

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

International GCSE Spanish (4SP0)
Paper 01

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Examiner Report

General comments

The 2012 paper proved to be accessible to all candidates and clearly tested their knowledge and understanding of spoken Spanish. It was evident that candidates had been well prepared and had practiced in preparation for the examination.

All questions set were answered as predicted and in particular, in the final section, (questions 11 - 15 which targeted grade A - A*) only the highest performing candidates demonstrated a full and clear understanding of the more extended extracts of language heard.

Section A

Questions 1 to 5

There were only a few candidates who did not achieve full marks in questions 1-5.

Question 6

Q6 (a) mostly successful.

Q6 (b) the spelling of the word 'cumpleaños' proved to be problematic. However, all recognisable spellings of this word were credited with a mark.

Q6 (c) a few candidates thought incorrectly that the answer was 'today'.

Q6 (d) a few candidates wrote 'después de las clases' rather than the actual time.

Q6 (e) mostly successful.

Question 7

Most candidates responded well to this question demonstrating their ability to follow slightly longer extracts of dialogue which contain some unfamiliar items relating to jobs that people want to do in the future.

Section B

Question 8

This was well attempted by most candidates with the greater majority scoring the one mark available for this question.

Question 9

Most candidates scored the one mark available for this question.

Question 10

A number of candidates missed the link between 'Estados Unidos' and 'americano' and were therefore unsuccessful.

Question 11

Most candidates correctly identified at least one of the key points, 'motivación' was well recognised. As always, short answers were acceptable rather than full sentences.

Question 12

Many candidates did not recognize the number 157. It is important for candidates to revise numbers in advance of this exam.

Question 13

Better candidates were able to work out the answers correctly. Whilst near wrong spellings were accepted, answers given for example, 'trenador' or 'trainador' were considered to be too far from correct to be accepted.

Question 14

This question discriminated well between candidates. Higher achievers were able to work out the answers correctly. 'Juegos Olímpicos' was well recognised. However 'demostrar que pueden ser los mejores' confused some.

Question 15

As anticipated only the very high end of the entry scored the full marks available for these questions.

In these questions candidates had to be able to understand significant detail from a longer extract of dialogue which contained unfamiliar language. They also had to demonstrate their ability to make the links with the questions and the gist of the dialogue to produce the correct answer.

Q15(a) There was quite a range of possible correct answers. Many candidates correctly noted 'hay muchos coches' but failed to provide the required second piece of information 'prohibir la entrada de coches' or 'una zona peatonal'.

Candidates who tried to spell 'embotellamiento' usually got it wrong though the mark scheme tolerated minor errors in that respect.

15(b) Few candidates answered this question correctly. There was some evidence of guesswork, in particular where candidates imposed their own general knowledge about shop opening hours. For the required second piece of information 'horario flexible' many candidates struggled producing incorrect answers such as 'radio flexible' 'orario reflexivo'.

15(c) Most candidates identified 'más luces' or 'iluminación' but many failed to recognise the required second piece of information 'no se sienten seguras'.

Conclusion

Overall outcomes in the examination of this unit were very pleasing.

Where there are any questions or concerns, centres are advised to refer the main GCSE Spanish webpage at www.edexcel.com Additional details and support specific to Spanish are available in the International GCSE Spanish section, International GCSE from 2009. In particular, the teacher support section contains a wealth of useful information.

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