

GCSE 2004

June Series



Mark Scheme

Spanish A (Full Course)

(Writing)

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

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WRITING TESTS - FOUNDATION AND HIGHER TIERS**PART ONE****Principles of Marking**

- All marking is to be done in accordance with the published Criteria for Assessment.
- The stress is on effective communication. Credit should be given for the language successfully conveying the target message without ambiguity.
- There is no need to count the number of words used to answer each question. The sole criterion is completion of the tasks set.

MARK ALLOCATION

Foundation	Communication	Quality of Language	Total
List	2		2
Message	12	8	20
Letter	8	12	20
Total	22	20	42

Higher	Communication	Quality of Language	Total
Letter	8	12	20
Question 2	8	12	20
Total	16	24	40

FOUNDATION TIER QUESTION 1 - List Question

This question will be assessed for Communication only.

Marks	Degree of Communication
1	1 - 2 words correct, without ambiguity.
2	3 - 4 words correct, without ambiguity.

Maximum mark - 2

QUESTION 2 - Message Question

This question will consist of six tasks and will be assessed for Degree of Communication and Quality of Language.

DEGREE OF COMMUNICATION

For each of the six tasks, the following criteria will be used.

Marks	Degree of Communication
0	Required message not communicated.
1	Comprehension difficult or ambiguous. Some relevant information conveyed.
2	Required message conveyed without ambiguity even if not totally correct.
6 x 2 = 12 marks	

QUALITY OF LANGUAGE

A global mark out of 8 will be awarded. The mark awarded for Communication will determine the mark range available for Quality of Language according to the following criteria.

Marks awarded for Communication	Marks available for Quality of Language	Quality of Language
0 - 1	0	Inaccuracy is almost always a barrier to communication.
2 - 4	1 - 2	Some of the messages are intelligible but the frequency of serious error makes communication difficult.
5 - 6	3 - 4	Several of the messages are intelligible, despite frequent error which creates ambiguity and requires effort from the reader.
7 - 8	5 - 6	Errors occur regularly but most intended messages can be understood, with hesitation but without undue difficulty.
9 - 12	7 - 8	Despite various errors, the piece is more accurate than inaccurate; intended meanings are usually clear.

Maximum mark 12 + 8 = 20

QUESTION 3 - Letter Question

This question will consist of eight tasks and will be assessed for Degree of Communication, Range/Complexity and Accuracy, giving a maximum mark of 20.

DEGREE OF COMMUNICATION

- The assessment of Communication depends upon recognising an attempt to write something about the task.
- You should not take into account the quality of the language used, unless it interferes so much that communication would not take place.
- Candidates will be expected to go beyond the minimum level of response in order to score at least 3 marks. This means that the candidate will have added an additional detail (hereafter called a **Development**), which goes beyond the minimum required by the task.
- For a Development to be accepted, the quality of language should be the same as that which is required for a Communication task.
- Developments cannot be credited for a task which has been rejected.
- There can be only **one** Development per task in this question.

Tasks to Marks - Degree of Communication

Tasks	Marks	Requirement	Degree of Communication
0	0		Nothing of merit; fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.
1	1		Communicates <i>a little</i> basic information (e.g. simple facts).
2 – 8 (0 Dev)	2		
3 - 8 (1 Dev)	3		<i>Some</i> basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (e.g. description, simple opinion).
3 - 8 (2 Dev)	4		
5 - 8 (3 Dev)	5	Must include an opinion, if not, revert to 4 marks	Communicates clearly <i>quite a lot</i> of relevant information, including personal opinions; regularly goes beyond a basic response to give more detailed information relating to descriptions and accounts.
5 - 8 (4 Dev)	6	Must include an opinion, if not, revert to 4 marks	
7 - 8 (5 Dev)	7	Must include justification of an opinion, if not, revert to 6 marks	Communicates <i>a lot</i> of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.
7 - 8 (6 Dev)	8	Must include justification of an opinion, if not, revert to 6 marks	

