



PRUEBA COMÚN

Inglés

Mallory and Irvine: Did they make it to the top?

On June 8, 1924, George Mallory and Andrew Irvine began the final stage on their attempt to be the first to conquer Everest. But when they were only 267m from the top, they disappeared. For almost a decade after they were last seen, no one had a clue what had happened to them. Had they reached the top and then died on the way down, thus being the first men to climb Everest? Or did they die before getting there?

In 1933, during the next British Everest expedition, a climber found an ice axe which had a characteristic identification mark, but at the time nobody recognised it. Thirty years later, in 1962 one of Irvine's brothers found an old walking stick belonging to Irvine. It had identical markers, so the ice axe must have been Irvine's. In April 1999 Jochen Hemmleb, a world expert on the history of Everest expeditions, set out with a team of men. He knew that a Chinese climber had found the body of an Englishman in 1975 a short walk from the Chinese expedition's camp 6.

Finding the Chinese camp 6 was not easy. Hemmleb had to work out the exact location by comparing photos of different expeditions and was not surprised to find it in an area well away from the path climbers use today. Not far from the camp they found the body of Irvine's companion, George Mallory, whom they identified by the remains of a laundry label; Irvine's body, however, could never be located.

1. Reading comprehension. Choose the correct answer. Only one answer is correct (50%).

1. Mallory and Irvine
 - a where the first men to climb the Everest
 - b died before they reached the top of the Everest
 - c vanished when they were near the top of the Everest

2. The ice axe was almost definitely Irvine's because
 - a it was found near his body
 - b his brother identified it
 - c it had the same mark as another of his possessions

3. A Chinese climber found the body of an Englishman
 - a in 1979
 - b near camp 6
 - c who was probably Mallory

4. The location of the Chinese camp 6
 - a was placed in the usual climber routes
 - b had to be calculated by Hemmleb
 - c was a very simple task

2. Writing. Why do people put their lives at risk in sports? Write about this topic in approximately 50 words (25%).

3. Use of English. Answer the following questions (25%).

1. Vocabulary. Match the words in A with their meanings in B.

A	B
attempt	-a piece of cloth, plastic or paper attached to a garment that gives information about it
clue	-an object or piece of information that helps you to find the answer to a problem or a mystery
set out	-when you try to do something difficult
label	-start something, especially a journey

2. Fill in the gaps with an appropriate word or expression, so that the second sentence means the same as the first one.

2.1. He knew that a Chinese climber had found a body a short walk from the Chinese camp.
He knew that a Chinese climber had found a bodythe Chinese camp.

2.2. Hemmleb had to work out the exact location.
The exact location by Hemmleb.

2.3. Mallory's body was identified. Irvine's, however, could never be located.
..... Mallory's body was identified, Irvine's could never be located.

3. Complete the paragraph with suitable prepositions.

I think the main reason doing risk sports is that they provide an escape everyday life, especially for a person who is shut an office all week. Whatever the reason why people take part risk sports, their popularity is increasing.

4. Ask questions for the following answers:

4.1. For almost a decade after they were last seen, no one had a clue what had happened to them.

4.2. He knew that a Chinese climber had found the body of an Englishman in 1975.

4.3. Not far from the camp they found the body of Irvine's companion, George Mallory.