



Proves d'Accés a la Universitat. Curs 2009-2010

Llengua estrangera **Anglès**

Sèrie 2 - A

	Suma de notes parcials	Etiqueta de qualificació
Redacció	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Comprensió escrita	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Comprensió oral	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a

Ubicació del tribunal

Número del tribunal

DEGROWTH: WHEN LESS IS MORE

A **shift** to sustainable development is not enough in itself to resolve the challenges facing the future health of the planet. **Growth** must slow down and people have to adopt better lifestyles using less. In other words, reducing consumption and distributing resources more equally is the only way to bring the **depletion** of the planet's resources to a **halt**.

This is the premise behind “degrowth,” a new trend in political, social and economic thinking which questions consumerism as the basis of our society and suggests a new way of looking at wealth, basing it not on material goods and the creation of artificial needs but rather focusing on simplicity. The moral question of whether it is fair that 20% of the world's population should have 80% of its wealth is only part of the degrowth equation. Another fundamental question is that of survival; that an economic model such as ours, based on constant growth, is not compatible with the planet's finite resources. The resources we have at our disposal are limited and, the argument goes, if we do not stop **plundering** them they will inevitably run out.

“We can clearly see that the current system is unsustainable and if we carry on this way it will be disastrous,” says Santiago Vilanova, president of the association *Una Sola Terra*, which organised an international symposium in Barcelona in December 2006—the first intellectual and political debate in Catalonia about degrowth. And he insists: “Put another way, growth and the accumulation of wealth are not equivalent to well-being, quite the opposite, in fact.” Arnau Montserrat, a member of the *Xarxa pel Decreixement*, a group of individuals and organisations already working with these ideas, says that “we have been sold the idea that progress is only linked to growth. Obviously not all growth is bad but the sort we are talking about has nothing to do with personal growth, community links or public and social amenities, its only aim being the accumulation of money.”

It is easy to see degrowth as a utopian ideal and something very difficult to apply in practice. However, for degrowth supporters now is the time for a change of mentality and this change does not necessarily have to be for the worse. “We'll be happier if we work fewer hours and have more free time, we'll socialise more and we can do without piles of consumer goods that we have no need for,” explains Carlos Taibo, a professor of political science at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. “Hyper-consumerism in our societies is an indicator of unhappiness, not happiness. You just need to look at the data showing the growing numbers of Americans saying they are unhappy—three times greater than those who express contentment, which is very surprising considering that **income** per head in the United States has multiplied by three since the end of the Second World War,” he adds.

Text adapted from *Catalonia Today*

shift: canvi / cambio

growth: creixement / crecimiento

depletion: reducció, esgotament / reducción, agotamiento

to halt: aturar / detener

to plunder: abusar / abusar

income: ingressos / ingresos

Part 1: Reading comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.

[0.5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

Espai per al corrector/a			
	Correcta	Incorrecta	No contestada
1. According to the text, the health of the planet depends on...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> people eating better quality food.			
<input type="checkbox"/> people eating more slowly.			
<input type="checkbox"/> people consuming less than at present.			
<input type="checkbox"/> people consuming less meat.			
2. “Degrowth” is a new...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> way to study economics.			
<input type="checkbox"/> way to create artificial needs.			
<input type="checkbox"/> attitude concerning population growth.			
<input type="checkbox"/> attitude concerning consumerism.			
3. Our economic model is based on...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> surviving strategies.			
<input type="checkbox"/> permanent growth.			
<input type="checkbox"/> a few moral questions.			
<input type="checkbox"/> the equal distribution of resources.			
4. According to the text, the resources of the planet...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> might not be enough in the near future.			
<input type="checkbox"/> are enough for 80% of its population.			
<input type="checkbox"/> are in the hands of 80% of its population.			
<input type="checkbox"/> might not be in good condition very soon.			
5. Santiago Vilanova believes that...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> an international symposium should be organised in Barcelona every year.			
<input type="checkbox"/> well-being cannot be considered a sustainable objective for humanity.			
<input type="checkbox"/> the accumulation of wealth has to be excluded from political programmes.			
<input type="checkbox"/> the well-being of people is not necessarily related to having more resources.			
6. People in “degrowth” organisations think that...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> progress is linked to growth.			
<input type="checkbox"/> progress is slower than growth.			
<input type="checkbox"/> progress does not depend only on growth.			
<input type="checkbox"/> progress is faster than growth.			
7. “Degrowth” supporters are...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> always in favour of utopian ideals.			
<input type="checkbox"/> usually good at practical things.			
<input type="checkbox"/> always in favour of consumer goods.			
<input type="checkbox"/> usually against working many hours.			
8. According to Carlos Taibo, more Americans say that they are...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> less happy now despite being richer.			
<input type="checkbox"/> happier now than in the past decades.			
<input type="checkbox"/> unhappy since the end of the Second World War.			
<input type="checkbox"/> happy because of their growing income.			

Correctes Incorrectes No contestades

Recompte de les respostes

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Nota de comprensió escrita

Part 2: Writing

Choose ONE topic. Write about number 1 or 2. Minimum length: 100 words.
[4 points]

1. “We’ll be happier if we work fewer hours and have more free time, we’ll socialise more and we can do without piles of consumer goods that we have no need for.” Consider this statement mentioned in the text. Write a short essay stating your opinion against or in favour of that affirmation.
2. Write a letter to the editor of *Catalonia Today* expressing your views about this article and the concept of *degrowth*.

Grammar	
Vocabulary	
Text	
Maturity	
Total	
Nota redacció	

Part 3: Listening comprehension

A JOURNALIST IN THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

In the following interview you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

Pulitzer Prize: un premi periodístic molt important / un premio periodístico muy importante

slaughterhouse: escorxador / matadero

obituary: esquela

numbness: insensibilitat / insensibilidad

feedback: reacció, resposta / reacción, respuesta

stand up: afrontar / hacer frente a

outlook: perspectiva

Ready?

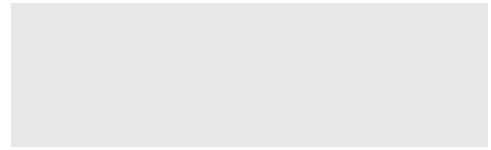
Now read the questions on the next page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

Charlie LeDuff, 34, is a reporter for *The New York Times*. He started his journalism career at age 29, after earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in journalism from the University of California. Part Native American, LeDuff was one of several reporters who worked at *The New York Times* series that was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in April 2001. He spent one month working at a pork slaughterhouse in North Carolina.

Text adapted from <JournalismJob.com> (March 31, 2001)

[Now listen to the interview.]

Etiqueta del corrector/a



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Etiqueta identificadora de l'alumne/a

