



UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE
INSTITUTO DE LETRAS E ARTES
PROVA DE PROFICIÊNCIA EM LEITURA
DE TEXTOS EM LÍNGUA ESTRANGEIRA

LÍNGUA INGLESA - 27 DE SETEMBRO DE 2025

Número de inscrição:

Tempo para a realização da prova: 2 horas e 30 minutos

Divulgação do resultado da prova: até 29 de outubro de 2025

- Para cada questão objetiva, há apenas uma resposta correta.
- As respostas dissertativas, sempre referentes ao texto-base, devem ser redigidas **em língua portuguesa** e **no limite das linhas**.
- Questões rasuradas e/ou com caligrafia ilegível não serão corrigidas. Não é aconselhado o uso de corretivo líquido.
- Usar caneta azul ou preta.
- Dicionários impressos - monolíngues ou bilíngues - podem ser consultados. Dicionário *on-line* e outros equipamentos eletrônicos não são permitidos.
- Não é permitido emprestar material nem pedir emprestado.
- Ao final, o candidato pode levar o texto-base e o papel almaço.

Can men and women be just friends? The answer matters more than you think

1 “Men and women can’t be friends because the sex part always gets in the way.” This
2 gloomy view, expressed by Harry in “When Harry Met Sally”, a romantic comedy released in
3 1989, is still widely shared. Turkey’s state religious authority recently issued a more scolding
4 version of it, to be read out in the country’s 90,000 mosques: “Friendships between men and
5 women, which begin with thoughts of companionship or confiding in one another, drag people
6 into the pit of adultery.”

7 The notion that sex sometimes “gets in the way” is not absurd. A study of Americans
8 by April Bleske-Rechek of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire finds that in platonic
9 couples, the men are far more likely than the women to find their friend sexy, and far more
10 likely to think she finds them attractive, too. Indeed, a man’s assessment of how much his
11 female friend fancies him matches how much he fancies her, and is unrelated to how she really
12 feels. Clearly men are prone to wishful thinking.

13 Yet it does not follow that male-female friendships are doomed. Most people can control
14 their urges. Furthermore, cross-sex friendships are extremely valuable. And not just because
15 friendship is “the golden thread that ties the hearts of all the world”, as John Evelyn, a diarist,
16 once put it. Recent research suggests that societies where men and women can be friends tend
17 to be less sexist on a variety of measures.

18 Researchers at Meta and New York University analysed friendships between 1.8bn adult
19 Facebook users. They estimated the closeness of each connection using a proprietary model
20 developed by Facebook, using such things as the frequency of two-way interactions. They
21 turned this into a “cross-gender friendship index”, which **they** should really have called the
22 “When Harry Met Sally index” (WHMSI, pronounced “whimsy”). A score of zero means men
23 and women are entirely segregated, one means they have an equal number of same- and cross-
24 sex friends. Anything more than one means they are chummier with the opposite sex than their
25 own.

26 Digital ties are not a perfect proxy for real-world ones. They don’t include people too
27 poor to have internet access, and reveal nothing about China, where Facebook is banned. Also,
28 in some places it is normal to “friend” people on the platform **whom** you have never met in real
29 life, whereas in others it is not, notes Theresa Kuchler, one of the study’s authors. But the data
30 set is so huge, mapping nearly 1.4trn links between 1.8bn people, that it is worth examining.

31 Conservative Muslim societies in the Middle East and north Africa are the most
32 segregated. Libyans, Iraqis and Egyptians have barely one opposite-sex friend for every ten

33 same-sex ones (a score of 0.1). In parts of the Caribbean, west and southern Africa and South
34 America, cross-sex friendships are extremely common (though it is unclear how many involve
35 people actually meeting). Most Western countries have scores of 0.5-0.6 for wide friendship
36 networks, meaning that people have almost twice as many connections with **their** own sex.
37 There was notable variability within countries, too. Germans in the former east are friendlier
38 with the opposite sex than those in the west.

39 When examining wider networks, the best predictor of a country's WHMSI score is the
40 proportion of women who work, relative to the share of men who do. This makes sense.
41 Workplaces give men and women opportunities to chat without chatting up. This may help
42 explain why Nigeria, with a female labour-force participation rate that is 96% of the male figure,
43 has a WHMSI score of 0.67, whereas India, at 43%, scores only 0.34.

44 Sexual freedom may also play a role. *The Economist* gathered data from Demographic
45 and Health Surveys of 55 mainly developing countries. In this subset, cross-sex friendships
46 were more common in places where more women reported having had sex with a man who was
47 neither their husband nor their live-in boyfriend. This is consistent with the Turkish imams'
48 fear that companionship leads to sin—but also with the possibility that liberal attitudes to
49 romance and friendship often go together.

