

TEXTO A

Vampire Child

Archaeologists have discovered the body of a 10-year-old child at an ancient Roman site which provides evidence of ancient “vampire burials”. A rock was inserted into the mouth of the child as part of a funeral ritual to prevent the deceased child from rising from the grave and spreading malaria, researchers believe. The unusual so-called “vampire burial” was described as “extremely mysterious” by the American archeologists who have been excavating the site in Teverina since 1987.

The find was unearthed at La Necropoli dei Bambini, an Italian cemetery that dates back to a malaria outbreak in 400 AD which killed many vulnerable babies and small children in the area. Previous excavations at this site have revealed the bones of infants and toddlers. There were also objects associated with witchcraft and magic, including raven talons, toad bones, bronze cauldrons filled with ash and the remains of puppies that appear to have been sacrificed. Researchers had previously believed that the cemetery was designated exclusively for babies, toddlers and unborn fetuses, since the eldest body found had been a three-year-old girl. However, the discovery of the 10-year-old, whose age could be measured from dental development but whose sex is unknown, suggests that it may have been a burial location for older children as well.

Excavation director said: “Given the age of this child and its unique deposition, with the rock placed within his or her mouth, it represents an anomaly within an already abnormal cemetery.” “There are still sections of the cemetery that we haven’t excavated yet, so we don’t know if we’ll find other older kids,” said Mr Wilson, a doctoral student in anthropology at the University of Arizona.

Adapted from: Sky News <<https://news.sky.com/story/vampire-child-discovered-buried-in-italy-with-stone-in-mouth-11524426>>

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) Researchers have been able to determine the gender and the age of the child whose body was discovered in Italy.

FALSE. The text states: "The discovery of the 10-year-old, whose age could be measured from dental development but whose sex is unknown, suggests that it may have been a burial location for older children as well."

b) Given that every inch of the cemetery has been examined, it's unlikely that more bodies might be discovered.

FALSE. The text mentions: "There are still sections of the cemetery that we haven't excavated yet, so we don't know if we'll find other older kids', said Mr Wilson, a doctoral student in anthropology at the University of Arizona."

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 are these burials called "vampire burials"?

These burials are called "vampire burials" because they involved placing a stone within the mouth of the deceased child as a component of the funeral ceremony. This custom is thought to have been performed to hinder the child's corpse from reemerging from the tomb and disseminating malaria, signifying age-old notions surrounding the existence of the undead.

b) Why did so many babies and young children die in 400AD?

Many babies and young children died in 400 AD due to a malaria outbreak in the area. The text mentions a malaria outbreak in 400 AD that killed many vulnerable babies and small children in the region. The cemetery where the discovery was made, La Necropoli dei Bambini, dates back to this period when the outbreak occurred.

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

a) stone (paragraph 1) **rock**

b) enigmatic (paragraph 1) **mysterious**

c) excavated (paragraph 2) **unearth**

d) place (paragraph 3) **location**

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

a) I don't know **if/ whether/ why** vampires are faster **than** human beings.

b) Although people believe these scary stories are true, there is **no** evidence that vampires really **existed** (exist).

c) There **aren't** a lot of people around today **who** claim they are true vampires.

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

"Stop telling me scary stories or I'll have to sleep with the lights on," my mother told me. My mother told me **to stop telling her scary stories or she would have to sleep with the lights on**.

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

You and your friends decide to spend a night in the forest. Write a horror story.

In the heart of a mysterious forest, my four adventurous friends and I gathered for a thrilling night. As the sun set, an eerie silence fell over the woods. Strange sounds and chilling gusts of wind made us nervous, but we continued with ghost stories around the campfire.

Suddenly, the fire extinguished, and a spectral figure emerged. Fear paralyzed us as the apparition whispered haunting tales of tragedy and warned of the forest's curse.

Terrified, we tried to escape, but the forest seemed to play tricks on us. Lost and disoriented, we struggled to find our way. Shadows danced threateningly, and the ghostly figure appeared at every turn.

As dawn broke, we finally escaped the cursed forest. Vowing never to return, we carried the chilling memory with us forever, a reminder of the darkness that lurked within the woods. The legend of the haunted forest lived on, a cautionary tale for anyone who dared to venture into its depths.

