

LÍNGUA INGLESA – QUESTÕES DE 66 A 70

Foreign Language Learning in the United States

1 *It seems more and more Americans want schools to teach foreign*
2 *languages to children younger than five years old. The most popular way*
3 *to teach these young children another language is called immersion.*

4 *Children in immersion programs hear only the new language in the*
5 *classroom. The children play games, sing songs and talk to one another*
6 *in the new language. Some experts say immersion programs are the most*
7 *effective way for young children to learn a language.*

8 *But there can be a problem when children in the United States begin to*
9 *learn another language at such an early age. Not many elementary*
10 *schools continue the effort as the children get older.*

11 *Only seven of the fifty states require schools to teach a foreign*
12 *language to students between the ages of six and twelve. Language*
13 *experts say it is easier for younger children to learn a language. Still,*
14 *American schools generally do not begin to teach foreign languages until*
15 *secondary school. By then, students are about thirteen years old.*

16 *American schools face difficult choices about the cost of educational*
17 *programs. The federal government has increased support for foreign*
18 *language study in its education law called No Child Left Behind.*

19 *At the college level, the Modern Language Association says more*
20 *students than ever are studying foreign languages. The group recently*
21 *announced its findings for the period from nineteen-ninety-eight until two-*
22 *thousand-two. The number of students who studied foreign languages in*
23 *American colleges and universities increased by seventeen percent.*

24 *Spanish is the most widely taught language in American colleges and*
25 *universities. Other popular languages include French, German, Japanese,*
26 *Chinese and Italian. The Modern Language Association says more*
27 *languages are being studied now than in the past. It says the largest*
28 *growth since nineteen-ninety-eight has been in the study of American*
29 *Sign Language, Arabic and biblical Hebrew.*

30 *The association says about nine percent of college students in the*
31 *United States study foreign languages. That is the highest level since*
32 *nineteen-seventy-two.*

(Source: Steinbach, N. Education Report: Foreign Language Learning in the United States.
Disponível em: <http://www.voanews.com/SpecialEnglish/> Acesso: 19/06/04.)

66. According to the text, immersion programs are the most effective teaching method for young children, because:

- a) the government supports this program.
- b) the activities are done only in the new language.
- c) all schools offer this program.
- d) students prefer activities in the new language.
- e) a federal law says this is the best program.

67. According to the text, it is INCORRECT to say that:

- a) college level students of foreign languages have decreased in the USA.
- b) the study of American Sign Language has grown since 1998.
- c) immersion programs are a very popular way to teach foreign languages.
- d) Spanish is the favorite language among college students.
- e) the federal government has given support for foreign language study.

68. Decide if the following statements about problems young children have to continue studying foreign languages in the USA are TRUE or FALSE according to the text:

- I. Few elementary schools continue offering foreign language education for older children.
- II. Very few schools require the study of foreign language for children between 6 and 12 years old.
- III. American schools usually start to teach foreign languages before secondary school.

The CORRECT sequence is:

- a) T, F, F.
- b) F, F, T.
- c) T, T, F.
- d) F, T, T.
- e) T, F, T.

69. The words *its* (line 18) and *its* (line 21) refer, respectively, to:

- a) *education / findings.*
- b) *support / the group.*
- c) *the federal government / period.*
- d) *support / period.*
- e) *the federal government / the group.*

70. All of the alternatives below express an idea of comparison, EXCEPT:

- a) *older* (line 10).
- b) *younger children* (line 13).
- c) *easier* (line 13).
- d) *another language* (line 3).
- e) *more students* (lines 19-20).