



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
	Re correction	.....	.../50
	Essay Final Mark	.....	.../50
	(Do NOT fill in)		
Total Part II (Min.26) ...		/50	

CARRERA DE TRADUCTOR PÚBLICO - ENTRANCE EXAMINATION – MAYO 2021

NOMBRE y APELLIDO:

N.º de ORDEN: (NO es el DNI)

Please read the text carefully and then choose the best answer. Remember the questions do not follow the order of the reading passage (Paragraphs are numbered for the sake of correction)

Biden Inherits F.D.R.'s Supreme Court Problem

Roosevelt tried to pack the Court to protect his ambitious agenda from conservatives. Biden, facing a similar threat, has appointed a commission to study options.

1- The Supreme Court, by design, is undemocratic, but is there a point beyond which its insulation from the will of the people becomes unjust? Much has been said about the fact that the makeup of the current Court does not reflect that of the elected branches of the federal government. In response, on April 9th, Joe Biden signed an executive order establishing a bipartisan Presidential commission, to study the prospect of changing the Court's composition and culture. The Court can be shrunk or expanded by a simple majority vote in Congress, and the dream of doing just that has occasionally tantalized Presidents beset by judicial opposition—most famously, the predecessor whom Biden cites frequently as an inspiration: Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In the Oval Office, Biden has awarded prime real estate—right above the mantel—to a portrait of F.D.R. But, on the issue of the Court, his fondness belies contrasts in the two leaders' political instincts.

2- After a landslide re-election in 1936, Roosevelt, frustrated that one popular New Deal program after another had been struck down in a Court dominated by a group of conservative Justices known as the Four Horsemen, plotted a counterattack: a law that would increase the number of Justices from nine to fifteen, altering the size of the Court for the first time in sixty-eight years. For months, he kept the idea secret, even when Justices dined at the White House. He told an adviser that he could either enjoy “one cocktail before dinner and have it a very amiable affair,” or reveal his explosive plan and “take three cocktails.” Finally, on February 5, 1937, he proposed legislation that would add as many as six new Justices—one for every member of the Court over

the age of seventy years and six months—camouflaging his plan as an effort to insure a “systematic addition of younger blood.”

3- But Roosevelt had miscalculated. Critics accused him of trying to “pack” the Court. In July, after months of controversy, Congress rejected the bill. By then, however, the threat had achieved its effect: Owen Roberts, a Justice who had often voted with the conservatives against the New Deal, had switched sides, and one of the Four Horsemen, Willis Van Devanter, had retired, and the Court never barred another major plank of Roosevelt’s program. As Russell Wheeler, a Supreme Court scholar at the Brookings Institution, put it, “The fuse was stamped out before it got to the dynamite.”

4- The political obstacles to expanding the Court today remain steep. Doing so would require overcoming a Republican filibuster—or, short of that, uniting enough Democrats to scrap the filibuster itself. But the idea has regained popularity among Democrats since 2016, when Mitch McConnell, then the Senate Majority Leader, prevented President Barack Obama from filling the late Justice Antonin Scalia’s seat, on the dubious claim that it was inappropriate to confirm a Justice in an election year. That November, Donald Trump lost the popular vote but won the Presidency, and in his one term he installed three Justices, establishing a 6–3 conservative majority. The third instance, filling the seat of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died in September 2020, came when votes in the Presidential election were already being cast. McConnell abandoned his previous objection and rushed through the confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett.

5- During the 2020 Presidential campaign, many Democratic contenders argued that McConnell’s manipulation constituted its own form of court-packing, and thus forced them to consider radical reforms, including adding seats. But Biden, who arrived in Washington in 1973, is loyal to many of its traditions. In 1983, as a senator, he called Roosevelt’s manoeuvre a “bonehead idea”; in 2005, he praised the courage of those who resisted it, and, in 2019, during the primaries, he reiterated his objection to a Democratic-led expansion, saying, “We’ll live to rue that day.” But, after Ginsburg’s death, Biden, under pressure from the left, promised to appoint a panel that would examine a range of reforms, including court-packing, term limits—some scholars have suggested instituting staggered eighteen-year terms—and a code of conduct. (Several Justices have been criticized for appearing at partisan events, failing to recuse themselves from certain cases, and the like.)

