It used to be that a university degree was a fast track to a good career. But today, thousands of British students are instead having to struggle to find work to match their qualifications. The Office for National Statistics reported this year that almost one in every three graduates is overqualified for their job. Some students have taken their universities to court for failing to provide value for money and received thousands of pounds in settlements.

So which degrees should British students avoid if they want to become high earners? As regards men, a creative arts degree leads to the lowest average graduate salary. Men studying English or philosophy may also earn less than the average man who left school at the age of 16. As for women, in almost all cases doing any degree means a woman will earn at least slightly more than if she had not attended university. This is so because the earnings of women without university qualifications are much lower than those of men. Even those females studying social care, the degree with the lowest average earnings, enjoy a slightly higher salary post-graduation than women without a degree.

So, is doing a degree still really worth it? Yes, research does conclude that completing a degree is still worthwhile. “If a higher salary is the key reason for going to university, students need to choose their subjects carefully,” said an investment expert. “For women, studying medicine or economics increases their earning potential by more than 60% and for men over 20%.”

However, a high salary post-graduation is not the only motivating factor for young people choosing to continue their studies. “There are plenty of artists and philosophers who were enormously enriched by their university experiences – just not financially,” Ms Coles added.

The Ladies Bridge

Waterloo Bridge in London is nicknamed ‘The Ladies Bridge’ for the women who built it. As World War II overtook Europe and men went off to battle, the women of England entered the wartime workforce. “Before long,” says the BBC, “women made up one third of the total workforce in the metal and chemical industries, as well as in ship-building and vehicle manufacture.” They also worked on English infrastructure.

But while Rosie the Riveter, the star of a campaign aimed at recruiting female workers for defence industries during World War II, became perhaps the most iconic image of American working women, those who built this bridge were largely forgotten. “Today the riverboat pilots on the Thames tell the story of Waterloo Bridge being built by women in World War II,” says the summary of The Ladies Bridge, a documentary by filmmaker Karen Livesey. Though a crew of largely women workers built the current Waterloo Bridge in the early 1940s, at the official opening of the bridge in 1945, Herbert Morrison, an English politician, thanked all the men who worked on the project: “The men who built Waterloo Bridge are fortunate men. They know that, although their names may be forgotten, their work will be a pride and use to London for many generations to come.”

The displacement of women’s role in the history of the Waterloo Bridge, says a 2006 article, wasn’t out of malice, or discrimination. Peter Mandell, the head of Peter Lind and Company, the contractor that oversaw the building of the bridge in 1940s, said “there’s no hidden agenda behind their unacknowledged achievements – the archive was simply lost when Lind temporarily suspended trading in the 1970s.” “We’re very proud of our female workforce,” he says. “We’re rebuilding this archive and want to honor them with a plaque on the bridge.”

Adapted from “This Bridge is Nicknamed the ‘Ladies Bridge’ because it was Built Largely by Women,” Smithsonian Magazine, July 15, 2013. <https://bit.ly/2JL7dS6>

QUESTIONS

B.1 (2 puntos) Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

a) During World War II English women had to substitute male workers.
b) An article said that the contribution of women in the construction of the bridge was not mentioned on purpose.

B.2 (2 puntos) In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text.

a) Why did Rosie the Riveter become a symbol in the USA?
b) What happened at the official opening of the bridge?

B.3 (1 punto) Find the words in the text that mean:

a) called (paragraph 1)
b) possibly (paragraph 2)
c) lucky (paragraph 2)
d) supervised (paragraph 3)

B.4 (2 puntos) Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

a) Waterloo Bridge is known as the Ladies Bridge _______ the key role women _______ (play) in its construction.
b) More women were employed in industrial sectors _______ the early forties as the segregation between men and women _______ (diminish).
c) The government has decided to go _______ with the plans for building a new airport 50 kilometres away _______ the city.
d) They had worked hard all morning, so _______ midday they stopped _______ (have) a coffee and a sandwich.

B.5 (3 puntos) Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic. Do you think the roles of men and women in society have changed over the last fifty years? Justify your answer.
CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN

El ejercicio incluirá cinco preguntas, pudiendo obtenerse por la suma de todas ellas una puntuación máxima de 10 puntos. Junto a cada pregunta se especifica la puntuación máxima otorgada. La valoración y los objetivos de cada una de estas preguntas son los siguientes:

Pregunta 1: Hasta 2 puntos. Se trata de medir exclusivamente la comprensión lectora. El estudiante deberá decidir si dos frases que se le presentan son verdaderas o falsas, copiando a continuación únicamente el fragmento del texto que justifica su elección. Se otorgará 1 punto por cada apartado. Se calificará con 0 puntos la opción elegida que no vaya justificada.

