



Universidad de Buenos Aires  
Facultad de Derecho

Exercise Nº		Professor's Name	Mark
<b>Part I</b>	1. Reading Comp.	.....	.../20
	2. Paraphrasing	.....	.../30
	<b>Total Part I (Min. 26)</b>		.....
<b>Part II</b>	3. Essay	.....	.../50
	Re-correction	.....	.../50
	Essay Final Mark	.....	.../50
	(do NOT fill in)	<b>Total Part II (Min.26)</b>	<b>...../50</b>

**CARRERA DE TRADUCTOR PÚBLICO - ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - MAYO 2018**

**NOMBRE y APELLIDO:** .....

**Nº de ORDEN: (NO es el DNI)**..... **PAPER 1**

**(The paragraphs are numbered to facilitate correction)**

For Trump and Putin, Syria Is a Battle of Competing Realities

By Masha Gessen

1-Donald Trump has assumed a concentrated and, for him, almost measured posture after the chemical attack that killed dozens of people in Syria over the weekend. On Twitter, he called out Vladimir Putin as an enabler of “Animal Assad” and promised to exact a “big price” for the attack. Speaking at the White House, Trump pledged to respond to the attack without disclosing what form the response might take. He cancelled a trip to South America in order to concentrate on Syria. And, of course, he placed the blame for the current situation in Syria on Barack Obama, tweeting, “If President Obama had crossed his stated Red Line in The Sand, the Syrian disaster would have ended long ago! Animal Assad would have been history!”

2-Trump is right to trace the roots of the current predicament to the summer of 2013, when Obama failed to get congressional approval for military intervention in Syria and Putin swooped in to save the day, promising to take charge of eliminating Bashar al-Assad’s chemical arsenal. On September 11, 2013, of all days, the Times published an Op-Ed by Putin, in which he accused the Syrian opposition of using poison gas in order to set up the government and provoke an intervention, cautioned against rendering the United Nations irrelevant by acting without its sanction, and called out Obama for his rhetoric of American exceptionalism. Coming a few years before Americans became intimately familiar with the use of words to mean their opposite, the Op-Ed probably appeared to most readers as an ordinary piece of Russian whataboutism—hypocritical and irritating, perhaps, but basically harmless.

3-For Putin, however, the publication of that Op-Ed was a highlight of his Presidency. It signified his acceptance as America’s equal partner on the international stage. And, in addressing Americans directly through the nation’s largest newspaper, he was able to frame the conflict in Syria. In his telling, the conflict there was not between a brutal dictator and his opposition (“Syria is not witnessing a battle for democracy,” he wrote) but a struggle among many

equally unsympathetic factions, in a messy place that Russia and America could agree to clean up together. This was before Russia invaded Ukraine, before sanctions, before Russian election meddling, before Obama snubbed Putin by sending a pointedly low-level delegation to the Sochi Olympics, and long before Russia was stripped of the medals that it won in those Games. In retrospect, September, 2013, was close to the last moment Putin was perceived by most of the world as a legitimate leader.

4-In September, 2015, Putin tried to recapture that sense of legitimacy when he addressed the U.N. General Assembly with a speech that was essentially an expanded version of that Times Op-Ed. This time, it was designed to convince Obama to create a joint anti-Isis coalition. Obama ignored the offer. In response, Putin reframed the conflict in Syria as a war between Russia and the United States, and Russia began its bombing raids in Syria.

5-For the last two and a half years, Russian media have reported on Syria as if it were a war against the United States. So it seems important that the latest chemical attack there took place immediately after the United States imposed the toughest sanctions yet against Russia, which sent the Russian markets and the ruble itself tumbling on Monday. The attack also occurred days after a Russian missile test in the Baltic Sea, timed to coincide with the visit of the Baltic states' leaders to Washington. And, of course, the chemical attack occurred during a high-level changeover in Trump's foreign-policy team, between the departure of the national-security adviser, H. R. McMaster, and the Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson—each of whom talked his own tough line on Russia—and the arrival of their replacements, John Bolton and Mike Pompeo.

6-As soon as the chemical attack happened, Russia deployed words against facts. The Foreign Ministry issued a press statement in which it denied that the chemical attack happened, blamed it on the opposition, and accused the humanitarian organization White Helmets of being a terrorist group—all at the same time. This was not dissimilar to the Russian spin on that other recent act of chemical warfare, the apparent poisoning of the former Russian spy Sergei Skripal, in Britain, which Russia has also simultaneously denied took place altogether and blamed on the British.

7-In his own press conference on Monday, with Bolton sitting just behind him, Trump briefly pulled back from his own rage over the F.B.I. raid of his lawyer's office to frame Syria as a policing problem. He promised to investigate, identify the guilty, and take measures. Going further, Trump took ownership not only of the Syria problem but of the global order: "In our world, we can't let that happen. Especially when we're able to, because of the power of the United States, because of the power of our country, we're able to stop it." The relationship between those words and the facts on the ground is tenuous. But, in the Trump-Putin universe, the war in Syria is a battle of fictional realities. Both men are asserting their right to do what they want when they want to—to deploy chemical weapons, or to punish the guilty, in a world where each is the king of reality and the sovereign of spin. (970 w)

PART I (Minimum Passing Mark: 26 points)PAPER 1**1. READING COMPREHENSION**

**All the correct answers are awarded 2 points each. Except for the last 2 which are awarded 1 point each.**

- 1- According to Masha Gessen, the writer of this article, it is typical of Donald Trump to retain a professional poise when facing a critical affair.
  - a- True
  - b- False
  - c- This is not stated in the text.
  
