OCR ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY GCE
IN SPANISH (3863)

OCR ADVANCED GCE
IN SPANISH (7863)

Teacher Support: Speaking Cassette Commentary

This Teacher Support booklet is designed to accompany the OCR Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced GCE Spanish specifications teaching from September 2000.

Contents

Spanish: Unit 2671
Speaking Cassette Commentary

1 Role-plays

All Role Plays use Stimulus A: Woburn Abbey.

1.1 Candidate 1: Matthew

1A Response to written text

The candidate has included most of the essential information with some minor omissions. He shows reasonable confidence and overall the performance is Good.

4/5

1B Response to Examiner

Performance is a little uneven: the introductory questions are asked, but rather mechanically and he responds reasonably well to the factual exchange of information. He is less secure on the development of the facts and in giving a personal dimension. There is some hesitation or lack of comprehension in places. Overall the candidate is placed in the Good category, just on the border of a 4.

4/5

1C Quality of Language

Again, a little uneven. He has sufficient vocabulary to convey the message and copes quite well with essential grammar. There is some reluctance to use higher-level structures and more complex sentences. Adequate without being extended. Not quite a 4, perhaps.

3+/5

Total: 11-12/15

1.2 Candidate 2

The candidate enters the spirit of this part of the test and his performance overall is encouraging.

1A   Response to written text

The introductory questions are intelligently phrased and the candidate includes a large proportion of the factual material spontaneously. The teacher/examiner prompts him to fill some of the gaps. With a final push he just gets in the Very Good category.

5/5

1B   Response to Examiner

A good effort. The candidate maintains the momentum and is forthcoming in his answers. He manages, for the most part successfully, to respond to questions with sufficient detail. He remains unfazed by the examiner's superfluous "¿de qué época?". Minor hesitations or slips in comprehension perhaps just keep him at the top of Good.

4/5

1C   Quality of Language

Overall the candidate has sufficient grasp of language to make points without ambiguity. He is confident in his sentence structure, though there are slips of accuracy, and vocabulary is sound, apart from the essential *pictures* and *antiques*.

4/5

Total: 13/15

1.3   Candidate 3:   Susie

1A   Response to written text

The candidate starts promisingly enough with her own wordings for the introductory questions. She manages to include basic information but omits a number of points of detail. She does respond well, however, to the personal interpretation of the information at the end. Lack of essential detail, however, limits her overall to Adequate/Good.

3/5

1B   Response to Examiner

She is rather uneven, as though she is concentrating on being correct at the expense of fluency. She is able to respond in some way to most or all of the questions but not sufficiently supported by detail. She is quite good at thinking on her feet. She remains in the Good category. Not quite a 4.

3-4/5

1C   Quality of Language

This seems to be her strong point. She produces a variety of higher-level structures, tenses, conditionals. Accuracy is good - minor slips only. Perhaps Very Good.

5/5

Total: 11/15

2 Topic Discussions

2.1 Candidate 1: Matthew

The candidate takes *La Inmigración* as his topic. A problem for the assessment is that he is either not allowed to complete a full presentation, or perhaps he showed signs of running dry. For the purpose of this sample, however, the content mark (1D) has been extrapolated from his answers.

1D   Topic Presentation

The candidate showed some evidence of preparation of general facts and the material was related to the Hispanic context. The information is relevant overall, but is rather generalised and short of real data, facts and analysis. This becomes clear when he is pressed for clarification in the discussion. There are perhaps the beginnings of some personal ideas, but overall the treatment of the topic is disappointing. The lack of an adequate introductory exposition, coupled with the somewhat pedestrian factual knowledge shown, limits the candidate's mark. Borderline Adequate category?

9/20

1E   Spontaneity and Fluency

Again, a middling performance. He responds adequately to some general points but does find some difficulty even with essential information. He is markedly hesitant in non-factual contexts. Creeps into the Adequate category overall.

8/15

1F   Pronunciation and Intonation

He is good overall; occasional minor slips but a creditable standard.

4/5

1C   Quality of Language

He shows a reasonable grasp of essential language. Overall, a little uneven and lacking in evidence of higher-level structures. Verbs are mainly present tense and there are some slips in essential accuracy. Adequate overall.

3/5

Total: 24/45

2.2   Candidate 2

Disappointing. The candidate chooses football: it is not clear at the outset whether he is going to relate this to the Hispanic context. It becomes quite apparent, however, that this is a general topic.

1D   Topic Presentation

The candidate is clearly not prepared to give a presentation. The teacher/examiner encourages him to keep trying by using supportive questions but the topic is really a non-starter. A couple of coincidental points only. He remains firmly in the Very Poor category.

2/20

1E   Spontaneity and Fluency

The candidate struggles to have anything really relevant to say. It is all anecdotal and largely irrelevant. He does try to bring in violence in football but cannot really cope even with factual questions. Perhaps the final giveaway is his "no me interesa mucho"! Very Poor.

3/15

1F   Pronunciation and Intonation

Adequate to good. Individual sounds are reasonable, but lack of spontaneous utterance limits intonation and phrasing.

4/5

1C   Quality of Language

Because the candidate has so little to say, the language is necessarily limited. He starts promisingly with a *Cuando era pequeño…* but the range, accuracy and idiom do not establish themselves adequately. He is struggling within the Poor category.

2/5

Total: 11/45

2.3 Candidate 3: Susie

She chooses *los jóvenes y el alcohol* as her topic. Will she relate this to Spain? Ultimately this is a good example of a linguistically-promising candidate who was let down by insufficient preparation and attention to the specific requirements of the specifications.

1D Topic Presentation

She speaks without interruption for the time allowed. Her presentation is informative, well-paced and rounded. She includes factual information and hooks for the discussion of ideas. However, she does not treat the subject as within the Hispanic context – the teacher/examiner attempts to clarify whether this is the case with some direct questioning on Spain later. Unfortunately, however, the candidate, for all the positive qualities shown, has by definition to be outside the Adequate category. She has self-limited to a charitable Poor.

Maximum 6 ? /20

1E Spontaneity and Fluency

Within the limitations of her approach to the topic she is reasonably forthcoming in the actual discussion. She replies intelligently and with a good degree of confidence. She possibly attains the Good category.

11/15

1F Pronunciation and Intonation

Nice sounds, reasonable intonation. Awareness of authentic delivery. Very good.

5/5

1C Quality of Language

This candidate clearly has a good grasp of the language. She attempts to use a range of idiom and is adventurous and resourceful linguistically. She is clearly trying to be accurate – there are some slips – but overall she is ambitious, almost but perhaps not consistently Very Good.

4/5

Total: 26/45