TEXTO A

The Special Olympics

Over 50 years ago, Eunice Kennedy Shriver saw how unjustly people with intellectual disabilities were treated and that many children didn't even have a place to play. She decided to take action and held a summer day camp for young people with intellectual disabilities in her own backyard. In this camp, these young people could participate in sports and physical activities, focusing on what they could do, and not on what they couldn't do. This was a revolutionary idea at the time.

In 1968, 1,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from the USA and Canada competed in the first Special Olympics International Summer Games in Chicago. There, over 200 events were offered – from 100-yard swim to high jump, water polo and floor hockey. The event was so successful that Eunice assured that more games would be held as a "Biennial International Special Olympics".

The event has grown to become an international competition. In 2003, for the first time, it went to another country, Ireland. Initially, the organisers didn't expect it, but nearly every country wanted to host the competing nations and their athletes. Ireland took the Olympic Games to its heart. There were around ten thousand volunteers and people came out in the hundreds of thousands to enjoy the spectacle and cheer on the athletes. Any barriers that had existed before between those with and without intellectual disabilities broke down then.

Sport brings people together. Nevertheless, it seldom brings out the levels of shared empathy and joy as the Special Olympics does, being a force for good, change, and unity. It has been celebrated every two years in seven different countries so far and is usually the largest sports and humanitarian event in the world that year.

Adapted from "Special Olympics History," *Special Olympics*, November 28, 2020.
<https://www.specialolympics.org/about/history

QUESTIONS

A.1.- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE. (Puntuación máxima: **2 puntos**)

a) **Athletes from all over the world took part in competitions in the Olympic event held in the late 60s.**

False: "In 1968, 1,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from the USA and Canada competed in the first Special Olympics International Summer Games in Chicago."

b) **When the US organisers decided to celebrate the event abroad for the first time, they were surprised to find that most countries wanted to host the Games.**

True: "Initially, the organisers didn't expect it, but nearly every country wanted to host the competing nations and their athletes."

A.2.- In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. Do not copy from the text. (Puntuación máxima: **2 puntos**)

a) **Why did Eunice decide to hold a summer day camp in her backyard?**

Because she noticed that the treatment that intellectually disabled people received was not fair and that kids could not play anywhere.

b) **What was the reaction of Irish people to the Special Olympic Games they held?**

They took them so enthusiastically that thousands of them went there to enjoy and work as volunteers.

A.3.- Find the words in the text that mean: (Puntuación máxima: **1 punto**)

a) **radical** (paragraph 1) *revolutionary*

b) **encourage** (paragraph 3) *cheer on*

c) **rarely** (paragraph 4) *seldom*

d) **happiness** (paragraph 4) *joy*

A.4.- Complete the following sentences. Use the appropriate form of the word in brackets when given. (Puntuación máxima: **2 puntos**)

a) After being held in the US <u>for</u> several years, Ireland had the chance <u>to celebrate</u> the event.

b) If I <u>had had</u> enough time to train properly last season, I <u>would have won</u> a medal.

c) Celebrating the Olympic Games has a huge impact <u>on</u> social unity, besides <u>implying</u> economic profit for the hosting country.

d) **Complete the following sentence to report what was said.**

"We don't expect many people in the country will volunteer."

Organisers said <u>they didn't expect many people in the country would volunteer.</u>

A.5.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic. (Puntuación máxima: **3 puntos)**

If you could volunteer at an important event, what type of event would you prefer and why?

It is true that for the last two years there have not been any events, or, at least, just a few of them. Due to the pandemic, our willingness to assist to events has doubled. Thus, if I could volunteer at any of the upcoming events I would certainly choose a really big festival.

The festival that I have in mind is called "Tomorrowland". It is located in Belgium and it is the biggest festival in Europe involving electronic music. People from everywhere go every year to enjoy what probably is the most amazing party in Europe. I would go there as a volunteer, mostly because it is quite difficult to buy a ticket since a lot of people try to buy them at the same time and, also, they are very expensive. However, although going as a volunteer is not always the best option because you can normally spend a lot of hours working, I would enjoy this festival so much that I would not mind if I had to work for 24 hours in a row.