- 2- Trump reckons that the president of Syria is an acolyte of Putin.
  - a- True
  - b- False
  - c- This is not stated in the text.
  
- 3- According to Donald Trump, former president Barack Obama had skillfully solved a similar plight during his mandate.
  - a- True
  - b- False
  - c- This is not stated in the text.
  
- 4- Whataboutism in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph can be best defined as:
  - a- The practice of using the term “what about” when it is not necessary.
  - b- The practice of lying openly when addressing the general public.
  - c- the practice of answering a criticism or difficult question by attacking someone with a similar criticism or question directed at them.
  - d- The practice of bullying people about when this seems to be the only available option.
  - e- None of the aforementioned options.
  
- 5- For Putin, the publication of that Op-Ed was a highlight of his Presidency, for it meant that:
  - a- He was able to address and gain the Americans' support for a joint venture in Syria.

- b- He was able to circumscribe the problem to different political opposing movements that Russia and America could deal with effectively.
  - c- He made it clear that the democracy in Syria was not at stake.
  - d- None of the aforementioned options.
- 6- Putin's speech at the UN:
- a- Was an open declaration of war.
  - b- Followed the lines of his former editorial.
  - c- Empowered Putin to forcefully assert his legitimacy as a world leader.
  - d- Entitled Russia to begin its bombing raids in Syria.
  - e- None of the aforementioned options.
- 7- According to the article, the Russian government found sound evidence to support their blameless in cases of chemical attacks.
- a- True.
  - b- False.
  - c- This is not stated in the text.
- 8- Russian's currency:
- a- Is stronger than ever.
  - b- Has seen better days.
  - c- Deflated after the American boycott.
  - d- Is impervious to crises.
  - e- None of the aforementioned options.
- 9- The word "tenuous" on the last paragraph means:
- a- Wrong.
  - b- Right.
  - c- Feeble.
  - d- Obvious.
  - e- None of the aforementioned options.
- 10- The word "spin" at the end of the article can be best paraphrased as:
- a- Deception.
  - b- Tale.
  - c- Sincerity.
  - d- Trust.
  - e- Order.
- 11- Once the article is read:
- a- It offers a clear outline as regards the political position of the Syrian government in the crisis.
  - b- The synopsis fails to provide us with a comprehensive view as regards the three main actors in the conflict.

- c- The political position of the Syrian government is not outlined in full.
- d- The political position of the Syrian government is not considered.

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

All the correct answers are awarded 3 points each.

**Use the given beginnings.  
DO NOT change the meaning.**

- 1- If President Obama had crossed his stated Red Line in The Sand, the Syrian disaster would have ended long ago.

Had.....  
.....

- 2- People believe that Trump pledged to respond to the attack without disclosing what form the response might take.

Trump is .....  
.....

- 3- People do not seem to understand that Putin accused the Syrian opposition of using poison gas in order to set up the government and provoke an intervention.

Little..... that Putin accused the Syrian opposition of using poison gas in order to set up the government and provoke an intervention.

- 4- Obama failed to get congressional approval for military intervention in Syria, therefore, military action was not carried out.

But for.....  
.....

5- In retrospect, it is seen as a mistake that Obama snubbed Putin by sending a pointedly low-level delegation to the Sochi Olympics.

If only.....  
.....

6- In his own press conference on Monday, Trump decided to frame Syria as a policing problem, which proved to be a political mistake, for the conflict deserves a more comprehensive approach.

It is high time.....  
.....

7- I wish Americans hadn't become intimately familiar with the use of words to mean their opposite.

I regret .....  
.....

8- There is no precedent for such thoughtless action.

Such.....  
.....

9- Everyone agrees that the president is urged to arrange a summit with Putin to avert the escalation of the crisis.

It is essential .....  
.....

10- If I were the president, I would promise to investigate, identify the guilty, and take measures.

I'd rather the president.....  
.....

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- Discuss this quote: There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people. Howard Zinn.
- 2- Discuss this quote: Dissent is the highest form of patriotism. Howard Zinn.
- 3- Treating people fairly and with civility is not a bad thing... It would be good for our country if political leaders actually took that to heart. Jeb Bush

ESSAY

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WRITE TOTAL WORD COUNT HERE! .....

TOTAL SCORE..... /50

Poor/Inaccurate use of structures requested		Spelling mistakes	
Poor use of language/grammar		Punctuation mistakes	
Lack of Cohesion / Coherence		Poor contents/ poor ideas	





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4. Essay	.....	.../50
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**Nº de ORDEN: (NO es el DNI)**.....

**PAPER 2**

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By Masha Gessen

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5-For the last two and a half years, Russian media have reported on Syria as if it were a war against the United States. So it seems important that the latest chemical attack there took place immediately after the United States imposed the toughest sanctions yet against Russia, which sent the Russian markets and the ruble itself tumbling on Monday. The attack also occurred days after a Russian missile test in the Baltic Sea, timed to coincide with the visit of the Baltic states' leaders to Washington. And, of course, the chemical attack occurred during a high-level changeover in Trump's foreign-policy team, between the departure of the national-security adviser, H. R. McMaster, and the Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson—each of whom talked his own tough line on Russia—and the arrival of their replacements, John Bolton and Mike Pompeo.

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If only.....  
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PART II (Minimum Passing Mark 26)

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

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- f- Discuss this quote: There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people. Howard Zinn.
- g- Discuss this quote: Dissent is the highest form of patriotism. Howard Zinn.
- h- Treating people fairly and with civility is not a bad thing... It would be good for our country if political leaders actually took that to heart. Jeb Bush

ESSAY

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ESSAY(cont'd)

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