2º Bachillerato. THE PASSIVE VOICE

1) Active to passive.
Put the transitive verbs into the passive. Do not mention the agent unless it seems necessary.

1.- The milkman brings the milk to my door but the postman leaves the letters in the hall.
2.- In future, perhaps, they won't bring letters to the houses, and we shall have to collect them from the Post Office.
3.- People steal things from supermarkets every day; someone stole twenty bottles of whisky from this one last week.
4.- Normally men sweep this street every day, but nobody swept it last week.
5.- The postman clears this box three times a day. He last cleared it at 2.30.
6.- Someone turned on a light in the hall and opened the door.
7.- Women clean this office in the evening after the staff have left; they clean the upstairs offices between seven and eight in the morning.
8.- We never saw him in the dining-room. A maid took all his meals up to him.
9.- Someone left this purse in a classroom yesterday; the cleaner found it.
10.- We build well over 1,000 new houses a year. Last year we built 1,500.
11.- We serve hot meals till 10.30, and guests can order coffee and sandwiches up to 11.30.
12.- Passengers leave all sorts of things in buses. The conductors collect them and send them to the Lost Property Office.
13.- An ambulance took the sick man to hospital. (Mention ambulance.)
14.- We kill and injure people on the roads every day. Can't we do something about this?
15.- Dogs guard the warehouse. The other day a thief tried to get in and a dog saw him and chased him. (A thief who...)
16.- The watchman called the police. The police arrested the man.
17.- Tom had only a slight injury and they helped him off the field; but Jack was seriously injured and they carried him off on a stretcher. (Tom, who had..., but Jack, who was...)
18.- You can't wash this dress; you must dry-clean it.
19.- They are demolishing the entire block.
20.- He recommends fitting new tyres. (Use should)
21.- He suggested allowing council tenants to buy their houses.
22.- Men with slide rules used to do these calculations; now a computer does them.
23.- The court tried the man, found him guilty and sent him to prison.
24.- The hall porter polishes the knockers of all the flats every day. -Well, he hasn't polished mine for a week.
25.- They are repairing my piano at the moment.
26.- Passengers shouldn't throw away their tickets as inspectors may check these during the journey.
27.- They invited Jack, but they didn't invite Tom.
28.- The guests ate all the sandwiches and drank all the beer. They left nothing.
29.- Has someone posted my parcel?
30.- Why did no one inform me of the change of plan?
31.- Tom Smith wrote the book and Brown Co. published it.
32.- We shall have to tow the car to the garage.
33.- I'm afraid we have sold all our copies but we have ordered more.
34.- We will prosecute trespassers.
35.- Someone stole my car and abandoned it fifteen miles away. He had removed the radio but done no other damage.
36.- You must keep dogs on leads in the gardens.

2) Active to passive
Put the transitive verbs into the passive voice. Do not mention the agent unless it seems necessary.

1.- They haven't stamped the letter.
2.- They didn't pay me for the work; they expected me to do it for nothing.
3.- He escaped when they were moving him from one prison to another.
4.- She didn't introduce me to her mother.
5.- A frightful crash wakened me at 4 a.m.
6.- When they have widened this street the roar of the traffic will keep residents awake all night.
7.- They threw away the rubbish.
8.- A Japanese firm makes these television sets.
9.- An earthquake destroyed the town.
10.- A machine could do this much more easily.
11.- Visitors must leave umbrellas and sticks in the cloakroom.
12.- We ask tenants not to play their radios loudly after midnight.
13.- We can't repair your clock.
14.- We cannot exchange articles which customers have bought during the sale. (Articles...)
15.- We have to pick the fruit very early in the morning; otherwise we can't get it to the market in time.
16.- The police shouldn't allow people to park here.
17.- They are watching my house.
18.- The examiner will read the passage three times.
19.- Candidates may not use dictionaries.
20.- You need not type this letter.
21.- This used to be number 13, but now I see that someone has crossed out '13' and written '12A' underneath.
22.- You mustn't move this man; he is too ill. You'll have to leave him here.
23.- They searched his house and found a number of stolen articles.
24.- Nobody has used this room for ages.
25.- They took him for a Frenchman, his French was so good.
26.- You should have taken those books back to the library.
27.- They brought the children up in Italy.
28.- They have taken down the For Sale notice, so I suppose they have sold the house.
29.- Someone broke into his house and stole a lot of his things.
30.- We have warned you.
31.- A lorry knocked him down.
32.- They returned my keys to me; someone had picked them up in the street.
33.- We had to give the books back; they did not allow us to take them home.
34.- You shouldn't leave these documents on the desk. You should lock them up.
35.- They handed round coffee and biscuits.
36.- They have tried other people's schemes. Why have they never tried my scheme?

3) Active to passive: verbs with two objects.

1.- People have given George a lot of presents for his birthday. 2.- Someone has told me told me that story before.
3.- Someone paid him £50 for that awful lecture.
4.- They have asked us that question many times.
5.- They taught Jane's daughter Latin when she was only six years old.
6.- They offered that writer the Nobel Prize.
7.- They didn't offer Clara any money for her painting.
8.- No one has given me an answer.