Pregunta 2: Hasta 2 puntos. Se pretende comprobar dos destrezas: la comprensión lectora y la expresión escrita, mediante la formulación de dos preguntas abiertas que el estudiante deberá contestar basándose en la información del texto, pero utilizando sus propias palabras en la respuesta. Cada una de las preguntas valdrá 1 punto, asignándose 0,5 puntos a la comprensión de la pregunta y del texto, y 0,5 a la corrección gramatical y ortográfica de la respuesta.

Pregunta 3: Hasta 1 punto. Esta pregunta trata de medir el dominio del vocabulario en el aspecto de la comprensión. El estudiante demostrará esta capacidad localizando en el párrafo que se le indica un sinónimo, adecuado al contexto, de cuatro palabras o definiciones. Se adjudicará 0,25 por cada apartado.

Pregunta 4: Hasta 2 puntos. Con esta pregunta se pretende comprobar los conocimientos gramaticales del estudiante, en sus aspectos morfológicos y/o sintácticos. Se presentarán oraciones con huecos que el estudiante deberá completar o rellenar. También podrán presentarse oraciones para ser transformadas u otro tipo de ítem. Se adjudicará 0,25 a cada “hueco en blanco” y en el caso de las transformaciones o ítems de otro tipo se concederá 0,5 con carácter unitario.

Pregunta 5: Hasta 3 puntos. Se trata de una redacción, de 150 a 200 palabras, en la que el estudiante podrá demostrar su capacidad para expresarse libremente en inglés. Se propondrá una única opción y se otorgarán 1,5 puntos por el buen dominio de la lengua – léxico, estructura sintáctica, etc. – y 1,5 por la madurez en la expresión de las ideas – organización, coherencia y creatividad. Para corregir esta redacción se utilizará la siguiente rúbrica de evaluación:

Puntuación: de 0 – 3

Cada apartado se valorará entre 0 y 0,5, según se ajuste a lo que figura en el descriptor de “Excelente” (con la nota máxima de 0,5) o de “Deficiente” (con la nota mínima de 0).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excelente</th>
<th>Nota</th>
<th>Deficiente</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El mensaje es claro, preciso y coherente, con ideas interesantes, que se atienen al tema propuesto. Se sigue el requisito de extensión mínima.</td>
<td>--- / 0,5</td>
<td>El mensaje es demasiado confuso, ambiguo o incoherente, con ideas irrelevantes o repetitivas. No se sigue el requisito de extensión mínima.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Se muestra capacidad para desarrollar un punto de vista personal, con opiniones originales. Las ideas se ilustran de forma adecuada.</td>
<td>--- / 0,5</td>
<td>Es difícil distinguir la postura personal del autor. Se incluyen generalidades sin fundamento, porque no se aportan datos o ejemplos que ilustren las ideas expuestas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Se emplean conectores de forma efectiva y variada.</td>
<td>--- / 0,5</td>
<td>Faltan conectores adecuados y se acusa una falta de transiciones temáticas lógicas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No hay errores importantes de gramática</td>
<td>--- / 0,5</td>
<td>Hay errores graves de gramática</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No muestra limitaciones en el uso del vocabulario que utiliza.</td>
<td>--- / 0,5</td>
<td>Hay errores graves de léxico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No hay errores importantes de ortografía y/o puntuación.</td>
<td>--- / 0,5</td>
<td>Hay múltiples equivocaciones en el uso de la ortografía y/o la puntuación.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>--- / 3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Question A.1

a) TRUE: “It used to be that a university degree was a fast track to a good career.”

b) TRUE: “Men studying English or philosophy may also earn less than the average man who left school at the age of 16.”

Question A.2

Key ideas

a) Women who do not have a university degree earn less than men who have no qualifications. So even a degree which will allow women to earn a low salary is worthwhile, as it will result in higher earnings than no degree at all.

b) Yes, you can earn more money if you choose to study certain degrees. On the other hand, you can choose to study other subjects which will not make you a higher earner but will help you develop personally.

Question A.3

a) struggle

b) slightly

c) conclude

d) motivating

Question A.4

a) had known ------- wouldn’t have chosen

b) which ------- was reported

c) getting ------- to sit

d) forward ------- since
Quesiton B.1

a) **TRUE**: “As World War II overtook Europe and men went off to battle, the women of England entered the wartime workforce.”

b) **FALSE**: “The displacement of women’s role in the history of the Waterloo Bridge, says a 2006 article, wasn’t out of malice, or discrimination.”

**Question B.2**

Key ideas

a) Rosie the Riveter was an icon of women’s invaluable role as the main working force during World War II in America.

b) The politician Herbert Morrison was grateful to all the men that helped constructing the bridge and he said that their work would be remembered for a long time, despite the fact that a lot of women had worked on it.

**Question B.3**

a) nicknamed

b) perhaps

c) fortunate

d) oversaw

**Question B.4**

a) because of / due to / owing to / thanks to ------- played

b) in / during ------- diminished / was diminishing / had been diminishing / had diminished

c) on / ahead / along ------- from

d) at / by ------- to have