

PROVES D'ACCÉS A LA UNIVERSITAT

PRUEBAS DE ACCESO A LA UNIVERSIDAD

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| CONVOCATÒRIA: JULIOL 2018 | CONVOCATORIA: JULIO 2018 |
| Assignatura: ANGLÉS | Asignatura: INGLÉS |

Please answer on a separate sheet of paper

OPCIÓ A /OPCIÓN A

Part A. Reading Comprehension

Read the following text:

WOMEN REALLY ARE THE STRONGER SEX

A recent academic study has shown that under extreme conditions such as famines, epidemics and enslavement, women are able to survive for longer than men. Across modern populations, women outlive men in almost all instances, with life expectancy for English women being 83.1 years, compared to 79.5 years for men.

Now, academics from the Southern University of Denmark have looked at data from seven historic cases when populations were exposed to extreme hardship, in order to gain new insights into the gender mortality gap. Case studies included the Irish famine of 1845-1849, the Iceland measles epidemics of 1846 and 1882, and the experiences of freed Liberian slaves returning to Africa from the US in the early 19th century. During the 1882 Iceland measles epidemic, for example, life expectancy dropped from 43.99 to 18.83 years for females and from 37.62 to just 16.76 years for males.

The researchers found that women had lower mortality across almost all ages, and women lived longer on average than men. Based on these findings, the academics concluded, “the hypothesis that the survival advantage of women has fundamental biological underpinnings is supported by the fact that under very harsh conditions females survive better than males even at infant ages when behavioral and social differences may be minimal or favor males”. The academics referred to research that suggests hormonal differences might explain the gender mortality gap. For example, estrogens, found in larger quantities in women, have anti-inflammatory effects, whereas testosterone, found in larger amounts in men, may actually suppress the immune system.

Excerpt from an article by Tomasz Frymorgen, *BBC.co.uk*, January 10th 2018

I. **Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points: 1 point each)**

- a. Under what severe circumstances do females live longer than males?
- b. Why do women live, biologically, longer than men?

II. **Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Identify the part of the text that supports your answer by copying the exact passage on the answer sheet. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)**

- a. Women outlive men only under extreme conditions.
- b. Women have always lived longer than men except during the 1882 Iceland measles epidemic.
- c. Hormones do not explain differences in life expectancy.

III. **Find a synonym for each of the four words below from these six options. All words are underlined in the text (1 point: 0.25 each)**

outlive hardship measles survival underpinnings harsh

- a. severe
- b. difficulty
- c. foundations
- d. survive

IV. **Choose a, b, or c, in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (1.5 points: 0.5 each)**

1. Danish researchers have found relevant data about life expectancy using...

- a) data from Southern Denmark.
- b) 19th century data.
- c) large amounts of hormones at infant ages.

2. Research from 1845 until 1882 took into account...

- a) three different samples.
- b) four different samples.
- c) five different samples.

3. Males do not live longer than females...

- a) but they did in the past.
- b) but they outlived females in Iceland.
- c) even if social conditions are better for males rather than for females.

Part B. Composition (130 to 150 words approximately) (4 points)

What would you do to live longer?