OPCIÓ A/OPCIÓN A

Part A. Reading Comprehension.

Read the following text:

CIGARETTES MAY HAVE TO BE SOLD IN PLAIN PACKETS

Cigarette packets could be stripped of all branding following a consultation, the health secretary, Andrew Lansley, has revealed. The minister said that he was “open minded” about putting the idea of plain cigarette packaging to the public, but added: “We don’t work in partnership with the tobacco companies because we are trying to arrive at a point where they have no business in this country.”

Deborah Arnott, of Action on Smoking and Health, said: “The consultation is just the first step, putting us in pole position to be the first European nation to put tobacco in plain, standardised packs. “Cigarettes are not like sweets or toys and should not be sold in colourful packaging which makes them appealing to children. Cigarettes are full of toxins and cause fatal diseases: plain, standardised packaging makes this explicit.”

But pro-smoking group Forest, the Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco, has launched a Hands Off Our Packs (Hoops) campaign. Director Simon Clark has described plain packaging as “the persecution of a minority lifestyle choice”. He said: “Plain packaging is yet another attack on retailers and adult consumers.”

The move comes a week after a law on tobacco promotion in England came into force, requiring all large shops and supermarkets to cover up cigarettes and hide tobacco products from public view. Lansley, who said that all levels of smoking are harmful, added that the ban on displaying cigarettes was part of a move to ensure “we no longer see smoking as a part of life.”

David Batty, The Guardian, 13 April 2012
I. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points: 1 point each)
   a. Why should cigarettes be sold in plain packets?
   b. Why was tobacco hidden from public view in large shops and supermarkets?

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. According to the minister, companies will always have the right to sell cigarettes in England.
   b. According to Arnott, standardized packaging makes it clear that tobacco is dangerous.
   c. According to Lansley, some levels of smoking are not dangerous.

III. Find a synonym for each of the four words below from these six options: (1 point: 0.25 each)

   plain     appealing     cause     choice     requiring     ban

   a. prohibition
   b. attractive
   c. generic
   d. demanding

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

   1. The minister wants to reach a point in which...
      a. tobacco companies hide their product from public view.
      b. tobacco companies can’t sell cigarettes in England.
      c. tobacco companies use the same colourful packaging.

   2. England...
      a. is the first European nation in which cigarettes are sold in plain packaging.
      b. will not be the first European nation in which cigarettes are sold in plain packaging.
      c. might be the first European nation in which cigarettes are sold in plain packaging.

   3. The pro-smoking group Forest...
      a. thinks that plain packaging is an aggression on smokers’ freedom of choice.
      b. thinks that plain packaging should not be hidden from public view.
      c. thinks that plain packaging will not attract children.

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

What measures can be taken to prevent people from smoking?
TABLETS TO BEAT DESKTOP SALES

Tablet computers are set to beat bulky desktops for the first time this year, according to research. Millions are replacing their old-fashioned computers with slimline, touchscreen gadgets.

Sales of tablets such as Apple's iPad and Google’s Nexus are about to overtake the type of computers that introduced the internet to the masses, said the International Data Corporation (IDC). The IDC said 128 million tablets were sold last year worldwide, an increase of nearly 80 per cent in 2011. The trend represents a rapid transformation in computer use, just three years after Apple introduced the iPad. And the growth in sales is forecast to continue, meaning tablets will overtake desktops in months and outsell laptops by the end of next year.

Experts said that computers are seen as a device for work, but tablets are preferred for leisure activities, such as surfing the web and watching videos. Technology researcher Martin Garner, from CCS Insight, said: “People are using the money they previously used to replace a PC to buy a tablet. In the long term, nearly every person will have their own tablet.”

The battle for domination of the mobile and tablet market has become intense in the past 18 months, with Apple’s competitors taking it on with a series of new products. Nokia and Microsoft joined forces to launch two new phones which run on the Windows operating system. Apple registered figures for the Christmas period that showed its rocket-like growth had come to a standstill.

Daily Mail, 29 March 2013
I. Answer the following questions using your own words but taking into account the information in the text. (2 points: 1 point each)

a. Can you explain what is changing in relation to computer use?

b. What differences in use are there between desktops and tablets?

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 point: 0.5 each)

a. Desktops are slimline, touchscreen gadgets.

b. Instead of buying a new desktop, people are now buying a tablet.

c. Apple increased its sales a lot during the Christmas period.

III. Find a synonym for each of the four words below from these six options: (1 point: 0.25 each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>overtake</th>
<th>trend</th>
<th>forecast</th>
<th>device</th>
<th>launch</th>
<th>standstill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. machine</td>
<td>b. start</td>
<td>c. estimated</td>
<td>d. tendency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. The IDC found that nearly 80%…
   a. of the computers sold last year were tablets.
   b. of the tablets are either iPad or Nexus.
   c. was the rising rate of tablets sold last year.

2. Experts state that computers are chosen to work, …
   a. and considered essential for leisure activities.
   b. to surf the web and to watch videos.
   c. and not so much for leisure activities.

3. During the Christmas period …
   a. Apple made more profits than ever before.
   b. Apple made lower profits than ever before.
   c. Apple’s sales slowed down.

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

What are the benefits of using tablets? Can you think of any disadvantages?