

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Spanish (5SP03/3H)
Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding
in Spanish

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GCSE Spanish
Unit 3 Reading and Understanding in Spanish
Examiner Report

General comments

Most candidates demonstrated a clear understanding of the rubrics and the general format of the examination. It was evident that they had been well prepared and had practiced in preparation for the examination. Both papers Foundation and Higher, proved to be accessible to all candidates. Entry selections made by centres were appropriate. Very few candidates left significant gaps in their answers or failed to complete the paper at either level. Very good candidates scored highly throughout each paper set. They demonstrated a clear and precise understanding of the subtleties expected at the higher level questions, in terms of content vocabulary, grammar and level of inference.

Crossover questions generally discriminated well and were completed more accurately by candidates who entered at the higher level.

Spelling

The spelling of some English words proved problematic for some candidates. However, examiners were sympathetic in their responses and where spelling was phonically recognisable versions of required words were credited positively.

Conclusion

The outcome of this unit was pleasing. The majority of centres had prepared their candidates thoroughly so they had a good understanding of the requirements of this unit and responded well to its demands.

Question 1

Most candidates scored 2/3 of the 4 marks available for this question.

1(i) proved to be a good discriminator, only 30% of the candidates scored the one mark available for this question.

1(iv) around 50% of the candidates scored the one mark available for this question.

Question 2

Most candidates scored the 4 marks available for this question.

Question 3

Only the very high end of the entry scored the 4 marks available for this question. Most candidates scored 2/3 marks.

The main causes for the loss of marks in this question were:

Q3(i) Town Hall

Q3(ii) the participants

Question 4

Typical Grade A candidates generally scored well on this question, however only the very high end of the entry scored the full marks available. This passage contained some complicated lexis and structures, as is appropriate for a question at this level.

4(a) This question proved challenging and a good discriminator. Only a small number of candidates scored the two marks available for this question. Many candidates failed to read the question properly 'How has use of the internet affected family relationships?' and incorrectly gave answer such as 'young people can now download what they want to watch/ young people spend a lot of the time in their bedrooms/they watch TV in their bedrooms.'

4(b) Around 70% of the candidates scored the one available mark for this question.

4(c) Around 50% of the candidates scored the one mark available for this question.

4(d) This question proved challenging and a good discriminator. Only the very best of the candidates scored the two marks available for this question.

There was some evidence of guesswork, in particular where candidates imposed their own speculations about 'What Internet dangers does Manuel mention?' simply offering answers such as 'there are a lot of dangerous/weird people/ people can see your photos in the social networks/ you can find explicit content' rather than referring to the text.

Other candidates thought that the word 'robos' meant 'robots'.

4(e) Most candidates managed to score the 1 of the 2 marks available for this question.

4(e) (i) mostly correct 'I am not satisfied with my life'

4(e) (ii) most candidates were not as successful with their second answer 'I feel envious/jealous'

Question 5

Most candidates scored 3/4 marks. Wrong choices were made at random.

Question 6

Whilst overall candidate performance was better on this paper than on the foundation paper, candidates still found this question challenging. Most candidates scored 2 out of the 4 possible marks.

The most frequently wrong responses were because many candidates missed the link between:

6(i) 'free time' and 'salgo mucho menos que otros chicos de mi edad'

6(iv) 'household chores' and 'tareas del hogar'

Question 7

Most candidates scored 2/3 out all of the 4 marks available for this question. Wrong choices were made at random.

Question 8

The final question in this paper is targeted to Grade A*. This passage contained some complicated lexis and structures, as is appropriate for a question at this level. The most able candidates scored an average of six marks whereas weaker ones scored two or three marks.

The following key points are worthy of note.

8(i) only around 38% of the candidates provided the right answer to this question.

8(ii) around 50% of the candidates answered this question correctly.

8(iii) around 50% of the candidates answered this question correctly.

8(iv) this question was more frequently correct than incorrect.

8(v) this question was problematic to all but a very few.

8(vi) was largely successful.

8(vii) most candidates answered this question correctly.

8(viii) most candidates answered this question correctly.

Advice and Guidance

- Candidates need to read the questions properly.

- Candidates should ensure that they read the texts carefully and base their answers on the actual content of the text rather than impose their own speculations.
- Their responses should be written clearly.
- A good knowledge of vocabulary items is required
- Candidates aiming at a higher grade require a good knowledge of more complicated lexis and structures.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