TEXTO B

Quiz for divorce in China

In some parts of China, married couples trying to split up have been asked to take a quiz distributed by the local authorities. The more they knew about each other, including a spouse's birthday or favorite food, the less likely they were to have their divorce immediately approved. The quizzes, issued in at least two provinces since last year, follow the format of a typical three-part school exam. First, there are some fill-in-the-blank questions. Then, short answer questions and, finally, an essay. The topics of the questions are really varied from the mundane "when is your anniversary?" to the philosophical "have you satisfied your responsibility to your family?" The quizzes contain 15 questions, scored on a scale of 100 points. Liu Chunling, an official in Lianyungang told the Yangtze Late News that they were developed as a way to prevent "impulse divorces". Local news agencies reported that the authorities considered a score of 60 points or higher to mean "room for recovery", and those couples were encouraged to work on their marriages.

The divorce rate in China is rapidly rising, pushed mainly by working women who feel newly empowered to get one. But the government is trying to slow the trend, which it sees as a cause of social instability. The state's focus on preventing divorce, experts said, stems from a Confucian belief that a stable society is made up of complete families. "Only through thousands of harmonious family units can an entire society achieve harmony," said Mr. Liu, the Lianyungang official.

The Chinese government had previously regulated other many aspects of private family life, including religion and pregnancy. In this case, the authorities claim, the main objective is only to let the couple consider this rationally and to treat it seriously.

Adapted from "Want a Divorce in China? You Might Have to Fail a Quiz First," The New York Times 30 May 2018.

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) It is easier to get a divorce in China if you do not know a lot about your couple.

TRUE. Evidence from the text: "The more they knew about each other, including a spouse's birthday or favorite food, the less likely they were to have their divorce immediately approved."

b) More women are making the decision of getting a divorce now than in the past.

TRUE. Evidence from the text: "The divorce rate in China is rapidly rising, pushed mainly by working women who feel newly empowered to get one."

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 does the government want to prevent divorce?

The government wants to prevent divorce because it sees the rising divorce rate as a cause of social instability. They believe that a stable society is built on complete families, and they aim to promote harmony by encouraging couples to stay together.

b) What does the idea of "room for recovery" refer to in the text?

The idea of "room for recovery" refers to a score of 60 points or higher on the quiz that couples have to take when trying to get a divorce. If they score 60 points or higher, the authorities consider that there is still a chance for the couple to work on their marriage and potentially reconcile.

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

a) accepted (paragraph 1) **approved**

b) include (paragraph 2) **encompass**

c) goal (paragraph 4) **objective**

d) deal with (paragraph 4) **treat**

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

- a) Fill-in-the gap questions are those **which/that** can **be answered** (answer) quickly with only a few words.
- b) Chinese authorities **have regulated/have been regulating** (regulate) aspects of family life **for** many years.
- c) **Despite/In spite of** what her father thought, she considered that getting a divorce was the **best** (good) option for her.
- d) If she **had met** (meet) him before, she **would have married** (marry) him.

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

Divorce rates in Spain have increased in the last few years. Why do you think this is so? Justify your answer.

In recent years, divorce rates in Spain have noticeably risen, prompting speculation about the underlying causes. The increase can be attributed to several factors, indicating shifts in societal values and personal priorities.

One significant reason for the surge is the changing perception of marriage. Modern society is more accepting of divorce as a valid option for those seeking happiness and personal growth, departing from the traditional view of marriage as a lifelong commitment.

Economic factors also play a crucial role. Increased financial independence for both men and women has empowered individuals to make decisions based on personal aspirations, rather than conforming to societal expectations.

Moreover, modern lifestyles and higher social mobility have led to increased expectations for personal fulfilment. As a result, couples facing difficulties may be more inclined to choose divorce as a means to pursue individual happiness.

Additionally, changes in divorce laws have updated the process, making it more accessible and less complex. This has encouraged more people to seek divorce when faced with marital challenges.

In conclusion, the surge in divorce rates in Spain is a result of shifting societal norms, economic independence, changing lifestyles, and improved legal processes. Understanding these factors is essential for engaging in discussions about the evolving nature of relationships and the need for supportive structures to navigate the complexities of modern marriages.

