

## **Padrão de respostas às questões discursivas**

A seguir encontram-se as questões das provas discursivas da 2ª ETAPA do Vestibular UFF 2011, acompanhadas das respostas esperadas pelas bancas.

Read the text and answer the questions in English.

# Glōb•ish

BY ROBERT MCCRUM

Powered by the Internet and the global media, English has evolved into the world's language. More vivid and universal than ever, English is now used, in some form, by approximately 4 billion people on earth — perhaps two thirds of the planet — including 400 million native English speakers.

Contagious, adaptable, populist, and subversive, the English language has become as much a part of the global consciousness as the combustion engine. And as English gains momentum as a second language all around the world, it is morphing into a new and simplified version of itself — one that responds to the 24/7 demands of a global economy and culture with a stripped-down vocabulary of words like “airplane”, “chat room”, “taxi”, and “cell phone”. Having neatly made the transition from the Queen’s English to the more democratic American version, it is now becoming a worldwide power, a populist tool increasingly known as Globish.

In 2007, in an article in the International Herald Tribune, a French-speaking retired IBM executive, Jean-Paul Nerrière, described English and its international deployment as “the worldwide dialect of the third millennium”. Nerrière, posted to Japan with IBM in the 1990s, had noticed that non-native English speakers in the Far East communicated in English far more successfully with their Korean and Japanese clients than British or American executives. Standard English was all very well for Anglophones, but in the developing world, this non-native “decaffeinated English”— full of simplifications like “the son of my brother” for “nephew”, or “words of honor” for “oath”— was becoming the new global phenomenon. In a moment of inspiration, Nerrière christened it “Globish”. For Nerrière, Globish was a kind of linguistic tool, a version of basic or so-called Easy English with a vocabulary of just 1,500 words.

The fact is that English no longer depends on the U.S.<sup>1</sup> or U.K.<sup>2</sup> It’s now being shaped by a world whose second language is English, and whose cultural reference points are expressed in English but without reference to its British or American origins. Films like the 2009 Oscar-winning *Slumdog Millionaire* hasten the spread of Globish — a multilingual, multicultural cast and production team creating a film about the collision of languages and cultures, launched with an eye toward Hollywood. The dialogue may mix English, Hindi, and Arabic, but it always falls back on Globish. When the inspector confronts Amir on suspicion of cheating, he asks in succinct Globish: “So. Were you wired up? A mobile or a pager, correct? Some little hidden gadget? No? A coughing accomplice in the audience? Microchip under the skin, huh?”

In the short term, Globish is set to only grow. Some 70 to 80 percent of the world’s Internet home pages are in English, compared with 4.5 percent in German and 3.1 percent in Japanese. According to the British Council, by 2030 “nearly one third of the world’s population will be trying to learn English at the same time”. That means ever more voices adapting the English language to suit their needs, finding in Globish a common linguistic denominator.

However, this is not the end of Babel. The world, “flatter” and smaller than ever before, is still a patchwork of some 5,000 languages. Native speakers still cling fiercely to their mother tongues, as they should. But when an Indian and a Cuban want to commission medical research from a lab in Uruguay, with additional input from Israeli technicians the language they will turn to will be Globish.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. = United States

<sup>2</sup> U.K. = United Kingdom



## Glossary:

combustion engine (l. 6) – engine run by a type of fuel  
 morphing into (l. 8) – transforming, changing  
 stripped-down (l. 10) – reduced

deployment (l. 18) – use  
 hasten (l. 32) – accelerate  
 cling fiercely (l. 44) – hang on to tightly

**1st QUESTION:** (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

Explain the metaphor expressed by the noun phrase combustion engine (line 6) in reference to the English language.

**Suggested answer:**

The author views both the combustion engine and the English language as indispensable tools in the world today. They are inherently linked to the 21st century men's survival. Men need them both to survive in a globalized world.

**2nd QUESTION:** (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

What led Jean-Paul Nerrière to name “the worldwide dialect of the third millennium” Globish?

**Suggested answer:**

He noticed that a new type of English – used by non-native speakers – was emerging and he felt the need to give status to this version naming it Globish.

**3rd QUESTION:** (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

The influence of Globish is so widespread that it has reached the film industry. Discuss.

**Suggested answer:**

In the 2009 Oscar-awarded film *Slumdog Millionaire*, the collision of languages and cultures is expressed in Globish – a version of English that is both simplified and influenced by other native languages. This is a sign that the film industry adopted Globish.

**4th QUESTION:** (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

Comment on the following statement: “The fact is that English no longer depends on the U.S. or U.K.” (line 29)

**Suggested answer:**

The fact that so many people speak English as a lingua franca nowadays has changed its original characteristics. For this reason, it is no longer associated with the English spoken in Britain or in the U.S.A. only. Thus, the English language has distanced itself from its British and American origins.

**5th QUESTION:** (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

Discuss the implications of Robert Mccrum's view of the Babel Tower in the world today.

**Suggested answer:**

Although people use English as a means of global communication, local and native languages have not disappeared. Therefore, the metaphor of the Babel Tower is still applicable and relevant.

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