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English A: language and literature – Standard level – Paper 1
Anglais A : langue et littérature – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 1
Inglés A: Lengua y Literatura – Nivel Medio – Prueba 1

9 May 2024 / 9 mai 2024 / 9 de mayo de 2024

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h 15 m

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a guided analysis of text 1 or text 2.
- Use the guiding question or propose an alternative technical or formal aspect of the text to focus your analysis.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[20 marks]**.

Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 1 ou du texte 2.
- Utilisez la question d'orientation ou proposez une autre manière d'aborder le texte en choisissant un aspect technique ou formel sur lequel concentrer votre analyse.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[20 points]**.

Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 1 o del texto 2.
- Utilice la pregunta de orientación o proponga otro aspecto técnico o formal del texto en el que centrar su análisis.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[20 puntos]**.

Write a guided analysis of **one** of the following texts.

1. The following blog post is taken from oliveremberton.com whose author, Oliver Emberton, is a self-proclaimed “busy bee”¹.

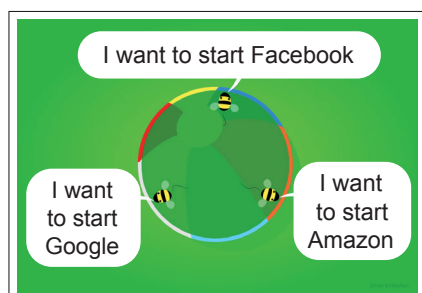


If you want to follow your dreams, you have to say no to all the alternatives

Our brains behave like a beachball filled with bees. Hundreds of conflicting impulses, pushing us in different directions.



People never want to do one thing. We want to do *all* the things. We simultaneously want to exercise *and* to learn Spanish *and* to go out for pizza. Our desires are countless, independent agents, working to nudge our beachball in their own selfish direction. And so usually, that ball is going nowhere. It's controlled more by the terrain than by the will of what's inside it. This is how most people live their lives. We feel endlessly conflicted. We never have enough time. And what happens to us is stronger than our ability to combat it. Let's fix that.



The curse of the ‘great idea’

Imagine if 20 years ago you were a genius who had the idea of starting up Google, *and* Amazon, *and* Facebook². You just invented three of the best business ideas of the last century, and if you had started any one of them you could now be worth billions. But if you were determined to do all three simultaneously *you'd be absolutely nowhere*. It's not enough to have great ideas. Lots of people have great ideas. The problem is that *too many* great ideas cancel each other out. Leadership doesn't work in volume. The more directions you're being pulled in, the less distance you'll travel.



How people achieve the impossible

Imagine an insanely ambitious goal for yourself. Say you want to write a book, or land on Mars. If you absolutely *had* to do that – if your life and the lives of everybody you cared about depended upon it – how would you? How *could* you? *You'd simply drop everything else*. You'd become one giant bumblebee, pushing in one direction, and you'd move very, very quickly. Monomaniacal³ focus on a single goal is perhaps the ultimate success stratagem. It's a pattern found in everyone from Edison to Einstein⁴. When you're able to focus on a single goal, constantly, your achievements reach their theoretical limit.

¹ busy bee: a nickname for an industrious person

² Google, Amazon and Facebook: three of America's largest companies

³ monomaniacal: obsession with one idea to the exclusion of other concerns

⁴ Edison to Einstein: Thomas Edison was a scientist best known for inventing the lightbulb; Albert Einstein was a scientist best known for advancing the field of physics

How to tame the swarm

You will *always* want to attempt more than you can achieve.

Unfortunately, pulling yourself in too many directions is the single quickest way to ensure failure.

And putting your all into a single direction is the quickest way to ensure success.

So try this:

1. **Aim higher.** If your ambitions are small, they're easily overpowered. Big goals are paradoxically *more* likely to stick because they're worth ignoring smaller goals for.
2. **Limit to three.** Keep up to three lists for different parts of your life – say 'work', 'home' and 'weekend'. Each list only gets one objective. If you absolutely must have more, just know that each addition quarters the odds of that area succeeding.
3. **Put it off.** Anything which isn't top priority now can be done optimally later. Mark Zuckerberg⁵ was smart to start Facebook first and then learn Chinese. Your goals are the same, you're just usually too attached to them in the moment to notice.
4. **Beware your idle wants.** Watch out for 'other things that you also want'. They will feel comforting, harmless, and automatic. They are deadly. *One new direction will quarter what you can accomplish.*
5. **Line up your bumblebees.** You may not be able to create the next Google, cure cancer and land on Mars at the same time. But you might be able to simultaneously become, say, a successful *and* athletic CEO⁶. Success and fitness can be complementary goals: a healthier person can be a better leader. They're like two bumblebees, pushing in the same direction, and stronger for it.

The few people who have achieved the most staggering, world changing things with their lives didn't do so by dividing their intentions. They aimed high, got their bumblebees in line, and said no to all the other opportunities that life presented them.