QUALITY OF LANGUAGE

- Marks will be awarded out of 6 for each of Range/Complexity and Accuracy. The marks will be added to make a total out of 12 for Quality of Language.
- The mark awarded under Range/Complexity must not be more than **one mark** higher than the mark awarded for Degree of Communication.
- The mark awarded under Accuracy must not be more than **one mark** higher than the mark awarded for Degree of Communication.
- If a mark is awarded for Communication this will inevitably lead to the award of a mark for Range/Complexity and for Accuracy.
- For the award of 4 marks or more under Range/Complexity there must be at least one reference to each of past, present and future events.

Range / Complexity	Marks	Accuracy
Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	0	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may contain many cognates.	1	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors.
Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic needs of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	2	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
Vocabulary and structures are appropriate to the task with a little attempt at variety and there is some successful attempt to link structures together.	3	There are some major errors and frequent minor ones. Attempts at verb forms and tense formations are often unsuccessful.
There is some variety in the use of vocabulary and some successful attempts at a variety of structures including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words. Some personal opinions are successfully expressed. There are successful attempts at using more than one time frame.	4	There are a number of minor errors and a few major ones, but the piece is more accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are not always correct, but the intended meaning is clearly recognisable.
There is a wider range of vocabulary and structure which communicates descriptions and opinions with some precision. Longer sentences, including the use of subordinate clauses, are used more regularly and with increasing success.	5	Inaccuracies are mainly of a minor nature although some major errors may occur when complex structures are attempted. Verb forms and tense formations are usually correct.
A wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the topic is effectively used. Longer, more complex sentences are handled with confidence producing a fluent piece of coherent language.	6	There are hardly any major and few minor errors even in more complex structures. The overall impression is of accuracy and verb forms and tense formations are secure.

The maximum mark for the Foundation Tier Paper is 42.

HIGHER TIER**QUESTION 1**

This question is the same as that set for Foundation Writing Question 3. It should therefore be marked in accordance with the instructions given for Foundation Tier Question 3.

QUESTION 2

This question will consist of *four* tasks and will be assessed for Degree of Communication, Range/Complexity and Accuracy, giving a maximum of 20.

DEGREE OF COMMUNICATION

- The assessment of Communication depends upon recognising an attempt to write something about the task. All responses should be self-contained and comprehensible without reference to the rubrics.
- Candidates will be expected to go beyond the minimum level of response in order to score at least 2 marks. This means that the candidate will have added an additional piece of information, in the form of a phrase or clause (hereafter called a **Development**), which goes beyond the minimum required by the task.
- For a Development to be accepted, the quality of language should be the same as that which is required for a Communication task.
- Developments cannot be credited for a task which has been rejected.
- There can be *up to two* developments per task in this question.

Tasks to Marks - Degree of Communication

Tasks	Marks	Requirement	Degree of Communication
0	0		Nothing of merit; fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.
1 – 4 (0 Dev)	1		Communicates <i>a little</i> basic information (e.g. simple facts).
1 - 4 (1 Dev)	2		
2 - 4 (2 Dev)	3		<i>Some</i> basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (e.g. description, simple opinion).
2 - 4 (3 Dev)	4		
3 - 4 (4 Dev)	5	Must include an opinion, if not, revert to 4 marks	Communicates clearly <i>quite a lot</i> of relevant information, including personal opinions; regularly goes beyond a basic response to give more detailed information relating to descriptions and accounts.
3 - 4 (5 Dev)	6	Must include an opinion, if not, revert to 4 marks	
4 (6 Dev)	7	Must include justification of an opinion, if not, revert to 6 marks	Communicates <i>a lot</i> of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.
4 (7 - 8 Dev)	8	Must include justification of an opinion, if not, revert to 6 marks	

QUALITY OF LANGUAGE

- Marks will be awarded out of 6 for each of Range/Complexity and Accuracy. The marks will be added to make a total out of 12 for Quality of Language.
- The mark awarded under Range/Complexity must not be more than **one mark** higher than the mark awarded for Degree of Communication.
- The mark awarded under Accuracy must not be more than **one mark** higher than the mark awarded for Degree of Communication.
- If a mark is awarded for Communication this will inevitably lead to the award of a mark for Range/Complexity and for Accuracy.
- For the award of 4 marks or more under Range/Complexity there must be at least one reference to two of past/present/future events.

