

**INGLÉS. CÓDIGO 102 OPCIÓN A****Dear Oscar...**

Far from the globally televised event it is today, the first *Academy Awards* ceremony took place out of the public eye during an Academy banquet at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Two hundred seventy people attended the May 16, 1929 dinner in the hotel's Blossom Room; guest tickets cost \$5. It was a long affair filled with speeches, but Academy President Douglas Fairbanks made quick work of handing out the statuettes.

No Surprises

There was little suspense when the awards were presented that night: the recipients had already been announced three months earlier. That all changed the following year, though, when the Academy decided to keep the results secret until the ceremony but gave a list in advance to newspapers for publication at 11 p.m. on the night of the *Awards*. This policy continued until 1940 when, much to the Academy's consternation, the *Los Angeles Times* published the names of the winners in its evening edition—which was readily available to guests arriving for the ceremony. That prompted the Academy in 1941 to adopt the sealed-envelope system still in use today.

Public Interest Grows Quickly

The first presentation was the only one to escape a media audience; by the second year, enthusiasm for the *Awards* was such that a Los Angeles radio station produced a live one-hour broadcast of the event. The ceremony has been broadcast ever since.

The Academy continued to hand out the awards at banquets until 1942, when increased attendance made these dinner ceremonies impractical. Starting with the 16th *Oscar* ceremony, the event has always been held at a theater.

I. Reading comprehension. Choose the correct answer and write the corresponding letter (A, B, or C) together with the number of the question (1-5) on your answer sheet. Only one answer is correct. [Total: 25% (5x5% each)]

1. In the first *Oscar* ceremony, ...
 - A. ... it took very long for the statuettes to be given to the winners.
 - B. ... the awards were handed out to the winners by the Academy's president.
 - C. ... there were few television cameras to inform about the event.
2. According to the text, ...
 - A. ... the winners have never been known before the actual ceremony takes place.
 - B. ... the winners were known before the ceremony in the first *Academy Awards*.
 - C. ... the winners have always been told about their award before the actual ceremony.
3. Choose the correct statement: A, B, or C.
 - A. The sealed-envelope system used today at the ceremony dates from the 13th *Academy Awards*.
 - B. The *Los Angeles Times* suggested that the Academy should preserve the names of the winners in sealed-envelopes.
 - C. Until 1940, guests used to know the names of the winners well before they entered the banquet for the ceremony.

4. *The Academy Awards*...

- A. did not raise a lot of public interest until 1942.
- B. have always been held at a theater.
- C. have always been broadcast, except for the first ceremony.

5. *The Oscars* stopped being handed out at a banquet...

- A. ... because the number of attendants made it too expensive to be affordable.
- B. ... because the number of attendants made the dinner ceremony impractical.
- C. ... because the theater was too small for so many attendants to have dinner there.

II. Grammar and use of English. Answer the following questions. Be careful to follow the instructions for each question. [Total: 35%]

1. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense. Write the correct form of the verb on your answer sheet. [7.5% (3x2.5% each)]

- 1.1. The nominees ___ (choose) by the members of the corresponding branch of film production.
- 1.2. Enthusiasm for the ceremonies ___ (be) so great that a Los Angeles radio station did a live, one-hour broadcast.
- 1.3. In 1927, L.B. Mayer and a group of friends ___ (meet) at the Ambassador Hotel to found the *International Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences*.

2. Complete the short text with 3 adequate words. Write the words on your answer sheet. [7.5% (3x2.5% each)]

In its more than 80-year history, the Academy Awards have failed to take place as scheduled ___ (a) on three occasions. The first was in 1938, when massive flooding in Los Angeles delayed the ceremony ___ (b) a week. In 1968 the Awards ceremony was postponed from April 8 to April 10 out of respect for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had been assassinated a ___ (c) days earlier, and whose funeral was held on April 9.

3. Rewrite the following sentences. Write the complete new sentences on your answer sheet. [10% (2x5% each)]

- 3.1. The Academy presented two special awards at the very first ceremony in 1929.
Two _____.
- 3.2. It was not until 1966 that color broadcasting of the ceremony began.
Color broadcasting _____.

4. Vocabulary. Pick the odd word out and write it on your answer sheet. [10% (2x5% each)]

- 4.1. actress audience stage director
- 4.2. thriller western comedy trailer

III. Writing. Answer questions 1 and 2 below. Express your ideas by using your own words. Write between 40 and 50 words for each question. [Total: 40% (2x20% each)]

- 1. Why do you think the general public likes to watch ceremonies like *the Oscars*?
- 2. When you go to the movies, what kind of films do you watch?