50 Looking at closer friendship groups—users' top-five Facebook friends—mixing is more
51 closely correlated with norms about gender roles. At the negative extreme, we found that one
52 of the best predictors of segregation is a measure of hard-core sexism called the
53 “patrilineal/fraternal syndrome”, devised by Valerie Hudson of Texas A&M University and
54 Donna Lee Bowen and Perpetua Lynne Nielsen of Brigham Young University. This includes
55 unequal treatment of women in family law and property rights, early marriage for girls and
56 retrograde attitudes towards violence against women (for example, if rape is seen as a property
57 crime against men).

58 “Where men's honour depends on women's seclusion, cross-gender friendships are
59 rare,” argues Alice Evans of King's College London. Nuray Karaman of Usak University in
60 Turkey agrees. “It's uncommon for men and women to be close friends in Turkey. A family's
61 honour depends on how women behave, so women are expected to not associate with men other
62 than their relatives.”

1. De acordo com o primeiro parágrafo, qual alternativa melhor identifica defensores da ideia de que homens e mulheres não podem ser amigos?
 - a) autor do artigo – personagem fictício
 - b) autor do artigo – autoridade religiosa turca
 - c) personagem fictício – autoridade religiosa turca
 - d) personagem fictício – mulheres e homens turcos

2. Os resultados do estudo conduzido por April Bleske-Rechek, professora de psicologia da Universidade do Wisconsin (*campus* de Eau Claire), revelam que a atração em relações platônicas,
 - a) é percebida pelas mulheres com base na análise dos sentimentos do sexo oposto
 - b) é percebida pelos homens com base na análise dos sentimentos do sexo oposto
 - c) é mais comumente percebida como recíproca pelas mulheres
 - d) é mais comumente percebida como recíproca pelos homens

3. Conforme o que é relatado pelo autor no terceiro parágrafo do texto, pesquisas recentes sugerem que:
 - a) sociedades nas quais homens e mulheres podem ser amigos tendem a ser menos sexistas
 - b) sociedades nas quais homens e mulheres podem ser amigos tendem a ser mais sexistas
 - c) a amizade é o fio dourado que conecta os corações dos seres humanos ao redor do mundo
 - d) a amizade entre indivíduos de sexos opostos não tem valor e está fadada ao insucesso

4. De acordo com o texto, qual é a máxima semelhante àquela expressa por Harry que foi emitida recentemente por autoridades religiosas turcas e pode ser lida nas mesquitas ao redor de todo o país.
 - a) A amizade entre homens e mulheres pode ser benéfica.
 - b) A amizade entre homens e mulheres leva ao adultério.
 - c) A amizade entre homens e mulheres deve ser estimulada.
 - d) A amizade entre homens e mulheres deve ser proibida.

5. Segundo o texto, em quais regiões a amizade entre homens e mulheres parece ser mais comum?
 - a) Caribe – África – América do Sul
 - b) Caribe – África – América do Norte
 - c) Alemanha – Egito – América do Sul
 - d) Alemanha – Egito – América do Norte

6. Os pronomes ‘they’ (l. 21), ‘whom’ (l. 28) e ‘their’ (l. 36) referem-se, respectivamente, a:
 - a) pesquisadores – plataforma – relações
 - b) pesquisadores – plataforma – pessoas
 - c) pesquisadores – pessoas – pessoas
 - d) pesquisadores – pessoas – relações

Número de inscrição:

Nota final (a ser preenchida pela banca):

CIRCULE A ALTERNATIVA CORRETA EM CADA QUESTÃO

1.	A	B	C	D
2.	A	B	C	D
3.	A	B	C	D
4.	A	B	C	D
5.	A	B	C	D
6.	A	B	C	D

ESCREVA ABAIXO AS RESPOSTAS DE CADA QUESTÃO DISSERTATIVA

7. A que se refere o acrônimo WHMSI sugerido pelo autor do artigo?

8. Em consonância com o que é dito no texto, qual o papel desempenhado por fatores tais como (i) a inserção da mulher no mercado de trabalho e (ii) a liberdade sexual dos indivíduos quando se trata do estabelecimento de vínculo de amizade entre homens e mulheres?

9. Explique a noção de ‘síndrome fraternal’ como proposta por Valerie Hudson e associadas.

10. Nas palavras de Nuray Karaman, a amizade entre homens e mulheres é pouco comum na Turquia. Qual parece ser o motivo para esse distanciamento?