9.- They didn't pay miners good wages in those days.
10.- They didn't teach children that kind of mathematics when I was young.
11.- People won't ask you that question.
12.- No one will tell us the answer until tomorrow.
13.- Will they give us enough food?
14.- Have they told you how to do it?
15.- Did anyone tell you where to go?
16.- Did anyone offer the plumber a cup of tea?
17.- Did they ask the minister about that?
18.- Did anyone pay the workers their wages last week?

6) Active to passive: IT as an anticipatory subject.
1.- Someone suggested that taxes should be reduced.
2.- In the fifteenth century people did not know that the earth revolved around the sun.
3.- As this is an advanced course, we will assume that you have read the basic texts.
4.- People do not think that prices will go down.
5.- There was a report this morning that a new oil-field had been discovered in the south of the country.
6.- People do not feel that the policy should be changed. 7.- They found that people disapproved of the Government's decision.
8.- People will assume that there has been a cover-up.
9.- There were hopes that the plan would succeed, but they agreed that there were many problems.
10.- We emphasise that the rules must be obeyed.

4) Active to passive: phrasal verbs.
In this exercise most of the sentences contain a verb + preposition /adverb combination. The preposition or adverb must be retained when the combination is put into the passive. In most of the sentences it is not necessary to mention the agent.
1.- The Government has called out troops.
2.- Fog held up the trains (agent required) 3.- You are to leave this here. Someone will call for it later on.
4.- We called in the police.
5.- They didn't look after the children properly.
6.- They are flying in reinforcements.
7.- They called up men of 28.
8.- Everyone looked up to him. (agent required)
9.- All the ministers will see him off at the airport. (agent required)
10.-He hasn't slept in his bed.
11.- We can build on more rooms.
12.- They threw him out.
13.- They will have to adopt a different attitude.
14.- He's a very dangerous maniac. They ought to lock him up.
15.- Her story didn't take them in. (agent required)
16.- Burglars broke into the house.
17.- The manufacturers are giving away small plastic toys with each packet of cereal.
18.- They took down the notice.
19.- They frown on smoking here.
20.- After the government had spent a million pounds on the scheme they decided that it was impracticable and gave it up. (Make only the first and last verbs passive.)
21.- When I returned I found that they had towed my car away. I asked why they had done this and they told me that it was because I had parked it under a No Parking sign. (four passives)
22.- People must hand in their weapons.
23.- The crowd shouted him down.
24.- People often take him for his brother.
25.- No one has taken out the cork.
26.- The film company were to have used the pool for aquatic displays, but now they have changed their minds about it and are filling it in. (Make the first and last verbs passive.)
27.- This college is already full. We are turning away student the whole time.
28.- You will have to pull down this skyscraper as you have not complied with the town planning regulations.

5) Active to passive with changes of construction. Some of the following sentences when put into the passive require or can have a change of construction.
1.- *believe, claim, consider, find, know, say, suppose and think* when used in the passive can be followed by an infinitive:
They say he is a spy = He is said to be a spy.
They say he was a spy = He is said to have been a spy. It is said that he is/was ... is also possible.
2.- Subject + be supposed + infinitive often conveys an idea of duty, particularly when the subject is you:
It is your duty to obey him = You are supposed to obey him.
3.- Infinitives after passive verbs are normally full infinitives.
4.- Note the use of have + object + past participle:
Get someone to mend it = Have it mended.
5.- Note the use of should in the passive.

1.- We added up the money and found that it was correct.
2.- I'm employing a man to tile the bathroom.
3.-Someone seems to have made a terrible mistake.
4.- It is your duty to make tea at eleven o'clock. (Use suppose.)
5.- People know that he is armed.
6.- Someone saw him pick up the gun.
7.- We know that you were in town on the night of the crime.
8.- We believe that he has special knowledge which may be useful to the police. (one passive)
9.- You needn't have done this.
10.- It's a little too loose; you had better ask your tailor to take it in. (one passive)
11.- He likes people to call him 'sir'.
12.- Don't touch this switch.
13.- You will have to get someone to see to it.
14.- It is impossible to do this. (Use can.)
15.- Someone is following us.
16.- They used to make little boys climb the chimneys to clean them. (one passive)
17.- You have to see it to believe it. (two passives)
18.- You order me about and I'm tired of it. (I am tired of...) 19.- He doesn't like people laughing at him.
20.- You don't need to wind this watch.
21.- They shouldn't have told him.
22.- They decided to divide the money between the widows of the lifeboatmen. (They decided that the money...)
23.- People believed that he was killed by terrorists.
24.- They are to send letters to the leaders of charitable organizations.
25.- We consider that she was the best singer that Australia has ever produced. (one passive)
26.- We don't allow smoking.
27.- We know that the expedition reached the South Pole in May.
28.- Before they invented printing people had to write everything by hand.
29.- They urged the government to create more jobs. (two ways)
30.- They suggested banning the sale of alcohol at football matches.