



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Educació

Proves d'accés a cicles formatius de grau superior de formació professional inicial,
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Segona llengua estrangera: anglès

Sèrie 1

1. Read the text below and choose the correct answer. Draw a circle around the letter corresponding to the right answer.

[3 marks: 0.5 marks for each correct answer]

Drinking tea might have saved lives

Tea has been many things—a global commodity, a comforting beverage, and even, in the eyes of some Bostonians 250 years ago, a symbol of oppressive politics. But one role you might not have attributed to tea is that of a life-saving health intervention.

5 In a recent paper in *The Review of Statistics and Economics*, economist Francisca Antman of the University of Colorado, Boulder, makes a convincing case that the explosion of tea as a common drink in late 1700s England saved many lives. This would not have been because of any antioxidants or other substances inherent to the admired infusion.

10 Instead, the simple practice of boiling water for tea, in an era before people understood that illness could be caused by water germs, may have been enough to keep many from an early death. English demographics from this era have long contained a puzzle for historians. Between 1761 and 1834, the annual death **rate** declined substantially, from 28 to 25 per 1,000 people. But at the same time, salaries do not seem to have risen much and standards of living did not increase. In fact, with the rise of the industrial revolution, more and more people were crowding into towns whose sanitation left much to be desired.

15 The idea that tea might be the missing link here, thanks to the need to boil water for a proper infusion, had been floated by historians in the past. Boiling water kills bacteria that cause diarrheal diseases like dysentery, which was often called *flux* or *bloody flux* in death records. "With people coming into cities to work, you would expect, given the level of sanitation they have, that the big killer is water," says Antman. But it remained a **somewhat** vague idea, interesting in theory but difficult to prove.

20 Antman developed a way to test it, using detailed geographical information about more than 400 neighbourhoods across England. There is a simple **assumption** at the heart of her study: more water sources in an area likely means cleaner water. If one source was contaminated, the inhabitants of that place could go to another.

25 With her studies of water quality in certain neighbourhoods, Antman could see whether areas with worse water quality saw a bigger decline in mortality than those with good water. The key date is 1785, the moment when tea suddenly became **affordable** for the vast majority of Britons. By the end of the 18th century, even very poor citizens were having tea twice a day, tea historian Alan Macfarlane writes.

30 To see if this change correlated with decreased mortality, Antman compared death rates before and after this moment. As expected, Antman found that death rates declined in places with good water and in those with bad—but there was a significant difference. Areas with bad water saw death rates drop 18% more than in those with good water.

35 Interestingly, there was a slight decline in infant deaths, perhaps reflecting the fact that if tea-drinking parents had less diarrheal disease, their very young children might have been protected a bit as well—though Antman points out there is no way to know for sure.

40 But with relatively little change to their habits, merely an increase in a behaviour they already enjoyed, people seem to have protected themselves. All part of the pleasure of a simple cup of tea.

Text adapted from an article by
Veronique GREENWOOD . *BBC.com* (Dec 17, 2023)

1. According to the text, tea has been:
 - a) an oppressive product.
 - b) an international good.
 - c) a comforting intervention.
 - d) a pride for all Bostonians.
2. Antman believes the decline in death rates in late 1700s England was due to:
 - a) the antioxidants in tea.
 - b) making water boil.
 - c) some admired substances.
 - d) convincing cases of explosions.
3. Between 1761 and 1834...
 - a) industrial revolution started.
 - b) salaries improved standards of living of many people.
 - c) towns with bad cleanliness had a lot of population.
 - d) the number of deaths was substantial.
4. What did Antman use to test her theory about tea and mortality rates?
 - a) Sales records of tea in late 1700s England.
 - b) Death records from English neighbourhoods with high standard of living.
 - c) Historical accounts of tea-drinking habits in England.
 - d) Data on water quality and death records in different neighbourhoods in England.
5. The text suggests that the small drop of children deaths could be attributed to:
 - a) improved standards of living.
 - b) a slight decline in tea consumption.
 - c) decreased mortality rates in general.
 - d) protection from diarrheal diseases.
6. According to the text, what brings pleasure to people?
 - a) Maintaining their habits.
 - b) Protecting themselves.
 - c) Drinking tea.
 - d) Changing their behaviours.

<i>Pregunta</i>	<i>Resposta</i>	<i>Text de referència</i>
1.		Lines 2-3: Tea has been many things—a global commodity, a comforting beverage, and even, in the eyes of some Bostonians 250 years ago, a symbol of oppressive politics.
2.		Lines 9-11: Instead, the simple practice of boiling water for tea, in an era before people understood that illness could be caused by water germs, may have been enough to keep many from an early death.
3.		Lines 14-15: In fact, with the rise of the industrial revolution, more people were crowding into towns whose sanitation left much to be desired.
4.		Lines 27-28: With her studies of water quality in certain neighbourhoods, Antman could see whether areas with worse water quality saw a bigger decline in mortality than those with good water.
5.		Lines 36-38: Interestingly, there was a slight decline in infant deaths, perhaps reflecting the fact that if tea-drinking parents had less diarrheal disease, their very young children might have been protected a bit as well.
6.		Lines 39-41: But with relatively little change to their habits, merely an increase in a behaviour they already enjoyed, people seem to have protected themselves. All part of the pleasure of a simple cup of tea.

2. Choose the word or definition (a, b, c, or d) that best explains the meaning of the words below as they are used in the text. Draw a circle around the letter corresponding to the right answer. The words appear in bold in the text.

[2 marks: 0.5 marks for each correct answer]

1. rate (line 13)

a) speed b) amount c) codes d) payments

2. somewhat (line 21)

a) rather b) completely c) rarely d) certain

3. assumption (line 24)

a) truth b) fact c) belief d) proof

4. affordable (line 29)

a) pricey b) inexpensive c) costly d) average

3. Write 80–100 words about ONE of the following topics.

[5 marks]

A. In the 18th century, water germs, dysentery, tuberculosis and even diarrhea were fatal diseases. In the 21st century, it was Covid-19. Imagine you were one of the many healthcare workers who were in the frontline during the Covid-19 pandemic. Write an informal email to a distant friend telling him/her about your life during those days.

B. The industrial revolution gave society many important inventions like the first telephone. But everything progressed, and then internet arrived. Now it seems impossible to live without it. Write an opinion essay on the significance of the internet as a modern means of communication.