In conclusion, festivals always involve a lot of people sharing the same taste for a specific kind of music, and you can get to know people from multiple countries, so, why not take the chance and go to a festival to live and enjoy the experience?

TEXTO B

Students Vote and Work the Polls, Despite the Pandemic

Historically, most young Americans don't vote. In the 2016 presidential election, fewer than half of eligible voters between 18 and 29 cast a ballot. Last year, that changed. Young voters were showing rare levels of enthusiasm, even as college students faced new obstacles. "The pandemic upturned both how people vote and how students learn," said our colleague Dan Levin, who wrote about the struggles students face right now. "Just like there have been Zoom classes, students were going virtual with their organizing."

In a regular election year, campus activists would have tables on the quad and knock on doors in dormitories. Last year, instead of crowding into common rooms, students were hosting debate watch parties on Zoom, recruiting poll workers over Instagram and encouraging students to post their voting plans on Snapchat. "We had to exhaust every possible option to continue energizing voters," said Roderick Hart, 20, a junior at Morehouse College in Atlanta. "Social media was really our only way of connecting everybody at once, considering we weren't on campus."

Last year, more than seven million voters under 30 had already cast ballots, including nearly four million in 14 key battleground states, according to data compiled by researchers at Tufts University. "We just came in and got as many students as we could engage on their floor," said Jess Scott, who asked resident advisers at the University of Pittsburgh to host voter information sessions on Zoom. Students were disproportionately vulnerable. The coronavirus exacerbated concerns about student IDs and proof of residency, as documents moved online, and many students were learning in other places.

Adapted from "Students Vote and Work the Polls, Despite the Pandemic,"
New York Times, November 2nd, 2020. < https://bit.ly/2N4CR29>

QUESTIONS

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

a) **Few young Americans have traditionally voted.**

True: "Historically, most young Americans don't vote."

b) **Students were too exposed in presidential elections.**

True: "Students were disproportionately vulnerable."

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

a) Why were young Americans interested in US 2020 presidential elections?

Because the pandemic changed the way they organised themselves since now they did it virtually and that enabled them to be more participative.

b) How was social media used in US 2020 Elections?

People met up to discuss presidential debates on Zoom, election officials were recruited on Instagram and students were prompted to use Snapchat to show their vote intention.

B.3.- Find the words in the text that mean: (Puntuación máxima: **1 punto**)

a) eagerness (paragraph 1) *enthusiasm*

b) urging (paragraph 2) *encouraging*

c) truly (paragraph 2) *really*

d) hold (paragraph 3) *host*

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

a) The return to school in the coronavirus pandemic is creating additional stress <u>in</u> a time already filled <u>with</u> anxiety.

b) <u>How</u> can reporters prepare the public <u>for</u> the possibility that results will not be available on election night?

c) Studies indicate that people <u>who</u> don't vote when they're eligible are more likely to <u>rarely</u> vote in the future.

d) Millennials and Generation Z represent a <u>larger</u> voting bloc <u>than</u> Baby Boomers.

B.5.- Write about 150 to 200 words on the following topic.(Puntuación máxima: **3 puntos)**

Should voting be compulsory? Justify your answer.

Voting is compulsory in many places of the world. That is a fact. The recent history shows that as the system and the population grow the number of the people that do not vote increases. So, should voting be compulsory so that the population could have a word on the organisation of society?

There has been a lot of inequality in voting for a lot of years; actually the universal suffrage was achieved not so long ago. That is why voting has a big relevance in the way we see the system. During the years the quality in our leaders has decreased and people complain a lot on how the politicians behave in the congress. Furthermore, this criticism to the politics in general is usually reflected in the general abstention of people. Thus, the number of people that do not vote is quite worrying for a democratic society.

In a nutshell, voting should be compulsory so that all the people that a democratic society is made up of would decide what is best for all. It is quite simple indeed, but it would change us for the better.