

INGLÉS

1. Read the text and the instructions to the questions very carefully.

2. Answer all questions in English

.....
The English spelling system is not based on a phonetic link between sounds and letters, as is the spelling of Spanish and certain other languages. Instead, English spelling is affected by the historical development of the language. Some words are pronounced in several different ways; similarly, different combinations of letters can produce the same pronunciation.

The link between sound and spelling in English is not phonetically exact for two main reasons. First, spelling changes did not keep pace with changes in the sound system after the development of printing and of conventions for spelling. Second, there are some spelling conventions that are based on other languages. For example, during the 16th century the 'b' was inserted into the word *doubt* (formerly spelled *doute*). This reflected the Latin word, *dubitare*, even though the 'b' was not pronounced in English.

Two further influences contributed to the illogical system of spelling. When books began to be printed in England, the newly invented spelling system was undermined because nearly all the early London printers were foreign. They were usually paid by the line and often inserted additional letters into words to earn more. They regularly also added extra letters to the last word of a line to make the whole text look neater. Many of their spelling errors eventually became accepted English spellings. When Samuel Johnson wrote the first English dictionary in 1755, he did not try to reform the system or make it simpler. Instead, he based it on the printed material **that was available at the time**. As a result, most of the errors that were common at the time became accepted as correct.

There have been many attempts to reform English spelling. American English has developed some of its own spelling conventions, largely as a result of the work of spelling reformer Noah Webster. Webster attempted to remove some of the irregularities from the English spelling system and distance American English from British English. Nevertheless, **the system as a whole** remains particularly complex, and English is widely regarded as having the worst spelling of any language in the world.

QUESTION 1 (1 MARK)

Write a title in English which best summarizes the story

QUESTION 2 (0.5 MARK EACH)

Explain in English the meaning of the following phrases from the text (maximum 8 words for each phrase):

a) "that was available at the time"

b) "the system as a whole"

QUESTIONS 3 (1 MARK EACH)

Answer in English the following questions **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** as far as possible:

a) What has made English spelling so complicated?

b) Did books often contain unusual spellings when they began to be printed in England?

(explain your answer).

QUESTION 4 (1 MARK EACH)

Complete the following sentences. Your answers must be related to the ideas contained in the text:

a) After the Middle English period English pronunciation began.....

b) When Samuel Johnson tried to make spelling.....

c) Non-native English speakers would welcome if English spelling.....

QUESTION 5 (3 MARKS)

Explain the role of English in scientific and technological fields nowadays (minimum 70 words, maximum 100). Use your own words in English.