



# ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAM: JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 2011

Name and Surname(s): \_\_\_\_\_

***Time allowed for this exam: 2 Hours***

***Before starting, please read the following carefully:***

- ☞ *All mobile phones must be turned off.*
- ☞ *Make sure your name is correctly given above.*
- ☞ *There are three parts to this exam:*
  - *I. Reading Comprehension*
  - *II. Language Work*
  - *III. Written Essay.*

*Each part carries the same weight and must be answered in **English**.*

- ☞ *Write all your answers in this exam booklet in the spaces provided.*
- ☞ *All rough paper will be collected after the exam.*

## ***POLITE WARNING!***

***ANY TALKING DURING THE EXAM WILL MEAN AUTOMATIC AND  
IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION***

**I. Reading Comprehension**

**II. Language Work**

**III. Essay**

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## I. Reading Comprehension (10 points)

### Instructions:

Read the following article which appeared in the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2011, then answer the questions which follow.

### Spaniards outraged over favourable Franco biography

#### 1 Admirer of the Spanish dictator was commissioned to write entry in dictionary of national biography

General Francisco Franco is described as authoritarian not totalitarian in a favourable account by Professor Luis Suárez. Spain's Royal Academy of History has caused a row after publishing a publicly funded dictionary of biographies of Spanish figures which includes an admiring description of the country's bloodiest 20th-century figure, General Francisco Franco.



After 12 years' work and having spent more than €6.5m (£5.7m) in taxpayers' money, the first volumes of the encyclopaedia were unveiled last week

only for readers to discover that the dictator's biography had been written by Professor Luis Suárez, an 86-year-old Franco apologist who is better known for his work as a medievalist.

The entry describes how Franco "became famous for the cold courage which he showed in the field" while a young officer in Africa, and goes on to say that his brutal years in power saw him "set up a regime that was authoritarian, but not totalitarian." But Suárez failed to mention the tens of thousands of people killed during the Francoist era and refused to describe him as a dictator, arguing he had been authoritarian rather than totalitarian.

Julian Casanova, a historian who specialises in 20<sup>th</sup> century Spain, said: "This is simply recreating the old propaganda in favour of Franco. Allowing someone like this to write Franco's entry is not taking things seriously, especially when there are plenty of specialists on 20th-century Spain who can. It brings our whole profession into disrepute."

Suárez is an acquaintance of the Franco family and a senior figure in the Brotherhood of the Valley of the Fallen. This group takes its name from the controversial underground basilica where the dictator was buried in 1975, and is actively opposed to the so-called "historical memory" movement in Spain, which has recently been searching for, and digging up, the mass graves of the victims of Francoist death squads. For many years, Suárez was one of the few historians allowed by Franco's family to study the personal papers of the man most Spaniards recognise as having been the country's dictator for 36 years from 1939.

In 2005, after many years spent studying late medieval Spain, Suárez published a biography of the dictator in which he states that: "...this is an objective study, with no value judgments. The term 'dictator' was not used during Franco's lifetime, and so a historian should not use it."

The head of the Royal Historical Society, Gonzalo Anes, said it would not censor authors involved in the national biography project because it is very difficult to achieve absolute objectivity. However, Spain's minister for culture, Ángeles González-Sinde, called for the rewriting of those entries in the dictionary which "do not reflect reality or are not written with the objectivity required of academic studies." Other responses included Joan Saura, a leftwing Catalan Parliament deputy, who has presented a motion to withdraw the 20 volumes published so far. He said: "It is a recompilation of Spanish fascist thinking." An interesting point is that this dictionary also includes admiring profiles of former conservative prime minister José María Aznar and his former culture minister, Esperanza Aguirre, who provided the initial funds for the project.



## II. Language Work (10 points)

A) Explain the meaning of the following words / phrases in the context in which they appear:

1. outraged (*title*):
2. caused a row (*ls. 6-7*):
3. unveiled (*l. 15*):
4. failed to mention (*l.20*):
5. refused (*l. 21*):

B) Find a synonym in the text for the following:

1. many
2. descriptions of
3. previous

C) Explain what the following words refer to:

1. this (*l. 23*)
2. it (*l. 26*)

### **III. Essay (10 points)**

*Write a short essay (approximately 150-175 words) in response to the following question:*

“Is it possible for historians to be objective about historical figures”