

	<b>Región de Murcia</b> Consejería de Educación, Cultura y Universidades  Dirección General de Formación Profesional	<b>PRUEBA DE ACCESO A CICLOS FORMATIVOS DE GRADO SUPERIOR FP</b> <b>PARTE COMÚN: LENGUA EXTRANJERA INGLÉS</b> <b>CONVOCATORIA 2014</b>
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<b>DATOS DEL ASPIRANTE:</b>  <b>Apellidos:</b> .....  <b>Nombre:</b> .....	<b>CALIFICACIÓN</b> <b>EJERCICIO 2</b>
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**EJERCICIO 2 PARTE COMÚN: LENGUA EXTRANJERA: INGLÉS.**  
**(Duración 1 hora)**

**Why Bilinguals Are Smarter?**

Speaking two languages rather than just one has **obvious (1)** practical benefits in an increasingly globalized world. But in recent years, scientists have begun to show that the advantages of bilingualism are even more fundamental than being able to converse with a wider range of people. Being bilingual, it turns out, makes you smarter. It can have a profound effect on your brain, improving cognitive **skills (2)** not related to language and even shielding against dementia in old age.

Bilinguals, for instance, seem to be more adept than monolinguals at solving certain kinds of mental **puzzles (3)**. The collective evidence from a number of such studies suggests that the bilingual experience improves the brain’s so-called executive function — a command system that directs the attention processes that we use for planning, solving problems and performing various other mentally **demanding (4)** tasks.

The key difference between bilinguals and monolinguals may be more basic: a heightened ability to monitor the environment. “Bilinguals have to switch languages quite often,” says Albert Costa, a researcher at the University of Pompeu Fabra in Spain. “It requires keeping track of changes around you in the same way that we monitor our surroundings when driving.” Bilingualism’s effects also extend into the **twilight (5)** years. In a recent study of 44 elderly Spanish-English bilinguals, scientists led by Dr. Tamar Gollan of the University of California, found that individuals with a higher degree of bilingualism were more resistant than others to the onset of dementia and other symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease: the higher the degree of bilingualism, the later the age of onset.

Nobody ever doubted the power of language. But who would have imagined that the words we hear and the sentences we speak might be leaving such a deep imprint?

*(Yudhijit Bhattacharjee)*

Adapted from: [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-bilingualism.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-bilingualism.html?_r=0)

**QUESTIONS**

**1. Choose one of the words or expressions listed below and relate it to the corresponding word or expression in the column (as numbered in the text), e.g. “argue and ....” (1 mark)**

problems   abilities   difficult   sunset   evident

- a) **obvious (1)** and ...
- b) **skills (2)** and ...
- c) **puzzles (3)** and ...
- d) **demanding (4)** and ...
- e) **twilight (5)** and ...



**2. Choose the best option. (1 mark)**

a) Being bilingual:

- is only useful for talking to people
- can increase your mental abilities
- is useless in our globalised world

b) The effects of bilingualism:

- are also evident among old people
- always include prevention of dementia and Alzheimer
- are only evident in teenagers

**3. Complete the following sentences, using information from the text and the grammar structure indicated between brackets. Do not copy phrases from the text unless it is unavoidable to do so. (2 marks)**

a) Bilinguals are ... (Comparative)

b) Albert Costa said that ... (Reported Speech)

c) Dr. Tamar Gollan ... (Passive to Active)

d) If old people were bilingual ... (Conditional)



**4. Complete the gaps in the following text. Choose the words from the list given. (1 mark)**

*relatives classrooms bilinguals brain dead heart many only second colleagues*

In a study comparing German-Italian \_\_\_\_\_(a) with Italian monolinguals on monitoring tasks, Mr. Costa and his \_\_\_\_\_(b) found that the bilingual subjects not \_\_\_\_\_(c) performed better, but they also did so with less activity in parts of the brain involved in monitoring, indicating that they were more efficient at it.

The bilingual experience appears to influence the \_\_\_\_\_(d) from infancy to old age (and there is reason to believe that it may also apply to those who learn a \_\_\_\_\_(e) language later in life).

**5. Are the following sentences true or false? Justify your answer (mark your choice with a tick ✓ in the appropriate box) with a short quotation from the text. Both the answer and the quotation must be right. (1.5 marks)**

	T	F
1. It is clear that being bilingual is useful. “ .....		
2. Bilingual people are better than monolingual people at working out any kind of intellectual problem. “ .....		
3. Bilinguals’ brains are more capable of monitoring the environment. “ .....		

**6. Name three benefits of being bilingual (according to the text) (1.5 marks)**

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