According to a recent study, other Europeans do not have as especially favourable opinion of the British. Britons are considered by young people in other countries to be arrogant, xenophobic and frequently drunk. In general young people overseas have a positive image of the UK as a country, but are less admiring of Britons as a people.

A big factor in Britain´s reputation for drunkenness are the scenes of violence involving football supporters travelling abroad. Pictures of British fans rioting at Marseilles during the 1998 World Cup were seen all around the world. Other factors contributing to a negative view of Britain are the royal family, violence in Northern Ireland and racial intolerance.

In a focus group discussion, an Italian among those being interviewed portrayed the British “having tea at five o´clock, having a Queen and always drunk”.

Overall, the view of British society is ambivalent. On the whole, it is seen as fair, caring and democratic, but also as divided by class and, in the eyes of some, radically intolerant. The findings of the report are worrying, all the more so for a country which relies heavily on its tourist industry. Even more worrying is the possibility that these negative perceptions actually reflect the true nature of modern-day Britain.

1. Read the text and answer the following questions about it. Use your own words where possible.

   a) In what way do young foreigners´s opinions vary concerning the UK on the one hand and British people on the other?
   b) How do football fans contribute to a negative view of the British?
   c) What ambivalence is evident in the view of British society?

2. Find one synonym in the text for each of the words below.

   a) point of view (paragraph 1)
   b) foreign (paragraph 1)
   c) ethnic (paragraph 2)
   d) tolerable (paragraph 3)
3. Transform the following sentences according to the instructions.

a) Put into the passive: Young people considered the British in other countries to be arrogant.
b) Put into the reported speech: “The British society is seen as fair, caring and democratic”.
c) Make a question to which the words in italics are the answer: According to an Italian, the British have tea at five o’clock.
d) Join the two sentences using a relative pronoun: The group was interviewed. It included an Italian.
e) Complete with a conditional sentence: If Britons weren’t arrogant,……
f) Write the sentence with this connector: Although British are considered have a positive view of UK as a country……

4. Write about eighty words on one of the following topics.

a) What do you think about the conclusions of this report?
b) Write about your experience with people from other countries.

CRITERIOS DE EVALUACIÓN Y CALIFICACIÓN

♦ Con esta prueba se pretende evaluar la capacidad de comprensión y expresión escrita en inglés.

♦ El conjunto de la prueba tendrá un valor máximo de 10 puntos distribuidos de la siguiente manera:

- PRIMERA PREGUNTA: 3 puntos. Evaluar la capacidad de comprensión y de expresión. Debe tenerse en cuenta la adecuación de las respuestas al contenido del texto.

- SEGUNDA PREGUNTA: 1 punto. Comprobar los conocimientos de vocabulario.

- TERCERA PREGUNTA: 3 puntos. Evaluar conocimientos de gramática.

- CUARTA PREGUNTA: La puntuación máxima es de 3 puntos, 1 punto para la corrección gramatical y ortográfica, 1 punto para la riqueza léxica y adecuación del vocabulario y 1 punto para coherencia y adecuación al tema. Evaluar la madurez en la expresión, la corrección ortográfica, morfológica y sintáctica.