**INGLÉS. CÓDIGO 102 OPCIÓN B****Middle names**

The use of two given names was unknown in Europe until the late Middle Ages. Among English-speakers, middle names were nonexistent until the mid-1600s, remained quite rare for another century or so, and did not become common until well after the American Revolution (1775-1783).

Middle names began to find favor among the wealthy in the mid-1700s. Aristocratic families increasingly began giving their children two names, so that by the time of the Revolution a noticeable proportion of southerners carried middle names, mainly those from upper class families. Although the practice did not really catch on with the middle class until well after the Revolution, by 1900 nearly every child born had also a middle name.

Initially, middle names tended to be drawn from within the family. A generation or two later, when the middle class adopted the custom, most children were given the names of unrelated persons. The single most popular namesake* of children born in the early 1800s was George Washington—which single-handedly** accounted for the significant increase in the popularity of the name "George" in the 19th century.

But why did middle names suddenly become so popular? The obvious practicality of the practice surely had something to do with it. With increases in population density and the size of extended families, the incidence of multiple persons in the same vicinity carrying the same first and last names eventually became quite common. Distinguishing among several persons of the same name became, for the first time, a practical problem.

Whatever the driving forces, the custom eventually became just that: a custom.

* **namesake**: A person that has exactly the same name as another person.

** **single-handedly**: Alone.

I. Reading comprehension. Choose the correct answer and write the corresponding letter (A, B, or C) together with the number of the question (1-5) on your answer sheet. Only one answer is correct. [Total: 25% (5x5% each)]

1. From the information in the text, giving newborns two names...
 - A. ... was a common practice in Europe during the Middle Ages.
 - B. ... was more common for English-speakers than in the rest of Europe.
 - C. ... was not very common for English-speakers before the 17th century.
2. Choose the correct statement: A, B, or C.
 - A. Giving a newborn a second name is popular in the US, but only for wealthy southerners.
 - B. By 1900, southerners gave their newborns the name of a relative as their middle name.
 - C. Wealthy southerners born by or shortly before the Revolution carried a middle name.
3. Choose the correct statement: A, B, or C.
 - A. The middle class started to use middle names for their newborns that were not drawn from within the family.
 - B. The middle class still preferred to give their newborns the name of a relative than that of an unrelated person.
 - C. Unrelated person's names were popular within the middle class, but after the 19th century they used family names as middle names.

4. George Washington...
- ... was a popular name for children who were born during the early 19th century.
 - ... made of "George" a very popular name for children born in the 19th century.
 - ... was so popular that every child born in the early 19th century was named "George".
5. Distinguishing among people with the same name and last name...
- ... became a custom only in very densely populated vicinities.
 - ... was the main reason why middle names became so popular.
 - ... became a practical problem in order to obtain a driving license.

II. Grammar and use of English. Answer the following questions. Be careful to follow the instructions for each question. [Total: 35%]

1. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense. Write the correct form of the verb on your answer sheet. [7.5% (3x2.5% each)]

- George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and even Abraham Lincoln ___ (not have) middle names.
- After the American Revolution, it ___ (become) the fashion to use the mother's maiden name as a middle name.
- The practice of ___ (give) middle names to newborn children was brought to the US by German immigrants.

2. Complete the short text with 3 adequate words. Write the words on your answer sheet. [7.5% (3x2.5% each)]

German immigrants gave their children two names, one that was called a spiritual name, and the ___ (a), a secular name. The latter was what the child was called in daily life, ___ (b) the first name was usually a saint's name.

In the 1700s, upper-class Americans used middle names, ___ (c) not extensively.

3. Rewrite the following sentences. Write the complete new sentences on your answer sheet. [10% (2x5% each)]

- In America, people commonly employ surnames of relatives as middle names.
Surnames _____.
- It was not until the early 1800s that middle names became popular in America.
Middle names _____.

4. Vocabulary. Pick the odd word out and write it on your answer sheet. [10% (2x5% each)]

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------|----------------|------------|
| 4.1. grandfather | cousin | brother-in-law | neighbor |
| 4.2. uncommon | rare | ordinary | infrequent |

III. Writing. Answer questions 1 and 2 below. Express your ideas by using your own words. Write between 40 and 50 words for each question. [Total: 40% (2x20% each)]

- Is it common in Spain to give newborn children more than one name? Please, explain.
- In your opinion, what factors influence the names that parents choose for their children?