Range / Complexity	Marks	Accuracy
Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	0	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may contain many cognates.	1	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors.
Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic needs of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	2	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
Vocabulary and structures are appropriate to the task with a little attempt at variety and there is some successful attempt to link structures together.	3	There are some major errors and frequent minor ones. Attempts at verb forms and tense formations are often unsuccessful.
There is some variety in the use of vocabulary and some successful attempts at a variety of structures including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words. Some personal opinions are successfully expressed. There are successful attempts at using more than one time frame.	4	There are a number of minor errors and a few major ones, but the piece is more accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are not always correct, but the intended meaning is clearly recognisable.
There is a wider range of vocabulary and structure which communicates descriptions and opinions with some precision. Longer sentences, including the use of subordinate clauses, are used more regularly and with increasing success.	5	Inaccuracies are mainly of a minor nature although some major errors may occur when complex structures are attempted. Verb forms and tense formations are usually correct.
A wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the topic is effectively used. Longer, more complex sentences are handled with confidence producing a fluent piece of coherent language.	6	There are hardly any major and few minor errors even in more complex structures. The overall impression is of accuracy and verb forms and tense formations are secure.

The maximum mark for the Higher Tier paper is 40.

WRITING TESTS**PART TWO****Foundation Tier****Question 1****(2 marks)**

Accept any four understandable items of food or drink. Tick each word you accept and cross each word you reject. Accept one brand name only. Reject any further use of brand names.

0	0 understandable words
1	1 - 2 understandable words
2	3 - 4 understandable words

Question 2**(20 marks)**

There are 6 tasks. Award 0, 1 or 2 marks per attempted task. Write the mark at the point where the task is accomplished. A global mark of up to 8 is then awarded for Quality of Language.

- Tasks:**
- What the candidate looks like
 - What pets she/he has
 - What her / his house is like
 - What there is of interest in the candidate's home town / city / region
 - What subject she/he prefers at school
 - What she/he likes to do in her / his free time

Task	2 marks	1 mark	0 marks
all tasks	<i>Wrong tense of verb (except conditional) if it is the right person of the verb</i>	<i>Mi/Me/Yo + wrong person of verb</i>	
a	<i>First person of appropriate verb + any feature of physical appearance/character description</i>	<i>Inappropriate use of infinitive - adjective with no verb</i>	<i>Wrong person of the verb, ie the wrong message</i>
b	<i>Tengo + any pet(s) No tengo with or without pet</i>	<i>Inappropriate use of infinitive - pet(s) with no verb</i>	<i>Wrong person of the verb, ie the wrong message</i>
c	<i>Es + any suitable adjective</i>	<i>Inappropriate use of infinitive - adjective with no verb</i>	
d	<i>Hay + any place(s) of interest + any activity Tiene/Tienes + place (1st person of verb + activity)</i>	<i>Inappropriate use of infinitive - place(s) with no verb Es + place(s) of interest</i>	
e	<i>Prefiero + any school subject Me gusta + any school subject</i>	<i>- subject with no verb - Me gustaría + any school subject</i>	<i>Wrong person of the verb, ie the wrong message</i>
f	<i>Me gusta + activity 1st person verb Infinitive of appropriate activity</i>	<i>- activity with no verb - Me gustaría + activity</i>	<i>Wrong person of the verb, ie the wrong message</i>

Foundation Tier Question 3 / Higher Tier Question 1**(20 marks)**

There are 8 marks for Communication and 12 for Quality of Language

- Place a tick at the point where the task has been accomplished.
- Place a cross if a task is attempted, but not successfully conveyed.
- When a Development has been accomplished, write D1 for the first, D2 for the second etc. Any form of development of an accepted task is acceptable. **Only one development per task in this question.**

✓ **D1**

Example - task 1 - Visité un museo muy interesante.