6- Still, Biden’s commission seems designed to project stately deliberation rather than activist urgency. It is charged with holding hearings over the next six months and publishing an analysis, but not with making policy recommendations to the President. Its roster, composed of thirty-six members, features prominent academics and former federal judges, many of whom have been Supreme Court clerks

7- After decades of careful centrism, Biden has proved to be more radical on policy than many Americans predicted. Yet, when it comes to the institutions of American democracy, his instinct is for restoration, not revolution. Even as the Republican Party remains mired in the seditious fervour of Trumpism, Biden is hostile to overt partisanship. That puts him in chronic tension with the progressive frontier of his party—and it means that, like Roosevelt, he could find some of his most ambitious achievements undone by conservative Justices. But, for a President who pledged at his Inauguration to put his “whole soul” into “bringing America together,” expanding the Court runs counter to his belief in the possibility that it can retain at least a shred of insulation from partisan politics.

8- More than eighty years after Roosevelt’s gambit, another Justice Roberts may concur with that belief. John Roberts has lamented what he calls a “misperception” that the Court’s behaviour is preordained by its political makeup, and he has emerged as a centrist vote. Wheeler, of Brookings, sees historical lessons at play. “Roosevelt’s proposal went nowhere, but the Court got the message and changed its jurisprudence,” he said. “I can’t imagine John Roberts doesn’t have that in the back of his mind.” ♦

PART I (Minimum Passing Mark: 26 points)

PAPER1

1. **READING COMPREHENSION**

All the correct answers are awarded 2 points each.

1- According to the article the idea of expanding the court is gaining traction within the Democratic Party.

a- True

b- False

c- Not stated

2- The metaphor of the three cocktails means that:

a. F.D.R. was planning to invite the three justices that supported him to dine and disclose his scheme.

b- F.D.R. wanted the justices to be tipsy to expose his strategy amiably.

c- F.D.R. was planning to relieve some tension through drinking in the aftermath of his disclosure.

d- none of the afore-mentioned options.

3- The article suggests that both F. D. R. and Biden:

a- are ardent defendants of the status quo.

b- are criticised for wanting to “pack” the Court.

c- mean to take measures that the Court might oppose.

d- None of the afore-mentioned options.

4- In 1936 Roosevelt did not seem to count on popular support.

a- True

b- False

c- Not stated

5- According to the article Roosevelt’s plans eventually succeeded, but he had to pay a high political cost.

a- True

b- False

c- Not stated

6- Biden has always toyed with the idea of regulating the Supreme Court.

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a- True

b- False

c- Not stated

7- What is the time reference for "That day" in the phrase "we'll live to rue that day" (Par. 5)

a- Ginsburg's death.

b- The day when Mitch McConnell, then the Senate Majority Leader, prevented President Barack Obama from filling the late Justice Antonin Scalia's seat.

c- That day in 1983 when, as a senator, he called Roosevelt's manoeuvre a "bonehead idea".

d- The day in in 2005, when he praised the courage of those who resisted Roosevelt's manoeuvre.

e- None of the options.

8- Biden's appointed commission:

a- Will reach a verdict in six months.

b- will make haste slowly.

c- Will appoint prominent academics and former federal judges.

d- None of the options.

9- when it comes to the institutions of American democracy:

a- Biden does not seem to favour harassing the opposing party, which does not go well with his party.

b- Biden wants to prove hostile with the Republicans so that he can gain more power.

c- He means to govern in chronic tension with the progressive frontier of his party.

d- He maintains that by expanding the Court he can endure partisan politics.

