MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2009 question paper

for the guidance of teachers

8685 SPANISH LANGUAGE

8685/01 Paper 1 (Speaking), maximum raw mark 100

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes must be read in conjunction with the question papers and the report on the examination.

COMPONENT 1: Speaking

Section 1: Presentation

The presentation will be marked out of 20 marks: Content/Presentation 10; Pronunciation/Intonation 5; Language 5.

Candidates who make no reference to the contemporary society or cultural heritage of a country where the language is spoken will have their mark for content/presentation halved.

Content/Presentation Knowledge of facts; ability to express opinions and raise issues for discussion.		Pronunciation/Intonation		Language
9/10	Full and well organised coverage of the topic; ideas and opinions included as well as factual points; lively presentation; Examiner's interest sustained.	5	Outstanding pronunciation and intonation; an occasional slight mistake or hesitation. Not necessarily a native speaker.	5	Has a very good feeling for the language; speaks fluently and accurately; shows good use of relevant idiom and uses a wide range of structures and vocabulary.
7/8	Good exposition and sound organisation of the topic; makes relevant factual points though may be less good in ideas and opinions; presentation somewhat stilted though keeps Examiner's interest.	4	Good pronunciation, makes a fair attempt at correct intonation and expression; some mistakes and/or hesitation.	4	Speaks fairly fluently and accurately; uses idiom with a reasonable range of structures and vocabulary.
5/6	Adequate exposition of the topic; few ideas or opinions; evidence of preparation but presentation pedestrian.	3	A fair degree of accuracy in pronunciation; quite a number of errors; some attempt at intonation and expression.	3	May speak with hesitation; adequate range of structures and vocabulary; no ambiguity of meaning.
3/4	Material thin; rambling, repetitious; hardly any ideas or opinions; in danger of losing the Examiner's interest.	2	Intelligible but shows marked influence of mother tongue and very many errors of pronunciation.	2	Marked hesitation; limited range of structures and vocabulary; leading to some ambiguity of meaning.
0/1/2	Very little factual information; material irrelevant; vague, arguments incoherent; little effort at presentation.	0/1	Very poor; many gross errors; frequently incomprehensible.	0/1	Very marked hesitation; severe limitations of structures and vocabulary; thought processes basically influenced by mother tongue.

Section 2: Topic Conversation and Section 3: General Conversation

Examiners will mark out of 40 for each part: Comprehension and Responsiveness (10 marks), Accuracy (10 marks), Feel for the Language (10 marks), Range of Vocabulary and Structures (total out of 10, divided between Providing Information and Opinions and Seeking Information and Opinions – see below).

Comprehension & Responsiveness	Accuracy	Feel for the Language
9–10 Very good No problems of comprehension. Prompt response to Examiner's questions. Very forthcoming in developing topics: able to guide the discussion, offering/seeking opinions as appropriate.	**9–10 Very good** Consistently accurate. Only occasional minor slips.	**9–10 Very good** Has a very good feeling for the language and is able to express concepts fluently in appropriate idiom. Negligible influence from the mother tongue.
7–8 Good Few problems of comprehension. Responds readily and without undue hesitation. Reasonably forthcoming but tends to follow Examiner's lead.	**7–8 Good** Accuracy generally good, with more frequent errors than in the very best candidates. Shows a sound basic understanding of grammatical usage.	**7–8 Good** Has a very good feeling for the language. Shows competent use of relevant idiom. Avoids significant influence from mother tongue.
5–6 Satisfactory Understands questions on basic situations and concepts, but has difficulty with more complicated ideas. Some delay in response. Needs encouragement to develop topics.	**5–6 Satisfactory** Accuracy indicates a measure of competence but with some obvious and significant gaps in grammatical usage.	**5–6 Satisfactory** Feeling for the language evident with some occasional use of relevant idiom. Thought processes and expression are influenced by mother tongue.
3–4 Weak Has general difficulty in understanding. Limited response to questions on the majority of topics raised.	**3–4 Weak** Generally inaccurate use of the language.	**3–4 Weak** Has scant feeling for the idiom. Generally translates literally from the mother tongue.
0–2 Poor Severe problems of comprehension. Very marked hesitation. Limited responsiveness.	**0–2 Poor** No grasp of grammatical accuracy. Errors constant and repeated.	**0–2 Poor** Has no feeling for the target language.

Range of Vocabulary and Structures

Providing Information and Opinions	Seeking Information and Opinions*
5 Very good Extensive range of appropriate vocabulary. Able to use a wide range of structures with confidence.	**5 Very good** More than one question asked with confidence. Spontaneous or prompted, but arising out of conversation and relevant to topic under discussion. High level of accuracy, using a range of question forms.
4 Good Has sufficient range of vocabulary and structures to handle reasonably mature subjects.	**4 Good** Asks more than one question confidently. Spontaneous or prompted, but arising out of conversation and relevant to topic under discussion. Questions largely accurate, but forms may be limited.
3 Satisfactory Limited expression of ideas (but not ambiguity) caused by limitations in range of vocabulary and some structures.	**3 Satisfactory** Capable of asking a minimum of one question. Spontaneous or prompted, but arising out of conversation and relevant to topic under discussion. Has difficulty in formulating questions, but questions comprehensible.
2 Weak Severe limitations of vocabulary and structures restrict discussion to a very basic level.	**2 Weak** Severe limitations in asking questions – possibly one question only. Question(s) will probably not arise naturally or be relevant to the topic under discussion. Question(s) difficult to understand.
0–1 Poor Very restricted vocabulary. Only simple sentences and no variety of structure.	**0–1 Poor** Questions attempted, but incomprehensible. (1) No questions, even when prompted. (0)

* In the case of candidates who do not ask any questions by the end of the Topic Conversation, Examiners must prompt by asking *Do you have any questions to ask of me?* in the appropriate language. The same prompt should be used at the end of the General Conversation. Candidates will not be penalised for being prompted in this way.