

A DEVASTATING TERRORIST ATTACK

On March 11th, 2004 Madrid suffered the biggest terrorist attack in all its history. A series of explosions ripped through several trains in the Spanish capital during Thursday morning's rush hour, killing approximately 200 people and wounding more than 1,200, according to Spain's Interior Ministry. The dead and injured there were said to be mostly workers and students on their way to Madrid from the east of the capital.

A London-based Arabic newspaper received an e-mail claiming responsibility from a group supposedly linked to the Al Qaeda terrorist organization. In a late day press conference the Spanish Interior Minister said investigators had discovered an abandoned van 15 miles east of Madrid, with detonators and audio tapes of verses from the Koran in Arabic.

Spanish officials initially thought that the group responsible for the bomb explosions was ETA, the Basque separatist organization that has carried out a campaign of bombings and assassinations for decades in pursuit of independence for the Basque region of northeast Spain. However, ETA has never been able to mount an attack of this scale. The Al Qaeda terrorist group seemed to have perpetrated the attack in order to take revenge against the Spanish support for America during the war against Iraq.

QUESTIONS

I. READING COMPREHENSION. (2 POINTS) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Add TRUE or FALSE and copy the evidence from the text to support your answer.

NO marks are given for only true or false.

1. More than 1,200 people were killed by the bomb explosions.
2. Most of the dead were retired people and children.
3. Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack on a private TV channel.
4. The Spanish terrorist group ETA has been organizing similar attacks in Spain for decades.

Choose ONLY TWO of the following three options:

II. EXPRESSING THE MAIN IDEAS. (1 POINT) (0.5 points for each correct answer)

Answer the following questions according to the information given in the text. Where possible, use your own words.

1. Where did the explosions take place?
2. What is the possible reason why Al-Qaeda terrorist group perpetrated the attack?

III. LEXICON/ PHONETICS. (1 POINT). Choose ONLY ONE of the options.

A. LEXICON. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

Find words or phrases in the text that mean the same as these given.

- (a) The time of day when the roads, buses, trains, etc are most crowded, because people are travelling to or from work.
- (b) Saying that something is true although it has not been proved.
- (c) A covered vehicle with no side windows in its back half.
- (d) Fighting between two or more countries involving large numbers of soldiers and weapons.

B. PHONETICS. (1 POINT) (0.25 points for each correct answer)

- (a) Write two words from the text that have the same diphthong sound as "make" /eɪ/. (Underline the part of the word which contains the diphthong) **(0.5)**
- (b) Is the final "-s-" pronounced voiced /z/ or voiceless /s/ in "explosions"? **(0.25)**
- (c) Write a past form from the text that sounds the same as "loved" /d/. **(0.25)**

IV. USE OF ENGLISH. (3 POINTS) (0.5 for each correct answer)

Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given.

- 1. 'Where is the nearest cinema, please?'
Could you tell me
- 2. I haven't seen your wife for a long time.
It's
- 3. He didn't revise for the test so he failed.
If
- 4. The ophthalmologist tests her eyes every year.
She
- 5. *The Da Vinci Code* is a best-seller. It was written by Dan Brown.
The Da Vinci Code, ...
- 6. Write the correct question for the underlined words:
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- Mary goes swimming twice a week.

V. COMPOSITION. (3 POINTS)

Write a composition of about 100 words on **ONE** of the following topics. Specify your option.

If you were the Prime Minister, what would you do to prevent terrorism and reach peace?

- What do you like most about Spanish people and their style of life?