10- Roosevelt's gambit stands for:

a- his innate capacity to play chess.

b- his capacity to gain some political advantage in an adverse situation.

c- his capacity to pass unpopular laws without suffering any consequence.

d- his resilience when it comes to facing an unfaltering opposition.

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- The Court can be shrunk or expanded by a simple majority vote in Congress.

1. It is feasible_____

2- Most people believe that F.D.R. handled the Supreme Court Problem with a providential help.

2- F. D. R is_____

3- Although the Members of Parliament rejected the bill, by then, the threat had achieved its effect.

3-Despite_____

_____ (you cannot use the fact)

4- - The political cost to undertake the packing of the court is so serious, that very few presidents dare do that.

4- Such _____

5- If critics had not accused Roosevelt of trying to pack the court, he would have got away unscathed.

5- Had _____

6- It is imperative that a Republican filibuster should be overcome by the democrats if they wish to succeed.

6- Should the democrats _____
_____ (Use the Present Subjunctive, keep the passive)

7- President Biden, under pressure from his party, promised to appoint a panel that would examine a range of reforms, now he regrets it.

7- President Biden wishes _____
_____ (Use "given in" in the paraphrasing)

8- President Biden hopes to be able to pass the laws he considers important to carry out his plans.

8- _____
_____ (Use "look forward to")

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9- "I agree that as a senator, I called Roosevelt's manoeuvre a bonehead idea", concluded Biden.

9- Biden confessed to _____

10- Immediately after Roosevelt plunged the draft of "The New Deal" a group of conservative Justices, known as the Four Horsemen, plotted a counterattack.

10- No sooner _____

PART II (Minimum Passing Mark 26)

3. ESSAY WRITING

DIRECTIONS:

Write an opinion essay on ONE of the topics below

Include a title.

You need to write the essay in here.

You have 60 minutes exactly to write the essay and send the mail. We correct the essays that have been sent up to the established time.

300 words

Stick to the number of words. Anything shorter or longer than a 10% of the required number of words is considered a below standard.

Please use Times New Roman 12 double space.

When you count the words, do so from the title onwards.

(A) The difficulties for presidents or political parties to follow their political agenda. Pros and cons of this.

(B) "No one party can fool all the people all of the time; that is why we have two parties". Bob Hope
Expand on the quote.

Make sure you include:

- **Advanced structures (inversion, conditionals, passive voice, linkers, complex clauses, etc.)**

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- Relevant vocabulary
- Meaningful and rich ideas
- Well-ordered and cohesive paragraphs

START YOUR ESSAY DOWN HERE:



Title:

(504PGT) Student's Name:

Nº de Orden:

(504PGT) Student's Name:

Nº de Orden:

Students write **HERE** TOTAL WORD COUNT:

TOTAL .../50

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

KEY ENTRANCE EXAMINATION MAY 2021

PART I (Ex 1 + 2) - MINIMUM passing Mark: 26 POINTS

1. Reading comprehension (total 20 points: 2 points each)

1. a
2. c
3. c
4. b
5. b
6. b
7. e
8. b
9. a
10. b

2. Paraphrasing (10 x 3 points each = 30 points) (Suggested answers)

- 1- It is feasible to shrink or expand the court by a simple majority vote in Congress.
- 2- F. D. R is believed to have handled the Supreme Court Problem with a providential help.
- 3- Despite (the bill being rejected) the rejection of the bill (by the members of parliament), by then, the threat had achieved its effect.
- 4- Such is the cost to undertake the packing of the court, that very few presidents dare do that
- 5- Had critics not accused Roosevelt of trying to pack the court, he would have got away unscathed.
- 6- Should the Democrats wish to succeed; it is imperative that a Republican filibuster be overcome.
- 7- President Biden wishes he had not given in to pressure from his party when he promised to appoint a panel that would examine a range of reforms (that /now/ he regrets /now/)
- 8- President Biden looks forward to passing the laws he considers important to carry out his plans.
- 9- Biden confessed to having called Roosevelt's manoeuvre a bonehead idea (as a senator).
- 10- No sooner had Roosevelt plunged the draft of "The New Deal" than a group of conservative Justices known as the Four Horsemen, plotted a counterattack.

