Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Introduction

This is the first year of the new specification. Previously Portuguese was assessed with OCR.

Questions are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organized into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics. The five themes are: Identity and culture, Local area, Holiday and travel, School, Future aspirations, Study and work and International and global dimension.

Each question is set in a context drawn from the themes and topics. The assessment tasks feature general content that is familiar and accessible to all candidates. Candidates are required to produce responses of varying lengths and types to express facts, ideas and opinions in Portuguese. The length of each response required and complexity of language increases across the paper. Recommended word counts are specified for each question. Candidates will not be penalised for writing more or fewer words than recommended in the word count or for going beyond the mandatory bullet points. All questions are marked against the assessment criteria as published in the current specification. The instructions to candidates are all in Portuguese. The use of dictionaries is not permitted.

The assessment time for paper 4H is 1 hour and 20 minutes in length and it carries 60 marks. The paper consists of two questions and one translation from English into Spanish. Candidates must answer all questions.

Question 1 has two options from candidates have to select one. This question assesses candidates on their ability to convey information, narrate, express opinions, interest, and convince the reader about a certain point. Candidates should use the informal register. This question is common to the Foundation tier.

Question 2 has two options from which candidates have to select one. This question assesses candidates on their ability to convey information, narrate, express and justify ideas and opinions, and interest or convince the reader. Candidates must use the formal register.

Question 3 is the translation question. Candidates are required to translate a short paragraph from English to Portuguese. The individual sentences are ordered by increasing level of difficulty.

Question 1 (a)
Q1(a) required candidates to write an email to a friend about different aspects of the region. They had to address the 4 bullet points and produce between 80-90 words in Portuguese.

A minha região

1 (a) O João, um amigo português, está a pensar mudar-se para a sua região e precisa de informações.

Escreva um e-mail informal ao João.

Deve incluir os pontos seguintes:

- como é que esteve o tempo na semana passada

- atividades para os jovens

- por que é que gosta de viver na sua região

- o que fará com ele, caso ele se mude para a sua região.

Escreva aproximadamente 80–90 palavras **em português**.

Question 1 (b)
Q1(b) required candidates to write an informal blog post about their idols. They had to address the 4 bullet points and produce between 80-90 words in Portuguese.

Pessoas famosas

(b) Um blogue português quer saber a opinião dos jovens sobre os seus ídolos.

Escreva um *post* informal em que dê a sua opinião.

Deve incluir os seguintes pontos:

- quem é o seu ídolo e o que faz

- o que fez para ficar famoso/a

- por que é que o/a admira

- o que fará se o/a encontrar no futuro.

Escreva aproximadamente 80–90 palavras **em português**.

A majority of the candidates wrote more than 90 words in Portuguese. All words written by the candidates are considered and assessed even though the responses were longer than the recommended word count.
This response scores 12 marks for Communication and Content. The majority of candidates have written information relevant to all 4 bullet points. Some candidates expanded the key points and ideas. There was some variety of language with some examples of creative, uncommon language. The register and style were appropriate for the vast majority of candidates.

This response scores 8 marks for Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy. The candidates who scored 6 or more marks produced frequently extended sentences, which were well-linked together using *porque, já que, visto que*. The language is generally accurate and included successful references to past, present and future events.

On the other hand, candidates who scored up to 5 marks for Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy, produced sentences which were less complex and sometimes very simple with repetition of the same vocabulary and overuse of topic related vocabulary. The language was somewhat accurate as there were several interferences with Spanish and even English or overuse of the approximate spoken form of the words. Whilst some references to past, present and future were attempted, in many cases only one was successful due to spelling mistakes. Occasionally errors occur that hinder clarity of communication due to some confusion between the 1st person singular and the 3rd person singular.

Question 2 (a)
Q2(a) required candidates to write an opinion article on young people and their relationship with television. They had to address the 4 bullet points and candidates had to justify their ideas and opinions. They had to produce between 130-150 words in Portuguese.

Os jovens e a televisão

2 (a) Uma revista brasileira quer recolher opiniões dos jovens sobre a sua relação com a televisão. Escreva um artigo de opinião formal em que apresente as suas ideias.

Deve incluir os pontos seguintes:

- o uso que fez da televisão recentemente
- que conselhos dá a outros jovens sobre este tema
- o impacto que as redes sociais têm na televisão
- como será a televisão no futuro.

Deve justificar as suas ideias e opiniões.

Escreva aproximadamente 130–150 palavras **em português**.