(As a general rule, infinitives can be accepted as content points in this question.)

- Write the letter ‘P’ in the margin when the candidate makes a recognisable reference to the past, PRES to the present and ‘F’ to the future.
- Write ‘Op’ in the margin when the candidate successfully conveys an opinion and ‘J’ when s/he justifies an opinion.

- Tasks:**
1. What the candidate did on the school excursion
 2. Why she/he enjoyed / did not enjoy the excursion
 3. How she/he celebrated her/his last birthday
 4. How her/his exams are going
 5. Any detail about her/his favourite teacher
 6. An opinion on work experience
 7. What future career plans the candidate has
 8. Any question about Carmen’s holidays

Task	✓	X
1	<i>Accept present tenses or infinitives as a content tick if accompanied by an indication of the past, e.g. el año pasado / la semana pasada etc. (NB not a ‘P’ & bear in mind under accuracy)</i>	
2	<i>- reason for enjoying/not enjoying the excursion- accept present tense as a content tick</i>	<i>- stating preference with no reason</i>
3	<i>Accept present tenses or infinitives as a content tick if accompanied by an indication of the past, e.g. para mi cumpleaños el año pasado etc. (NB not a ‘P’ & bear in mind under accuracy). There must be clear reference that comments relate to birthday.</i>	
4	<i>Must say how exams are going, eg difíciles, aburridos etc not just a general comment on exams</i>	
5	<i>Any comment about favourite teacher, including his/her name</i>	
6	<i>Any opinion on work experience in general or on Carmen’s work experience plans</i>	
7	<i>Accept infinitives as a content tick if accompanied by el año que viene / en setiembre etc. (NB not an ‘F’ for future reference). Accept present tenses as a future reference if el año que viene / en setiembre etc. is mentioned, e.g Trabajo en una oficina en setiembre</i>	
8	<i>Any question about Carmen’s holiday. The development need not be a further question, but the content tick must.</i>	

Higher Tier**Question 2****(20 marks)**

(There are 8 marks for Communication and 12 for Quality of Language)

- Place a tick at the point where the task has been accomplished.
- Place a cross if a task is attempted, but not successfully conveyed.
- When a Development has been accomplished, write D1 for the first, D2 for the second etc. **Developments in this question must take the form of an additional phrase / idea to an accepted task. Up to two developments per task in this question.**

✓

D1

Example - Task 1 - Me levanté muy temprano. Fui al aeropuerto de Manchester.

(As a general rule, inappropriate infinitives are **not** to be accepted as content points in this question.)

- Write the letter ‘P’ in the margin when the candidate makes a recognisable reference to the past, PRES to the present and ‘F’ to the future.
- Write ‘Op’ in the margin when the candidate successfully conveys an opinion and ‘J’ when s/he justifies an opinion.

- Tasks:**
1. Candidate’s description of the most memorable day of her / his life
 2. Why candidate likes the magazine so much
 3. Why she/he would like to see the article of her/his choice in the magazine
 4. Candidate’s plans for the prize money

Task	✓	X
1	- recognisable past reference to candidate’s most memorable day. Accept present tenses as a content tick if accompanied by an indication of the past, e.g. <i>el día más memorable / el año pasado / la semana pasada etc.</i> (NB not a ‘P’ & bear in mind under accuracy)	
2	- reason for enjoying the magazine - accept all references to ‘nuestra revista’	- stating like with no reason
3	- reason for choosing the topic of a future article	- stating a topic with no reason
4	- recognisable future reference to plans for the prize money	

COURSEWORK

Each piece of work is assessed according to the following assessment criteria. Candidates submit three pieces of work, drawn from three different Themes.