PART II (EXERCISE 3)

3. Essay Writing (50 points, Minimum passing mark 26 points)

TIPS FOR EXAM CORRECTION

- Write your name and the mark in the box provided on the top right corner, 1st page
- Also, write the mark **AT THE END OF EACH EXERCISE**.
- Use red, green or any colour pens to correct. **DO NOT** use black or blue; students do.
- Dictionaries are **NOT** allowed during the exam.
- In the paraphrasing exercise, students may but **need not** change content words.
- **DO NOT** cross out anything written by students unless you have checked the mistake against a reliable dictionary.
- **DO NOT** simply underline or circle words. Use the left and right margins to write your comments/corrections. Use the Correction Code signs below to identify the type of mistake.
- Complete the grid at the end of the Essay. Put as many X as necessary in the appropriate square(s). The completed grid should help you make a decision about the mark
- **MINIMUM passing Mark for Part I: 26**
- **MINIMUM passing Mark for Part II: 26**

GUIDELINES

The following are signs of a poor command of the language:

- People **IS**; news **ARE**
- Subject missing in any sentence. (I won't go because *is cold outside*)
- Mistakes in the use of anticipatory it (for ex. *it's nice the day*)
- Spelling mistakes of ordinary words
- Pluralisation of adjectives
- Wrong use of a pattern (*He suggested to go; I wish he comes*)
- Wrong use of other/another/the other
- **THIS/THAT** instead of **THESE/THOSE**
- Wrong use of connectors or linkers, or the article
- Wrong use of referential/cohesive devices
- Wrong use of conditional sentences
- Wrong use of tenses or modal auxiliaries
- Wrong use of the passive voice (for ex, ...will be hold)
- Wrong or no paragraph division
- Spanish transfers

CORRECTION CODE

Str or Struc.	Structure	I'm looking forward to go on holiday. (...going...)
VT	Verb Tense	He just graduated when he got his first job. (...had just graduated...)
Conc. or Agmt.	Concord or Agreement	this books (<i>these</i>)
W.O.	Word Order	It's an orange exquisite blossom. (<i>exquisite orange</i>)
M	Meaning	He's so big-headed that he'll do whatever he wants in spite of your warning. (... <i>pig-headed</i> ...)
M?	What do you mean?	What made me fall in love with him was the fact that he was so smart ? (<i>intelligent or elegant?</i>)
Ch	Choice	I just can't stand the continuous -ringing of the phone! (... <i>continual</i> ...)
P, or PUNC.	Punctuation	Having finished his lecture he left the room. (... <i>his lecture, he</i> ...)
sp	Spelling	It's writen in French. (... <i>written</i> ...)
Sp	"Spanglish"	Spanish transfers
Coll.	Collocation	glowing diamonds (<i>sparkling</i> ...)
L or Lang.	Language	God raises them and they get together. (<i>Birds of a feather flock together.</i>)
R	Register	Upon inappropriately displaying his anger, he raised to his feet and got the hell out of there. (... <i>left the room at a brisk pace</i>)
Ref.	Reference	Both Tom and John decided to accept the invitation, but he soon regretted it. (<i>the former or the latter?</i>)
Cap.	Capital Letters	One of the things I do to improve my english is... (... <i>English</i> ...)
lwc.	Lower case	He is but an ordinary Clerk . (... <i>clerk</i>)
P→M	Punctuation Leading to Meaning Mistake	His mother who sent him to the best schools had to turn to food stamps. (<i>His mother, who sent him to the best schools, had</i> ...)
¶ or //	New Paragraph	
~	The two paragraphs should become one	
⊗	Mistake	
⊗ ⊗	Serious Mistake	
⊗ ⊗ ⊗	Very Serious Mistake!!!	
⊙	WELL DONE!!!	