UNIVERSIDAD DE OVIEDO
Vicerrectorado de
Estudiantes y Empleo

INGLÉS

Theatre began with the Ancient Greeks, not so much as a performance but as an excuse for followers of Dionysus, the God of Wine, to get drunk and act out various religious stories. At this point, however, theatre was in a rather primitive state. The actors used to stand on stage, wearing large masks which showed who they were supposed to be and what emotion they were in. The main part of the story was supplied, not by the actors' speeches or dialogue, but by a group of people called the Chorus, who sang large sections of it to the audience. Drama was then divided into "Tragedy" and "Comedy"; but "comedy" must not be understood as just humour in this context, but rather as any play where not everybody ends up injured or dead.

During the Roman Empire, everyone imitated the Greeks; in the Middle Ages, we see the emergence of morality plays, in which actors personified virtues and vices; and in the Renaissance we had William Shakespeare, who has influenced modern theatre more than anyone else. By this time, religion was no longer important in plays, although writers often used religious and mythological themes, as well as historical facts, for their stories.

QUESTIONS:

1. Did theatre originally have the same function as today? **Do not copy literally from the text**
(1 punto)

2. Why was the Chorus so important in Greek drama? **Do not copy literally from the text**
(1 punto)

3. How did the role of religion in theatre change from the Greeks to Shakespeare's time? **Do not copy literally from the text** (1 punto)

4. a) Fill in the gaps with the most suitable word (1 punto):

Few .... are as enjoyable as a night at the theatre; but .... you buy the tickets, you should .... what kind of play you want to see. There are a lot of different types to .... from: tragedy, comedy, Shakespearean drama, absurdist theatre, opera, musicals, etc. Whatever the ...., good theatre is always a good experience.

b) Form **minimal pairs** with the following words taken from the text (in other words, give a word which has **exactly the same pronunciation except for one sound)** (examples: "called: *cold*"; "but: *bus*"*,* etc.**) (0'5 puntos):

　　　　　　　　　much　　　　　well　　　　　which

5. Put the verbs in brackets in the appropriate form (in gaps **1**, **2** & **3**); and fill in gaps **4, 5** & **6** with an appropriate linking word (1'5 puntos):

Theatre has always been a part of human culture. And in the past few years, it **1**........................... (explore) new opportunities to help people. This practice **2**...................... (call) Psychodrama and it **3**..................... (become) increasingly popular. Psychodrama, **4**...................... is used for treating certain mental and emotional disorders, is meant **5**...................... those children and adults **6**...................... have gone through an emotionally or physically disturbing experience.

6. Write a composition on **one** of the following topics (100-120 words) (4 puntos):

　　　a) Would you like to be an actor/actress?
　　　b) Describe the last time you went to the theatre, the cinema or a musical event.