Marks	Degree of Communication
0	Nothing of merit; fails to communicate OR occasional words are recognisable within sentences but no complete messages are communicated.
1 - 2	Communicates a little basic information (e.g. simple facts).
3 - 4	Some basic information is conveyed; occasional additional details conveyed (e.g. description, simple opinion).
5 - 6	Communicates clearly quite a lot of relevant information, including personal opinions; regularly goes beyond a basic response to give more detailed information relating to descriptions and accounts.
7 - 8	Communicates a lot of relevant information; candidate can narrate events, give full descriptions and can express and justify ideas and points of view.

In each mark band, the higher of the two marks is awarded if there is strong evidence of the criteria in that band. If the evidence is more limited, the lower mark is awarded.

Quality of Language

Range / Complexity	Marks	Accuracy
Very little effective vocabulary. There are occasional recognisable words but they make little coherent sense.	0	There is little, if any, evidence of understanding of the most basic linguistic structures.
The vocabulary and structures used are simple, often repetitive, limited in range and may contain many cognates.	1	There is only limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures and most sentences contain major errors.
Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic needs of the task. Structures are simple, often repetitive and are rarely linked.	2	Most sentences contain errors, many of a major nature, and verb forms are rarely accurate.
Vocabulary and structures are appropriate to the task with a little attempt at variety and there is some successful attempt to link structures together.	3	There are some major errors and frequent minor ones. Attempts at verb forms and tense formations are often unsuccessful.
There is some variety in the use of vocabulary and some successful attempts at a variety of structures including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words. Some personal opinions are successfully expressed. There are successful attempts at using more than one time frame.	4	There are a number of minor errors and a few major ones, but the piece is more accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are not always correct, but the intended meaning is clearly recognisable.
There is a wider range of vocabulary and structure which communicates descriptions and opinions with some precision. Longer sentences, including the use of subordinate clauses, are used more regularly and with increasing success.	5	Inaccuracies are mainly of a minor nature although some major errors may occur when complex structures are attempted. Verb forms and tense formations are usually correct.
A wide range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the topic is effectively used. Longer, more complex sentences are handled with confidence producing a fluent piece of coherent language.	6	There are hardly any major and a few minor errors even in more complex structures. The overall impression is of accuracy and verb forms and tense formations are secure.

Marks will be awarded out of 6 for each of Range/Complexity and Accuracy. The marks will be added to make a total out of 12 for Quality of Language. The Quality of Language marks will then be added to the Communication marks to give a total of 20 for each piece of work.

Additional Guidance on Application of Assessment Criteria

COMMUNICATION

- The mark for Communication determines the maximum mark for Quality of Language. Once the Communication mark has been awarded, the mark for Range/Complexity and the mark for Accuracy may not be more than one mark higher (e.g. 3 + 4 + 4).
- If a mark is awarded for Communication this will inevitably lead to the award of a mark for Range/Complexity and for Accuracy (e.g. 1 + 0 + 0 would not be possible).
- If a mark of 0 is awarded for Communication, no marks can be awarded for Range/Complexity or Accuracy.
- For the 5-6 band ‘descriptions and accounts’ are regarded as one concept.
- Candidates will have access to the 7-8 band provided there is at least one minimal example of each of ‘narration of events’, ‘full descriptions’, ‘justification of ideas’.

QUALITY OF LANGUAGE

- The marks awarded for Range/Complexity and Accuracy are not interdependent.
- To score 4 marks or more for Range/Complexity candidates must refer successfully to a minimum of two time frames in each piece of work and refer to all three time frames across the three pieces as a whole. (The number of time frames used is assessed under Range/Complexity only and not under Accuracy. A candidate, therefore, producing only 1 time frame in a piece of work would be limited to a maximum mark of 3 for Range/Complexity, but could score 4 marks or more for Accuracy though this would probably be rare).

GENERAL

- For candidates supplied with a template (whereby they only have to insert appropriate vocabulary items in order to complete the assignment) the mark awarded will be at best 2 + 1 + 1.
- Candidates writing the minimum recommended word length have access to the full mark range.