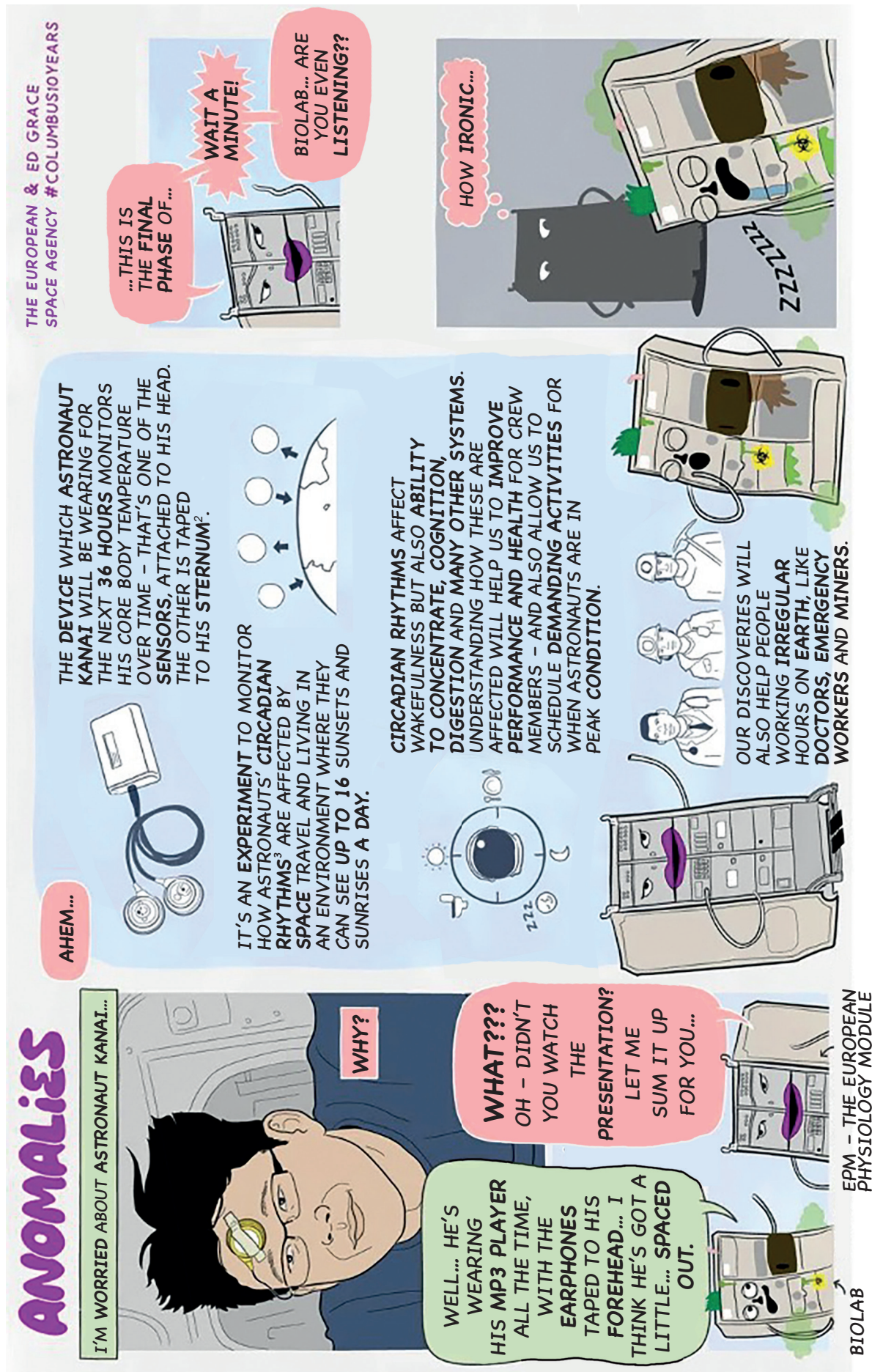
If you want the power to follow your dreams, you have to say no to all the alternatives. It's not easy, but if that's for you, at least you know the price.

⁵ Mark Zuckerberg: founder of Facebook

⁶ CEO: chief executive officer, or the top-level manager at a company

– How do authorial choices help to create a persuasive message?

2. The following comic is taken from edgrace.co.uk; Ed Grace's work celebrates the 10-year anniversary of Columbus, the European science lab housed at the International Space Station¹.



¹ International Space Station: a large orbiting spacecraft where astronauts conduct scientific research
² sternum: the long, flat bone that runs down the centre of the chest and connects the ribcage
³ circadian rhythms: the internal clock in the brain that regulates cycles of alertness and sleepiness prompted by sunlight and darkness

– How does the narrative style used in the comic contribute to the presentation of this scientific information?

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References/Références/Referencias:

1. Emberton, O., 2015. If you want to follow your dreams, you have to say no to all the alternatives. *Oliver Emberton*, [online] Available at: <https://oliveremberton.com/2014/if-you-want-to-follow-your-dreams-you-have-to-say-no-to-all-the-alternatives/> [Accessed 6 September 2023]. Source adapted.
2. Available at: <https://edgrace.co.uk>.