Q2(b) required candidates to write a formal article on school exchanges. They had to address the 4 bullet points and candidates had to justify their ideas and opinions. They had to produce between 130-150 words in Portuguese.

(b) Está a participar num intercâmbio escolar com alunos do Brasil. Escreva um artigo formal para a revista da sua escola para motivar outros alunos a participarem neste projeto.

Deve incluir os pontos seguintes:

- a sua opinião sobre os intercâmbios

- as atividades em que participa

- o que achou do povo brasileiro no dia em que chegou

- os benefícios que este intercâmbio poderá trazer aos futuros alunos.

Deve justificar as suas ideias e opiniões.

Escreva aproximadamente 130–150 palavras **em português**.

A high number of candidates wrote more than 150 words in Portuguese. All words written by the candidates are considered and assessed even though the response is considerably longer than the recommended word count.

There is a total of 16 marks for Communication and Content.

Student who scored more than 12 marks have effectively developed their points and justified their ideas. They have adapted the language they have used to narrate, inform, interest and convince the reader of their ideas and points of view. There is a wide variety of vocabulary and expression with frequent examples of uncommon language. The register and style were appropriate although there wasn't always a clear awareness of the need for writing in the formal register.

Candidates who scored in between 8 to 11 marks wrote detailed information relevant to all 4 bullet points. They have mostly effectively developed their points and justified their ideas. They have adapted the language they have used to narrate, inform, interest and convince the reader of their ideas and points of view quite well. There is a variety of vocabulary and expression with frequent examples of uncommon language. The register and style were appropriate.

Candidates who scored in between 4 to 7 marks have at times written detailed information relevant to all 4 bullet points, however in other instances some bullet points have lapses in communication. They have developed a limited number of points with more facts and straightforward opinions, which they fail to justify in length. The register and style are somewhat appropriate.

Candidates who scored in between 0 to 3 marks have either not attempted to answer this response or they have partially responded to either one or two bullet points with limited amount of information, thus huge lapses in communication.

There is a total of 12 marks for Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy.

Candidates who scored more than 10 marks wrote fluent responses with extended, well-linked sentences using a wide variety of structures. The overall impression of the response is a use of consistently accurate language, including

consistently successful references to past, present and future events. Some answers were not completely faultless. However, those mistakes did not hinder the clarity of communication as they were balanced against the rich, wide ranging vocabulary and structures that the candidates used.

Candidates who scored in between 7 to 9 marks wrote predominantly fluent responses with extended, well-linked sentences using a variety of structures. The language is mostly accurate and includes mostly successful references to past, present and future events. Errors occur but they rarely hinder the clarity of the communication.

Candidates who scored in between 4 to 6 marks exhibited a repetitive use of simple grammatical structures as well as simple language. There are some prolonged sequences of writing with some extended linked sentences, mostly using porque. The language ranges from generally accurate to somewhat accurate with either one or two successful references to past, present and future events. Errors occur that occasionally or completely hinder the clarity of the communication.

Candidates who scored in between 0 to 3 marks, either have not attempted to provide an answer or they have exhibited a repetition of simple sentences, with repetitive vocabulary and simple structures. Errors occurred that hindered the clarity of the communication or there were huge interferences with other languages, such as Spanish and English. In some instances, the candidates attempted to make references to past, present and future events and have been only successful in one of them on one or two occasions.

Question 3
Q3 required candidates to translate a short passage of 4 sentences from English to Portuguese. The passage was based around the topic of ambitions.

> 3 Traduza o seguinte parágrafo **para português.**
>
> Every year I work as a volunteer for the local market where I sell books and also read a lot. So I decided that I want to write professionally. I would like to meet my favourite writer, who is Brazilian. With luck, one day I will be as famous as him.

Candidates who scored more than 11 marks fully communicated the meaning of the passage. They used consistently accurate language and structures. Any errors are minor and do not hinder the clarity of the communication.

Candidates who scored in between 7 to 10 marks mostly communicated the meaning of the passage. The student has used mostly accurate language and structures. Errors occur that occasionally hinder clarity and in rare instances prevent the meaning being conveyed.

Candidates who scored in between 3 to 6 marks partially communicated the meaning of the passage. They omitted some words and phrases or incorrectly communicated. The student used accurate language and structures in some phrases and sentences, but some errors prevented meaning being conveyed.

Candidates who scored in between 0 to 2 marks, either did not attempt to answer the question at all or just translated a few sections thus the meaning of the passage was not communicated, the majority of the words and phrases were omitted or incorrectly communicated. The candidates used inaccurate language and structures in the majority of phrases and sentences and the errors prevented meaning being conveyed.