

PROCEDIMIENTO SELECTIVO DE ACCESO AL CUERPO DE PROFESORES DE ESCUELAS OFICIALES DE IDIOMAS INGLÉS

1ª PRUEBA: 1.A (Prueba práctica)

Apellidos:

Nombre:

D.N.I.:

Since last week's revelations of the scope of the United States' domestic surveillance operations, George Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four," which was published sixty-four years ago this past Saturday, has enjoyed a massive spike in sales. The book has been invoked by voices as disparate as Nicholas Kristof and Glenn Beck. Even Edward Snowden, the twenty-nine-year-old former intelligence contractor turned leaker, sounded, in the Guardian interview in which he came forward, like he'd been guided by Orwell's pen. But what will all the new readers and rereaders of Orwell's classic find when their copy arrives? Is Obama Big Brother, at once omnipresent and opaque? And are we doomed to either submit to the safety of unthinking orthodoxy or endure re-education and face what horrors lie within the dreaded Room 101? With Orwell once again joining a culture-wide consideration of communication, privacy, and security, it seemed worthwhile to take another look at his most influential novel.

"Nineteen Eighty-Four" begins on a cold April morning in a deteriorated London, the major city of Airstrip One, a province of Oceania, where, despite advances in technology, the weather is still lousy and residents endure a seemingly endless austerity. The narrator introduces Winston, a thirty-nine-year-old man beset by the fatigue of someone older, who lives in an apartment building that smells of "boiled cabbage" and works as a drone in the Ministry of Truth, which spreads public falsehoods. Everyone simply assumes that they are always being watched, and most no longer know to care. Except for Winston, who is different, compelled as if by muscle memory to court danger by writing longhand in a real paper journal.

Are we living in "Nineteen Eighty-Four"? The technological possibilities of surveillance and data collection and storage surely surpass what Orwell imagined. Oceania's surveillance state operates out in the open, since total power has removed any need for subterfuge: "As for sending a letter through the mails, it was out of the question. By a routine that was not even secret, all letters were opened in transit," the narrator explains. This sounds like an analogue version of what Snowden describes: "The N.S.A., specifically, targets the communications of everyone. It ingests them by default." That seems like a safe operating assumption about e-mails, texts, or telephone calls—even if a person is not saying anything interesting or controversial, and even if no one is actually monitoring our communication, the notion that one's personal digital messages would remain inviolably private forever, or that they would not be saved or stored, was probably naïve. Regardless of the actual scope of the government's snooping programs, the notion of digital privacy must now, finally and forever, seem a mostly quaint one.

Still, all but the most outré of political thinkers would have to grant that we are far from the crushing, violent, single-party totalitarian regime of Orwell's imagination. In one of the more chilling passages in the novel, the evil Party hack O'Brien explains, "We are not interested in those stupid crimes that you have committed. The Party is not interested in the overt act: the thought is all we care about." The N.S.A., on the other hand, is primarily interested in overt acts, of terrorism and its threats, and presumably—or at least hopefully—less so in the thoughts themselves. The war on terror has been compared to Orwell's critique of "the special mental atmosphere" created by perpetual war, but recently Obama made gestures toward bringing it to an end. That is not to say, of course, that we should not be troubled by the government's means, nor is it clear that the ends will remain as generally benevolent as they seem today. But Orwell's central image of unrestrained political power, a "boot stamping on a human face—forever," is not the reality of our age...

1. Choose ONE of the four options given: A, B, C, or D. (2.5/10 marks)

(Choosing more than one of the options will result in voiding this section 1)

A: In this article of opinion, the author refers to George Orwell's dystopian novel "*Nineteen eighty-four*". Write about another example of a similar text in relation with "*Nineteen eighty-four*".

B: The author of this article uses literature as a vehicle for his social commentary. What is the role of literature in the English classroom?

C: Explain some of the social, political or literary references used in the text to connect "*Nineteen eighty-four*" with our current society.

D: Analyse the examples and use of technological language in the text.

2. Describe and comment on each of the sounds of the word "regime" (line 31) (2.5/10 marks)

3. Identify and explain the linguistic elements present in the following examples from the article. Comment on their relevance on the text: (2.5/10 marks)

- "The book has been invoked by voices..." (line 4)
- "... like he'd been guided by..." (line 6)
- "...a seemingly endless austerity". (line 14)
- "... the thought is all we care..." (line 33)
- "... nor is it clear that..." (line 38)

4. Identify the main ideas and the language used to create cohesion and coherence in the text. (2.5/10 marks)