, while the new generation of conservatives has become the new rebels, a reversal brilliantly documented by Angela Nagel in her book, *Kill All Normies*.

7- The Alt-right, as Nagel observes, grew out of the subversive culture of 4chan, the obscure image board on which anonymous users freely post all manner of images, no matter how graphic or tasteless. The anonymity of 4chan early on fostered a spirit of rebellion against authority. What we today know as memes originated on 4chan. Anonymous, the anarchist-hacktivist collective known for its DDoS attacks on government websites, also originated on 4chan. But the same spirit of rebellion that gave birth to Anonymous also gave birth to the Alt-right, which formed in reaction to feminist critiques of video games and gamer culture. One of the most vocal supporters of the Gamergate movement was Milo Yiannopoulos, the public, if now disgraced, face of the Alt-right.

8- It's not for nothing that Milo, a self-identified and quite proud troll, led the new generation of conservative rebels in support of Donald Trump, in whom they saw the most effective and consistent force against the tyranny of political correctness. The rest of the 2016 Republican field was just too civil, too submissive before the liberal enemy to warrant their allegiance. Donald Trump, however, was the real deal.

9- Twitter wars

If Facebook is a high-school popularity contest, then Twitter is a schoolyard run by bullies. It is the medium in which both Milo and Trump honed their craft as trolls. Although originally designed as a social tool, Twitter soon evolved into an anti-social hellscape. The 140 characters are hardly conducive to civil disagreement. They do, however, lend themselves to reactionary, paranoid behaviour.

10- It is difficult not to get pulled into the black hole of Twitter trolling. Even the most dignified users will feel tempted to respond to vicious personal attacks. Twitter wars have become a kind of media spectacle in themselves, worthy of full-blown news coverage, often with headlines like, "...and Twitter lets [him/her/them] have it."

11- Whoever insults hardest wins.

The problem is that trolling has gone mainstream. It is no longer confined to the darker corners of the internet. The president of the United States is a troll. It is not a wild exaggeration to say that American public discourse is being recreated before our eyes in the light of Twitter.

12- We are witnessing the birth of a new political game, in which one of the primary moves is the act of trolling. Politicians now routinely troll each other online. Citizens troll politicians and politicians troll them back. The common denominator in all this white noise is the logic of the insult: whoever insults hardest wins.

13- The problem with zeroing in on fake news as the culprit for a post-truth world is that it does not explain what's driving the fake news. It would be naïve to think that fact-checking and more skepticism of news sources can somehow contain the problem. Indeed, the problem is much deeper.

14- Revisiting Postman's classic book and applying his insights to social media can go a long way not only in explaining the proliferation of fake news, but also the political tribalism that's pitting citizens against each other. If Postman were alive today, he might be concerned that we are not so much amusing, as trolling ourselves to death.

1. READING COMPREHENSION

1- Would that he had written in the age of Donald Trump.

Can be paraphrased as:

- a- It is a relief that he had written in the age of Donald Trump.
- b- If only he had written in the age of Donald Trump.
- c- He would probably write something naïve nowadays.
- d- None of the aforementioned options.

2- Obama's supporters underestimated their political rivals.

- a- True.
- b- False.
- c- None of the aforementioned options.

3- Cyber-savvy stands for:

- a- Technologically minded enthusiast.
- b- Cyber bully.
- c- A troll with the ability to rebel against liberal orthodoxy.
- d- None of the aforementioned options.

4- 4chan:

- a- Paved the way for the advent of liberal hipsters.
- b- Ameliorated tension with feminist groups.
- c- Abetted the alternative right.
- d- None of the aforementioned options.

5- According to the article, conservative rebels support Donald Trump because he:

- a- Is the very embodiment of civility.
- b- Wants to re-establish the New Deal.
- c- Behaved very much in the manner of the rest of the Republican field.

d- None of the aforementioned options.

6- "Honed" in paragraph 9 stands for:

- a- Honoured.
- b- Sharpened.
- c- Hindered.
- d- None of the aforementioned options.

7- According to the article, social tools are more conducive platforms for amiable discussion.

- a- True
- b- False
- c- This information does not appear in the article.

8- "Zero" in paragraph 13 stands for:

- a- Focus
- b- Nil
- c- Steer clear
- d- None of the aforementioned options.

9- The writer believes that going over Postman's classic book could be enlightening in the present circumstances.

- a- True
- b- False
- c- This information does not appear in the article.

10- Choose the sentence/sentences that best summarise the article.

- a- Republicans use trolls to spread fake news.
- b- Democrats know how to make good use of social tools.
- c- Gentleness and civil disagreement is hardly ever attained nowadays.
- d- Trolls are to blame for the present situation.
- e- The media is to blame for the present situation.

2. USE OF ENGLISH: PARAPHRASING

Use the words in brackets somewhere in the sentence or the given beginnings.

DO NOT change the meaning.

- a- Television, Postman claimed, offered nothing less than a "philosophy of rhetoric,"

It has _____

- b- His fellow Democrats arrogantly assumed that the future belonged to them, as a consequence of that, the Republicans won the election.

Had it _____

- c- We are witnessing the birth of a new political game, in which one of the primary moves is the act of trolling, we must accept that. **(Terms)**

We must _____

- d- Although originally designed as a social tool, Twitter soon evolved into an anti-social hellscape.

In spite of _____

- e- The same spirit of rebellion that gave birth to Anonymous also gave birth to the Alt-right.

Not only _____

- f- Obama was not able to realize that social media success turned out to be a curse for his party.

Little _____

g- Twitter trolling is so blunt that even the most dignified users will feel tempted to respond to vicious personal attacks.

So _____

h- It was a pity that young liberals assumed that conservatives were a largely clueless generation of technologically challenged old people scarcely able to make sense of the exotic world of internet.

If only _____

i- Young liberals regret _____

j- Some tend to think that fact-checking and more skepticism of news sources can somehow contain the problem.

Some are used _____

PART II (Minimum Passing Mark 26)

4. ESSAY WRITING (320-350 words)

Write an opinion essay on ONE of the topics below:

- (a) In every election season, politics becomes an important issue. What about the role of technology, the media, politicians and people in general?
- (b) What are the challenges to political tolerance in today's multicultural societies?
- (c) Should governments prioritise growth or happiness?

Make sure you include:

- Advanced structures (inversion, conditionals, passive voice, linkers, complex clauses, etc.)
- Relevant vocabulary
- Meaningful and rich ideas
- Well-ordered and cohesive paragraphs

